



**MORECAMBE BAY
COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
POLICY**

Admissions

The choice of school for your child is an important decision. We at Morecambe Bay would encourage you to visit the school during the working day so that you can view the school in action and talk to staff to help you to make a judgement about whether it is an appropriate school for your child. If you would like to arrange a visit please contact the school on 01524 401002.

The Headteacher also welcomes visitors at other times. Parents of children with disabilities are encouraged to view the school and discuss how we can best meet their child's needs. Visiting the school's website and Facebook page can provide an insight into life at the school.

Starting School for the First Time

Children may start school at the beginning of the school year in which they celebrate their fifth birthday. The application process for entry into reception is handled by the Area Pupil Access Team (01524 581180) based in Lancaster for more information follow the link <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/>

Regulations allow parents to appeal against a decision not to offer a place at their preferred school. For entry into other years, parents contact the school directly; it is simple if the school has a place. If the school is oversubscribed in a year group, the following criteria will be applied in priority order:

- i. Children in public care who are in public care at the time when preferences are expressed and will still be in public care when admitted to the school.
- ii. Children with older brothers and sisters who will still be attending the school when the younger child starts.
- iii. Children for whom the County Council accepts there are exceptionally strong medical, social or welfare reasons for admissions, which are directly relevant to the school.
- iv. The remaining places are allocated according to where children live. Those living nearest to the school by a walking route recognised by the Local Authority will have priority.

Brothers and sisters include step-children, half brothers and sisters, adopted and fostered children who are living at the same address. (Consideration may be given to applying the sibling rule for full brothers and sisters only when they reside at different addresses.) If category i, ii or iii is oversubscribed, category iv will be used as a tie break.

Moving to Morecambe Bay from another School

The school will admit pupils moving into the area if there is room available in the particular year group. The school will admit pupils moving from other local schools at a time that is mutually convenient to both schools, usually the beginning of a term. In the event of a year group being full, the Local Education Authority will offer a place at the next nearest school with space available. Parents, however, do have the right of appeal if they are not offered a place at their preferred school.

Transitions

We like each child to have a positive beginning to their school life at Morecambe Bay. Therefore, we do all we can to ensure transition is smooth and effective. School staff liaise with nurseries and will conduct home visits with parents to discuss your child and any individual concerns you may have.

We want all our new children to feel happy, safe and secure. The quicker they settle in the more confident they become, helping them to develop independence and enjoy their learning.

Children entering in other years are welcome to visit the school before they start.

Moving to Secondary School

Our children move to a variety of secondary schools. In the local area there are two selective single sex grammar schools, two denominational comprehensive schools, Church of England and Roman Catholic, as well as a number of non-denominational comprehensive schools.

The secondary schools also provide open evenings on a regular basis and head teachers and senior staff are usually willing to discuss possible admission with parents on an individual basis. Close liaison with all our secondary schools ensures that the needs of our older children are met. Year 6 teaching staff share their knowledge about each child with their future schools and provide detailed information in response to secondary school requests. If you know or expect that you may be leaving the school at a time other than at the end of Year 6, please inform the school as soon as possible.

In Year School Admissions

Applying for a place during the school year

An in year admission is when you request a transfer to another school part-way through the academic year.

Moving to a new school is an important step for all children. It can affect children in many ways and decisions by parents to change school should therefore always be carefully considered.

There are instances where a change of school is essential i.e. for families who have moved into or relocated within Lancashire.

In situations where a school move is not absolutely essential all parents are strongly urged to carefully consider the implications for their child. Changing schools is a big event for any child and should not be undertaken without first talking to the headteacher at your child's current school, to try to resolve any problems.

All applicants for in year admissions to Lancashire schools have the right to express up to three school preferences.

What should I consider?

Some of the things which you must think about if you are considering a change of school for your child for convenience rather than necessity are:-

Curriculum – this is especially important for secondary aged children, and particularly for those in Years 9, 10 or 11. A new school may not necessarily be able to exactly match a child's existing curriculum commitments.

Achievement – on average statistics show that school moves lower examination results.

Behaviour – it can be helpful for a child who is presenting challenging behaviour to move to a new school. However this is normally only where the behaviour is linked to the existing school. If strategies to assist a child have already been put in place these can be disrupted by a school move. This can lead to further difficulties.

It is usually better for the child if the family work with the existing school to help to address and resolve any difficulties.

Where a school move is a strategy to address challenging behaviour there is often a requirement for the child to be on the roll of both schools for an interim period. If the change of schools is not successful the child would be expected to remain on roll and attend the original school.

Peer Group / Friends – if there are difficulties consider if these would be resolved by a school move? There could be similar issues, even in a new school. Again it is often better to work with the existing school to address matters. Moving a child away from an established peer group may adversely affect achievement.

Timing – a change of schools during the school year can disrupt a child's education if they are already in the middle of a specific piece of coursework.

Uniform – schools set their own uniform requirements and Lancashire does not generally provide financial assistance with uniform costs.

Transport – schools set their own start and finish times. You need to consider the implication of these on your child and in relation to your personal day to day schedule.

Transfer Protocol

The majority of Lancashire schools operate a first day of term transfer protocol.

This does not apply if you are new to the area and the child does not already have a school place.

If however the child is changing schools during the year the start date will normally be at the beginning of the next school term. The child would have to continue to attend the existing school until that date. This can also apply where a parental appeal for a school transfer is allowed by an independent admission appeal panel.

Offers for School Places

The LA will assist with in year school admissions (new to area and transfers) The LA is responsible for admission to all community and voluntary controlled schools. The Governing Bodies of voluntary aided (church) and foundation schools and academies are responsible for admissions to their schools.

Lancashire will provide you with information in order to assist you with your in year application.

Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs)

Voluntary aided and foundation schools usually have a SIF which allows the school's Governing Body to assess applications against certain criteria within their admission arrangements. It is not always necessary for parents to complete a SIF. If this is appropriate you will be given the option. It is not a legal requirement but the lack of a SIF may lower the priority of an application.

Fair Access Protocol (FAP)

FAP operates outside of the normal in year admission arrangement.

The Local Authority will carefully examine individual applications and in liaison with schools will determine if they fall within the agreed FAP for that locality.

FAP places can be offered at Lancashire secondary schools even where a school is full in the required year group (subject to quotas agreed with schools).

Children in Public Care / Looked After Children (LAC)

Children who are in public care have top priority for admission to Lancashire schools. In some cases the preferred school (s) may already be full and places cannot normally be offered. The Local Authority will however look at each LAC application and determine if discretion is possible (in liaison with other admission authorities where necessary).

This process will also apply to children who were previously in care and who have been adopted.

Statements for Special Educational Needs (SEN)

In year applications for children with full statements for SEN are dealt with separately (outside of the normal in year arrangements). These will be referred to Area based SEN Teams who will liaise with the

family and other professionals involved about a school place for your child. You should contact the relevant SEN Team if your child has a full statement for SEN:-

North (Lancaster, Wyre and The Fylde)

SEN Team - 01524 581200

South (Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley)

SEN Team - 01772 531836

East (Ribble Valley, Hyndburn, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale)

SEN Team - 01254 220562

Appeals for School Places

If none of your preferred schools can be offered an alternative offer will always be made (unless the child already has a place at a nearby school). The LA will also issue appeal information and an appeal form.

If you are unhappy with any school offer you can appeal for any other school (s) which at that time have no available places. Information and advice is available from Area Pupil Access Teams (see below). Parents are advised to visit an offered school prior to going to appeal.

Contact Points for School Admission Information

The contact points below are the Area Pupil Access Teams based in Lancaster, Preston and Accrington although parents can contact school directly for in year admissions.

NORTH

(Lancaster, Wyre and The Fylde)

Post: Education Office, PO Box 606, White Cross, Lancaster, LA1 3SQ
Tel: Primary: 01524 581112 Secondary: 01524 581163
Email: pupilaccesssteam.north@lancashire.gov.uk

SOUTH

(Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley)

Post: Education Office, East Cliff, Preston, PR1 3JT
Tel: Primary: 01772 532191 Secondary: 01772 531813
Email: pupilaccess.southadmissions@lancashire.gov.uk

EAST

(Ribble Valley, Hyndburn, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale)

Post: Education Office, 44 Union Street, Accrington BB5 1PL
Tel: Primary: 01254 220742 and 220709 Secondary: 01254 220718
Email: pupil.accesseast@lancashire.gov.uk