Admissions Policy 2026-2027

New Seaham Academy

The number of places available in the Reception Class 2026/2027 is 38 and the maximum number of pupils in each year group is limited to 38

How and when to apply for places

All applications for school places must be made to **Durham County Council Primary Admissions.** Applications may either be made on line or you can request a paper form from Durham County Council Admissions . Please see link below for all information

https://www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces

Applications for Reception places for September 2027 must be submitted by midnight, **Friday 15th January 2027.** Applications for school places in other year groups or after the start of the school year can be submitted at any time.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date, will be classed as late and processed after all of the applications received on time.

Admission of children outside their normal year group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group if they feel their child is not ready to start school with their peers, for example because the child has suffered ill health or is summer born (born between 1 April 2020 and 31 August 2020). Requests must be submitted in writing to the LA and include any supporting evidence from relevant professionals.

Requests must be submitted before the closing date for reception applications in the child's normal age group in good time for the LA to be able to consult the Trust Board and Headteacher of the school and inform the parent of the outcome before the closing date for the normal age group. In other words, for children due to start school in September 2027 where the parent wishes the child to delay admission until 2028, parents must submit their requests well before 15 January 2025. The LA will consider each case individually.

Special Educational Needs

Children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan, which names the school will be admitted to the school.

How places will be allocated

If there are enough places at the school, then every applicant will be offered a place. If more applications are received than the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be used in the order shown to decide which children will be allocated places.

Oversubscription Criteria:

If more children want a place than there are places available, we will offer places according to the following criteria, strictly in order of priority:

i. **Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order***
A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (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).

ii. Medical Reasons

Pupils with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.

iii. Children of staff of the school

a) Where a member of staff has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made. and/or
b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

iv. Sibling Links

Pupils who have a sibling** already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.

v. Siblings of former pupils

Pupils who have a sibling** that is a former pupil of the school, that is has attended the school within the previous ten years from the proposed year of admission

vi. Distance

Pupils who live nearest the preferred school measured by the shortest walking route***. This will be based on the parents' address. Where the last place to be allocated would mean that a multiple birth sibling group i.e. twins, triplets or other multiple birth sibling groups, would be split, the sibling group will be given priority over other children.

** An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. 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).

*** Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, step brothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner.*

**** The LA uses a Geographic Information System (GIS) to measure the shortest walking route. The shortest walking routes are measured from the nearest entrance to a house (e.g. front gate) or flats (e.g. front door of the main building) to the nearest school entrance.*