



Admissions Policy 2023 – 24

Statutory requirements applying:

- Schools Admissions Code September 2021

Furze Platt Senior School
Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ
Tel: 01628 625308

Admission Policy for Entry in Academic Year
September 2023 – August 2024

Part One

Admission to all year groups except the Sixth Form

A. Introduction

Furze Platt Senior School is a co-educational comprehensive academy and the Governing Body is the Admission Authority for the school. Governors have carried out an annual review of their admission arrangements as required by law and in line with the Admissions Code which came into force in September 2021. They also had regard to the Local Authority (LA) consultation and proposed timeline for co-ordinated admission arrangements.

This policy should be read together with information about your Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements and a copy of the School Prospectus. The school will hold an Open Evening for prospective parents to attend and details of this can be found on the school website. Additionally parents may telephone for an appointment to visit the school. Tours run annually in September and October.

B. Admission number and age of admission

The admission number for Furze Platt Senior School is 253. Within the 253 up to 5 places are for pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) for Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and who with the agreement of the school and the local authority expect to enter the Resource Provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Conditions. Admission to Year 12 and 13 is explained in Part 2 of this policy (Page 8).

C. Making an application / the timescale

Copies of the School Prospectus are available online (www.furzeplatt.com, under Our School / School Prospectuses) at the start of the preceding autumn term and by request to the school. Under the co-ordinated arrangements applicants **must** complete the LA application form for the area in which they reside and meet the closing date for that Local Authority.

The closing date for receipt of applications by the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead for admission into Year 7 in September 2023 will be **31st October 2022**.

Applications for places in the current Years 7-11 can be made at any point of the academic year, via the school's 'In Year Transfer Form' (available on the school's website, www.furzeplatt.com, under Admissions). Where no places are available, applicants will be offered the opportunity to go on to the waiting list.

The Admissions Team will meet at the beginning of the spring term and if the school is oversubscribed will determine which Year 7 applicants can be offered places. Any child not offered a place can be added to a waiting list for places which might occur later. The decision of Governors will be passed to the LA who will send out the allocation letters to parents on behalf of the Governing Body on 1st March 2023.

Parents who are unsuccessful in their application will be given the opportunity to submit an appeal against refusal. Admission appeals will be heard by an Independent Panel. The exact dates for appeal

hearings will be dependent on the availability of Panel Members but would usually be in the second half of the summer term for Year 7 September entry and can be at any other times for In Year Transfer appeals. Parents should start the appeals process via the RBWM website: <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-admission-appeals>

D. Children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs)

The law requires Governors to admit pupils with an EHCP where the Local Authority has specifically named Furze Platt Senior School as the most appropriate placement. These applications will usually be agreed in advance of the main allocation process. Where they are a late application the Governors can be required to admit even if the admission number has been reached.

E. Criteria for admission

In the event of there being greater demand for admission than there are places available, places will be offered using the following criteria in the order given:-

1. Children in care.¹ This category includes a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order². This category also includes those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted;
2. Children with exceptional medical or social reasons for requiring the school (as explained in note 1 on Page 7);
3. Children of staff at the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
4. Children who have a sibling in Years 7 to 12 who are on the school roll at the time allocations are made and who will be on roll at the time of the proposed admission. Attendance of a sibling in Year 13 at the time of application does not confer sibling status. The term 'sibling' includes brothers, sisters and half or step brothers/sisters permanently living in the same family unit or a foster child permanently living in the same family unit whose place has been arranged by the social services department of a local authority. Sibling eligibility will flow from a foster child to other children of the family or from a child of the family to a foster child;
5. Children who live in the 'designated area' of the school;

If the academy does not have places for all the children in this category, tiebreakers will be applied to prioritise places.

Tiebreaker 1 (applies to criterion 5 only)

Children living in the designated area who attend Cookham Dean CE Primary School, Cookham Rise Primary School or Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Cookham. If there are still not enough places for all the children once this Linked School tiebreaker has been applied, applications will be prioritised using Tiebreaker 2.

Tiebreaker 2 (applies to criterion 5 only)

¹ i.e. children in the care of a local authority, as defined in the Children Act 1989, s.22

² Adoption and Children Act 2002, s.46; Children Act 1989, s.8 and s.14A. Evidence of this status will be required

Proximity to the school. The distance tool (GIS mapping) used by the LA is embedded into the admissions portal. For In-Year Transfers the distance tool used is Google Maps. Where Google Maps identifies two or more families living in very close proximity to each other, the school will refer to RBWM's GIS mapping tool. In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school (for example families living in flats) and there are fewer places available then random allocation will be used to decide which child will be allocated the remaining place(s).

6. Children who attend Cookham Dean CE Primary School, Cookham Rise Primary School, Holy Trinity CE Primary School or Furze Platt Junior School, who do not live in the designated area.
7. All other applicants.

Tiebreaker 3 (applies to 6 and 7)

Proximity to the school. The distance tool (GIS mapping) used by the LA is embedded into the admissions portal. For In-Year Transfers the distance tool used is Google Maps. Where Google Maps identifies two or more families living in very close proximity to each other, the school will refer to RBWM's GIS mapping tool. In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school (for example families living in flats) and there are fewer places available then random allocation will be used to decide which child will be allocated the remaining place(s).

F. Residence in the designated appropriate area for the school

The "designated area" for the school (sometimes referred to as a catchment area) covers the whole of the Maidenhead area. This is the same area as designated for all other secondary schools in Maidenhead as shown by the pink shading on the Royal Borough map. A copy of the map of the area can be inspected at the school (Headteacher's PA) by appointment. A map can also be viewed on the Royal Borough's website at the following address:

https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/maidenhead_secondary_designated_areas_2022.pdf

The "home address" is the child's permanent address at the time the application is considered. It is where the child and parent or guardian lives during the school week, including nights. The academy reserves the right to check the validity of any address given, by asking for evidence such as a recent utility bill confirming the name and address or inclusion on the Electoral Roll.

If the child does not live at the parent's address for valid reasons (e.g. lives with grandparents), we may ask to see official documentation such as a child benefit letter or medical letter / prescription (all must be less than 12 months old) to prove habitual residence of the child. In such cases you will need to state this on the application form. If you do not declare any such arrangements or use a relative's address for your application, we may consider that you have made a false declaration and withdraw the offer of a place. Childcare arrangements are not sufficient grounds for naming another address.

Where an application is being submitted for a child who has a sibling (or siblings) in the same year group it will be the policy of the Governing Body not to offer a place to one child without offering the sibling(s) of the same age group at the same time. In these circumstances Governors may determine to exceed the number of places temporarily on the understanding that this will not create a new admission number and as soon as children leave they will revert to the published admission number.

G. Definition of parent

As determined under The Children's Act 1989, we define parents not only as both natural parents, but include any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child; or any person who has formal care of the child. (This excludes child minding arrangements.)

H. Waiting lists

Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list. The list will be held in order of the stated admissions criteria. Late applications will be added to this waiting list dependent on the criteria they fulfill. This means that positions on the list may change over time. Governors will maintain active waiting lists for all year groups. Waiting lists for Year 7 will be tied to the initial allocation until the end of December 2023, after which the list is reset and anyone wishing to remain on the school's waiting list will need to reapply via the school's 'In Year Transfer Form' (available on the school's website, www.furzeplatt.com, under Admissions).

If parents decline an offer of a place, they may subsequently re-join the waiting list.

I. Fair Access Protocol

The School is required to participate in the Fair Access Protocol introduced by the government in September 2007. This can, on rare occasions, require the school to be directed to admit a pupil where no alternative school can be found. This could mean such a child being admitted ahead of the waiting list or in very exceptional circumstances even if the year group is full.

J. Multiple births or children with birth dates in the same academic year

In cases where there is one place available and the next student on the waiting list is one from the same family born in the same academic year every effort will be made to admit both students.

K. Admission into year groups other than the year of entry (Year 7)

Applications for places in Years 8-11, or Year 7 after the start of September, can be made at any point of the academic year, via the 'In Year Transfer Form'. Where no places are available, applicants will be offered the opportunity to go on to the waiting list. The order of the waiting list will be applied as outlined in section E. Applications may be made via the school's 'In Year Transfer Form' (available on the school's website, www.furzeplatt.com, under Admissions).

The school cannot make an offer of a place more than one term in advance of the planned admission date, based on a six term structure. (Please note that applications to join the school at the start of Year 7 are separate to the In Year Transfer process).

Completed In Year Transfer applications that are submitted over closed periods (the school holidays) will not be responded to until the start of the next term, but will be dealt with based on the date of receipt. If parents decline an offer of a place, they may subsequently re-join the waiting list.

L. Admission of children outside their normal year group

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.

Each request will be carefully considered and a decision will be made on the individual merits of each case. The decision will take into account:

- the parents' views;
- the views of the headteacher of the school/s concerned;
- 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 been previously educated out of their normal age group; and
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

Parents seeking admission to an age group outside their child's actual age should submit their request with their application for September Year 7 entry or via additional written submissions as part of an In Year Transfer application.

M. Information about past years

Pupil Admission Number for Year 7

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
193	196	196	193	193	223	223	253	253	253	253

N. Further information

Further details / information may be obtained from the school's Admissions Team:

admissions@furzeplatt.net

01628 625308 x131

Note 1

Application of the medical or social category

The academy will consider an application in this category only where the child, or his or her parent or guardian, can demonstrate a wholly exceptional medical or social requirement for attendance at the preferred school and that attendance at no other school will suffice.

It is expected that places will be given under this category in no more than a small number of instances in a year, if at all.

To apply under this category, the parent or guardian must send a letter with the application form explaining the reasons for requiring a place in this category. It must explain why the preferred school is the only suitable school and why no other school is suitable, and must describe the difficulties likely to be caused by attendance at any other school. Such difficulties must be so exceptional as to be extremely rare in the population. The reasons may be associated with the child or with the family.

Supporting evidence must be included from a suitably qualified professional person associated with the child or the family, such as a consultant, a general practitioner, psychiatrist or a senior social worker. Evidence from members of the family or friends or a child minder will not normally be acceptable. All evidence must be on headed writing paper. Any evidence must be provided at the expense of the parent. The parent must give permission to the academy to make such enquiries as it thinks necessary to investigate the matter further.

Domestic arrangements, such as child care arrangements, or the need to leave or meet children at more than one school at the same time are unlikely to be acceptable without accompanying exceptional medical or social reasons.

Applications lacking external objective evidence will be rejected under this category. Any rejected application will then be considered under the next highest appropriate category to the child. Applicants are strongly advised to name other schools within the permitted number of preferences.

Applicants seeking to rely on these grounds must provide the necessary evidence by the closing date for applications. This will allow time for the authority to request or seek additional evidence if necessary by the time that decisions must be made. It may not be possible to consider applications under this criterion after the closing date, even where a family has just moved house into the area.

There will be no right of appeal against refusal of a decision in this category, but all parents will have the usual right of appeal to an independent appeal panel after allocations of places have been published.

Decisions under this criterion will be made by persons independent of the academy.

Part Two

Admissions to Furze Platt Senior School Sixth Form, September 2023

Candidates for the Sixth Form may be in Year 11 at Furze Platt Senior School or following courses at other schools. Students will need to meet the entrance criteria set out in the Sixth Form prospectus.

The Sixth Form Prospectus and application form are available from the school or our website. The course booklet showing the range of courses available and the application form can be downloaded from the school's website (www.furzeplatt.com, under Our School / School Prospectuses).

There are 150 places available in Year 12. We anticipate offering a minimum of 20 places to external candidates; more places may be available depending on the uptake of places by internal candidates.

3.1 Internal candidates

Furze Platt Senior School students notify the school during Year 11 of their wish to stay on to follow courses in the Sixth Form through completion of the application form.

3.2 External candidates

Applications for places from external candidates can be made by either the parents/carers and/or the student. Places are considered on receipt of the completed application form.

If the student is refused admission, both parents/carers and the student have the right to appeal, either jointly or separately. If the appeal is lodged separately, both appeals will be heard together.

3.3 Allocation of places (oversubscription criteria)

In the case of oversubscription for a place on a particular course, places will be offered first to students within the school and then to external applicants.

The following criteria will be used to allocate to external applicants the available places on those courses that receive more applications than can be accommodated:

Applicants with EHCPs that name a school in their plan are required to be admitted to the school that is named and who meet the academic requirements for the course. The admission authority does not have the right to refuse admission. Remaining places will be allocated in the following descending order:

- A Children in care, i.e. children in the care of a local authority as defined in the Children Act 1989. This category includes a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order³. This category also includes those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- B Students with siblings at the school at the time of admission. The term 'sibling' includes a half or step child permanently living in the same family unit or a foster child permanently living in the same family unit whose place has been arranged by the social services department of a local authority.
- C. All other applicants who meet the academic requirements of the course.

³ Adoption and Children Act 2002, s.46; Children Act 1989, s.8 and s.14A

Tie breaker: If a school does not have enough places for all applicants within a particular category places will be prioritised by means of a tie breaker. This tie breaker will be proximity to the school measured in a straight line from the address point of the student's house, using Google Maps.

Waiting lists

The waiting list will be held in order of the admission criteria. It will be maintained until the beginning of term in September 2023.

English & maths GCSE retakes

All students who have achieved the grades required to enter the Sixth Form, but who have not achieved a Grade 4 in either English Language or English Literature (only one of them is required) or maths, will be required to attend 'retake' classes and retake the GCSE exams in those subjects, until they achieve a Grade 4.

Late applications

If an application is received after the deadline, this will be considered 'late'. Late applications will be considered after the allocation of places and notified after the main allocation date, unless exceptional circumstances apply, e.g. hospitalisation of a parent or a family has just moved into the area. In such instances, evidence will be required.

Multiple births or children with birth dates in the same academic year

Application for places is based on meeting the individual requirements of the course. However, in cases where there is one place available and the next student on the waiting list is one from the same family born in the same academic year every effort will be made to admit both students, subject to the availability of appropriate courses.

Accepting or declining the offer of a place

Places are offered on the understanding that there is a two-year commitment to meet the academic requirements of the course.

Parents are required to accept or decline the allocated place using the form sent with the allocation letter. The form must be returned to the school within two weeks from the date of the offer letter. Failure to respond may result in the place being withdrawn. Parents are requested to advise the school at any stage, if they are not accepting the place for any reason.

Appeals

The student and/or the parents of students who are not offered a place, have the right to appeal against non-admission. A panel, independent of the school, will hear appeals. Their decision is binding on all parties. Appeals for admission into the Sixth Form will take place after GCSE results have been published. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel.