

Procedures where Blackpool Aspire Academy is oversubscribed from September 2020

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of students with Education and Health Care Plans where Blackpool Aspire Academy is named, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children. This includes any "looked after child" and any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. This criterion will also apply to children who were previously in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as they have been adopted. This is in accordance with advice from the Minister of State for Schools.
2. Medical, Social or Welfare reasons. Where there are exceptional serious, sensitive and compelling circumstances that are directly relevant to the academy, priority may be given. Professional evidence to demonstrate exceptional or compelling reasons why only this academy can cater for a particular child's needs on any of these grounds must be provided with the application. The evidence must set out the reasons and level of risk to the child or family and why the academy is the only suitable school; plus any difficulties which would arise if the child had to attend an alternative school.

It should be noted that all schools can make provision for special educational needs, and can also manage common conditions e.g. asthma, epilepsy and diabetes.

Only exceptional reasons directly relevant to the academy will be considered. Priority will be given to the child only if the submitted evidence unequivocally proves the circumstances and demonstrates why any alternative school would be unsuitable. Parents are responsible for providing the evidence.

3. Children who will have a sibling in attendance at Blackpool Aspire Academy at the time of transfer.
 - a. The term "sibling" includes stepchildren, half brothers and sisters and adopted and foster children who are living with the same family at the same address.
4. The children of staff who have been employed by Blackpool Aspire Academy for two or more years, or who meet a skills shortage.
5. Other pupils with priority given to those that live nearest to Blackpool Aspire Academy. The measurement will be taken in a straight line from the centre point of the residence to the centre point of the Academy, using the Local Authority's geographical information system (GIS).

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Where there is oversubscription within any of the determined criteria, then priority for places will be decided in a straight line distance measure, (home to academy,) using the local authority's measuring system. The nearest to the academy will have priority for admission.

There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for external applicants refused admission. Parents have 20 school days to compile and lodge hearings.