

Solebay Primary Academy nursery admission arrangements for the 2026/27 school year

Introductory statement

Solebay Primary Academy admits girls and boys of all backgrounds, aptitudes, abilities/disabilities and beliefs. The academy does not have any religious affiliation.

Paradigm Trust is the admissions authority for Solebay Primary Academy. This means that it will set and apply the admissions criteria for the school.

Published Admission Number

The published admission number for the nursery classes at Solebay Primary Academy is 50.

All parents are entitled to 15 hours per week of free early years education for 38 weeks each year from the start of the school term after their child's third birthday until the child reaches compulsory school age i.e. the term after their fifth birthday. An additional free 15 hours will only be available for families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working). Typically, each parent must earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum or living wage and less than £100,000 a year to be eligible.

For more information on eligibility go to:

www.gov.uk/help-with-childcarecosts/free-childcare-and-educationfor-2-to-4-year-olds.

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number for the relevant year group are received, the school will offer places to all those who have applied.

Application process

Nursery admissions are managed by the school.

If you wish to apply for a nursery place please put your child's name on the waiting list when s/he is aged two-and-six months, and fill in an application form and return it to the school administration office. If a place is available and has been offered, you will be asked to provide evidence to verify the child's age. We will send you an offer letter and arrange a time for you to visit the nursery or for members of staff to visit you and your child in order to assess them in their home environment.

Oversubscription criteria

The Trust uses the below oversubscription criteria. If there are more applications than places, the following criteria for priority will apply;

1. Children looked after by the local authority including adopted children who were previously looked after and children who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order. This also includes children who were previously in care abroad;
2. Children for whom it is deemed there is strong educational, medical or social reason to attend the school applied to (see note 1);
3. Children living within the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school (including the school of separate infant and junior schools) and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (see note 2);
4. Children whose parent is a member of staff who has been employed at the school concerned for two or more years at the time of application and/ or children of a member of staff who has been recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
5. Children who live within the catchment area of the school and for whom the school applied for is their nearest community school within the catchment area;
6. Other children from within the catchment area of the school;
7. Children living outside of the catchment area with a sibling at the school;
8. Children living outside of the catchment area of the school applied to.

Notes:

Note 1: This can include the parents', carers' or other family members' medical conditions and the family's social needs. Parents must complete the relevant section on the application form and attach medical and/or social reports from a suitable professional (e.g. a doctor or social worker) to support the application.

Note 2: Sibling means a whole, half or step-brother or step-sister resident at the same address.

Tie Break

In the event of oversubscription within the categories above, priority will be given to children who live closest to the school by the shortest walking distance. A digitised ordnance survey map is used to measure the distance from the home address to the school's designated official entrance. In the event of two distances being the same, a decision will be made by random allocation by the school.

Waiting lists

If you apply for a place in the nursery and you are refused, your child's name will automatically be placed on a waiting list. Names are placed on the waiting list in the order of Date of Birth. The order of children does not remain static – as circumstances change, a child's place on the waiting list can go up or down, for example due to withdrawals or additional applications. If you change your address while your child is on the waiting list, you must let us know. Please be aware that this may change your child's position on the list. Written evidence of this will be requested.

Appeals

As nursery is non-statutory, parents do not have the right of appeal if they do not get their preferred nursery choice. However, parents may contact the school for more information on the reason as to why their child was not offered a place.