



**The Bluecoat School
School Admissions Policy
2026/2027**



The Admissions Authority of the school is Meridian Trust

Determined 1st April 2022

Published Admissions Number

The Published Admissions Number is 30

Arrangements for applications for places in the Reception Class at The Bluecoat School will be made in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements. Parents resident in Lincolnshire can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions , they can also apply by telephone, or ask for a paper application form by telephoning 01522 782030. Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority. The Bluecoat School will adhere to the timescales outlined in the Lincolnshire County Council Co – ordinated admissions scheme available at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the relevant Local Authority will make the offers of places on our behalf as required by the School Admissions Code (2021). In year admissions are dealt with in accordance with the in -year section below.

Places will be allocated first to those who make an application before other children are considered.

The published admission number of each school is outlined at the end of this document.

Attending a nursery or a pre-school does not give any priority within the oversubscription criteria for a place in a school. Parents must make a separate application for the transfer from a nursery to a primary or infant school. Parents must also make a separate application for the transfer from an infant to a junior or primary school.

In accordance with relevant legislation, the allocation of places for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named on the plan will take place first (Children and Families Act 2014). Remaining places will be allocated in accordance with this policy.

The oversubscription criteria are listed in the order we apply them. If it is necessary to distinguish between more than one applicant under any criteria, the next criteria will be applied until the tie-breaker is used.

Definitions of terms indicated by numbers are given separately below.

Criterion	Description	Notes
A	Looked after children and previously looked after children including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.	See note 1
B	Children with a brother or sister attending the school at the time of application, or who will be attending the school at the expected time of admission.	See note 2a
C	Children for whom this school is the nearest school to the home address.	See note 3a, 3b and 4.
E	Distance of the home address to the school. Places will be allocated to those living nearest the school first.	Measured by straight line distance. See note 3b and 4.

Tiebreaker

The oversubscription criteria are listed in the order we apply them. If it is necessary to distinguish between more than one applicant in any criteria, the next criteria will be applied until the tie-breaker is used. Tie breaker: If two or more children are tied for the last place a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the school or working in Children's Service Directorate at the local authority.

Notes relating to the oversubscription criteria

1) Looked after and previously looked after children.

A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

2a) Brother or sister

Included in this criterion are:

- a brother or sister who shares the same biological parents
- a half-brother, half-sister, step-brother or step-sister
- a legally adopted child, a child legally adopted by a biological or step-parent

In all cases both children must live at the same address.

3a) Nearest school

This applies when the school is the nearest state funded, non-selective, mainstream school to the child's address admitting children to the relevant year group; this is calculated by Lincolnshire County Council school admissions team using straight line distance to three decimal places e.g. 1.234 miles. If you reside in Lincolnshire, you can use the search tool at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/find-nearest-school> to identify which school is your closest school.

3b) Home Address

The home address is considered as the address where the child lives for the majority of term time with a parent (as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996).

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address accepted for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child



spends the majority of term time. If a parent can show that their child spends an equal amount of time at two addresses during school term time, they can choose which address to use on the application.

If a parent has more than one home, we will accept the address where the parent and child normally live for the majority of the school term time as the home address.

We do not take into an account an intention to move when considering a home address unless this is for members of the UK armed forces or a returning crown servant as outlined in the relevant section below.

4) Distance criterion

Straight line distance as calculated electronically to three figures after the decimal point (e.g. 1.543 miles) by Lincolnshire County Council school admissions team from the Post Office Address Point of the home to the Post Office Address Point of the school.

Other information

Twins and other siblings from a multiple birth

Siblings from a multiple birth - multiple birth children are split by operation of the oversubscription criteria, the school will accommodate all children unless this would make the class too large and prejudice the education of the other children. Multiple birth children are 'excepted pupils' to infant class limits if allocated in this way. Brothers and sisters in the same year group - If brothers and sisters in the same year group are split by operation of the oversubscription criteria, the school will accommodate all children unless this would make the class too large and prejudice the education of the other children or when this would breach infant class size limits

Reserve list

For admission into the intake year the admission authority for The Bluecoat School will operate a reserve list. In the normal admissions round if we refuse a place at our school your child is automatically placed on the reserve list, unless you have been offered a higher preference school.

This list is kept in the order of the oversubscription criteria, as required by the school admissions code. Children can move up and down the list depending on where the other children are ranked against the oversubscription criteria. The admission authority must not take account of the time you have been on the list when allocating places. For the intake year the list is held by the Local Authority School Admissions Team until the end of August. After this, the school keeps this list until (December 31st of the admitting year/another time). This list is abolished after 2 years. Parents wishing to remain on this list must contact the school for more information.

Appeals

In all cases where a place is refused at a school the applicant will be informed of their right of appeal to an independent panel. The decision of the independent panel is binding on all parties. Details of how to appeal a decision to refuse admission will be communicated to the applicant at the time of the refusal and will also be available on the Lincolnshire County Council website

In year admissions

Parents can apply through the parent portal online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions, or request a paper application form.

If there are more applications than places for a particular year group the oversubscription criteria as



detailed above will be used to distinguish how the places will be allocated. In all cases where a place is refused at a school the applicant will be informed of their right of appeal to an independent panel.

Fair access protocol

The Bluecoat School will participate in the Fair Access Protocol of Lincolnshire County Council. Students allocated under Fair Access Protocols will take precedence over those on a reserve list or awaiting appeal.

Fraudulent or misleading applications

We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly. As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example if a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. If a place is withdrawn, the application will be considered afresh and you will be advised of your right of appeal if a place is refused.

Children of UK service personnel (UK armed forces)

For families of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning to live in the area from overseas, the Academy Councillors will:

- Process an application in advance of the family arriving in the area provided it is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address, intended address or quartering area address to use when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child where the parent requests this
- The Academy Council will not refuse a service child a place solely because the family does not have an intended address or does not yet live in the area.

Evidence of an intended address will be required such as tenancy agreement, or mortgage statement. Please contact the school for more details.

For late coordinated applications and midyear applications supported by the appropriate military documentation, we will aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces). The Academy Council will consider whether:

- An application from that address would normally succeed in an oversubscribed year
- There is any child on the reserve list with higher priority under the oversubscription criteria
- The prejudice from admitting an extra child would be excessive.

The Academy Councillors have discretion to admit above the admission number in these circumstances if they wish, but are not obliged to do so. If a place is refused, you will be informed of your right of appeal.

Deferring admission and part time attendance

The Bluecoat School provides for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Where a child has been offered a place at our school:

- That child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday
- The child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made, whichever is



the sooner

- Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age
- Parents interested in deferring admission or arranging part-time attendance should contact the school to discuss this
- Parents of summer born children deferring admission until the child starts Year 1 must reapply through the in-year process and risk losing the offered school place if the school is oversubscribed or becomes oversubscribed in the school year

Admission of children outside of their normal age group

Children are typically allocated places according to their chronological age but parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

Parents wishing to make these requests must contact their home local authority for guidance on the procedure to follow. Parents resident in Lincolnshire should call 01522 782030 or email outofcohortadmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk for advice on the procedure to follow. It is important for parents to note that they will have the opportunity and responsibility to provide whatever evidence they wish to support their request. The Bluecoat School will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

This will include taking account of:

- the parent's views;
- any available information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- the views of the head teacher

Parents and carers will be informed of the decision in writing setting out clearly the reasons for the decision. In the case of those requesting delayed admission. If this is agreed, the parents and carers must decide whether to withdraw their application and apply in the next admissions round or proceed with an offer for 2026 admission. If the request is refused, parents must decide whether to accept the offered place for Reception 2026 or refuse it and make an in year application for Year 1 in the summer term.

The decision made by one school is not binding on any other school and therefore schools may come to different decisions based on the information submitted.