

# WILLOW TREE PRIMARY ADMISSIONS POLICY



## VANTAGE ACADEMY TRUST

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\*subject to any relevant changes in legislation or other appropriate guidelines

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## INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Vantage Multi Academy Trust (herein the 'Trust') believes that admissions to our schools should be based on local criteria for local children. As such we do not change admissions policies on entry to the Trust, nor do we add additional criteria.
- 1.2 We use the Local Authority (LA) to determine our admissions to reception class, and we work closely with the Local Authority on in year pupil movements.
- 1.3 We are part of the Fair Access Protocol in each LA.
- 1.4 Within Willow Tree the process and criteria are outlined and linked below.

## RECEPTION CLASS ADMISSION

- 2.1 Willow Tree Primary is a community primary school and warmly welcomes all applicants.
- 2.2 All admissions to school are managed via Knowsley Borough Council follow the link below for further details or contact the team directly:

**Telephone:** (0151) 443 3373/5142

**Email:** Schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk

**Website:**

<http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/education-and-schools/apply-for-a-schoolplace.aspx>

## IN YEAR ADMISSION (RECEPTION – YEAR 6)

- 3.1 An in year admission is when you request a transfer to another school part-way through the academic year.
- 3.2 Completed applications should be returned directly to the School Office. The school will then notify you of the outcome of your application as soon as possible, but within 20 working days.
- 3.3 Knowsley school admissions team have produced an information document for parents (Appendix A), which we advise you read before completing the transfer application.
- 3.4 The admissions team can also assist with general enquiries relating to primary in-year transfer applications, call on (0151) 443 3372.

## APPENDIX A – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS REGARDING IN YEAR TRANSFERS



Knowsley Council

### **Knowsley Primary In-Year Admissions/Transfers Information for parents and carers**

#### **PLEASE READ THESE NOTES CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING YOUR APPLICATION**

The information provided aims to help parents/carers follow the in-year application process for admission to Knowsley Primary school places. This is when you are requesting a school place or transfer during the school year.

*If your child is applying to start reception class in school for the first time or is transferring from primary to secondary education, **DO NOT use these procedures.** There are separate forms, application dates etc – please visit [www.schooladmissions.gov.uk](http://www.schooladmissions.gov.uk) for more information.*

*If your child has an Education, Health & Care Plan (formally a Statement of Special Education Need), you must follow SEN procedures to request a change of school – contact (0151) 443 5145 for advice.*

#### **Transfer request if moving house**

If you are moving house into the local area and wish to apply for a place for your child/ren in a Knowsley primary school because the distance is too far for your children to continue to attend their current school, you are advised to check the likely availability of school places in advance of your move taking place.

You can contact individual schools or the Admissions Team in the Local Authority for vacancy information.

Wherever possible, you should make your application at least 4-6 weeks in advance of your move taking place to allow enough time for your application to be processed (this will allow for a planned admission if a place is available or time to consider alternative options if your school of preference is unable to offer a place).

### Local Transfer request

A local move would normally take place at the beginning of the following term – this is to allow for the planned admission of your child. Only in exceptional circumstances and if both schools agree would a move typically take place at an earlier date.

The Local Authority would not normally offer assistance towards the cost of transport or uniform in the event of a local transfer.

### Things to consider before applying for a transfer

Sometimes a change in circumstances may lead to a request for a transfer to an alternative school. However, **before** making a transfer application, we strongly advise you do the following:

- Discuss your reasons for considering a move with the Headteacher of your child's current school as, often, any issues of concern can be rectified without a transfer being necessary.
- Think carefully about the advantages and disadvantages of moving **before** applying for a transfer. Your child/ren will have to make new friends, get used to new school staff and procedures etc. What will the transport arrangements be? What will be the costs for new uniform/transport? Are the issues you have with the current school likely to re-occur at the new school?

### How do I apply?

- You must complete the Knowsley Primary In-Year Application Form. You can only name a Knowsley school on this form.
- The In-Year form is available to download at [www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions), from Knowsley School Admissions Team or direct from any Knowsley primary school.
- Please complete the application fully answering all questions and attaching any other information you feel may be relevant to your application – this will assist the processing of your application.
- If you are applying for more than one child you must complete a separate application for each child – please be aware that there is no guarantee that schools will be able to accommodate siblings.
- Once your application is complete, please return it directly to the school named on the form.

***We would advise you to check beforehand to see whether it is likely that there will be places available. However, no place is guaranteed until a formal application has been submitted and an offer made.***

### The allocation process

**Please be aware that the allocation process can take up to a maximum of 20 school days – requested schools will typically seek to obtain information in relation to the child from the current school - this timeframe ensures that all aspects affecting the transfer have be considered and, if a place is offered, to allow for a planned admission.**

***Please note - not all transfer requests will require 20 days, schools will seek to process applications as expeditiously as possible.***

- Generally, if a place is available within the admission number, it will be offered.
- If the year group is full to the planned admission number, your application will normally be refused on these grounds – you will be notified of the refusal in writing and offered the right of appeal against the decision to an independent appeal panel. The individual school will be able to advise you whether or not they keep a waiting list in case a place becomes available in the future.
- If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria, which forms part of the school’s admission policy, will be applied to decide which applicant will be offered the available place. Copies of the relevant admission policies are available online at [www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions) or upon request from the individual school.
- In very limited and exceptional circumstances, schools may consider refusing a place even where one is available. Such applications will normally be referred for consideration by Knowsley Fair Access Panel before any final decision is taken.
- Children who are currently looked after by a local authority have a very high priority for all schools. This category includes children who have moved from being looked after to being adopted or subject to residence orders or special guardianship. The definition is as in the School Admissions Code – available online at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) Parents/Carers would need to provide evidence of this to the school at the time of application.

**If you have not received an outcome/response to your application after 20 school days or if you cannot be offered a place at your school of preference and your child is without a school place, please contact Knowsley School Admissions on (0151) 443 3372 for further advice.**

## The Knowsley Fair Access Protocol

- Knowsley schools are required to refer applications to the Fair Access Panel (FAP) if they feel unable to meet the needs of a pupil requesting in-year admission.
- The Knowsley protocol seeks to ensure that all schools admit a fair share of pupils requiring a high level of support or offering particular challenges. To achieve this, the protocol allows the authority to make admissions in excess of the admission number or to refuse where places are available.
- Parents/carers should note that the protocol will only be used in exceptional cases – further information about the protocol, including the prescribed categories appropriate for referral can be found at [www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

## Accepting a place and admission/transfer to school

- If you are offered a place, you will usually be asked to confirm acceptance and a start date will be agreed with the school. If you do not confirm acceptance within the timescale indicated and/or your child does not take up the place offered by the agreed date, the school may re-offer the place to another child.
- The school will provide any further admission details e.g. uniform and start time
- You may also be requested by the school to produce evidence of the details you provided when you made your application – e.g. *proof of address, proof of Catholic baptism* – if these have played a part in the decision to offer a place. If you cannot provide proof of the information given, or if the information is found to be false, your offer may be withdrawn.

## Local Authority Contact Details

Knowsley School Admissions can assist with general queries regarding school places and admission procedures, please contact:-

Knowsley School Admissions, Education Improvement Team, Knowsley Council, PO Box 21, Municipal Buildings, Archway Road, Huyton, Knowsley, L36 9YU.

Telephone:- 0151 443 3372/3373

E-mail:- [schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk)

## Privacy Notice

Knowsley Council will use the information provided on your school admission application and any other supporting information you provide for the following purposes.

To ensure the efficient co-ordination and fair allocation of school places.

- To ensure your child has access to school associated entitlements
- To ensure information is accurate.
- To prevent or detect crime.
- To protect public funds.
- To meet our key aims and legal duties.

We use the information to complete our duties under the Department for Education's 'School Admissions Code' (2014) and 'School Admissions Appeal Code' (2012).

There may be a requirement to share information with schools, other council service areas, local health trusts, other local authorities and central government. This will only be when necessary and where the law allows it to support the applications process.

For more information about how we use and store your personal data, please visit; [www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions), where you can access the full privacy notice for the School Admission Service. Alternatively, contact [schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk) or telephone (0151) 443 3373 to request a copy of the document.