

THE PRIORY WITHAM ACADEMY

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS for 2021

1 The admission authority for the Priory Witham Academy is The Priory Federation of Academies Trust ("the Trust"). These admission arrangements were determined by the Trust on 9 December 2019. They form part of the Trust's admission policy. In drawing up the arrangements, the Trust has followed statutory guidance from the government in the School Admissions Code. You can find the code at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2.

2 The Trust will consider all applications for places at The Priory Witham Academy. Where we receive fewer applications than the number of pre-school places available or the published admission number in the relevant school year group, we will offer places to all those who have applied.

NUMBERS OF PRE-SCHOOL PLACES

3 The Priory Witham Academy will provide the following number of pre-school places in the school year 2021/2022 and, subject to any changes approved or required by the Secretary of State, for subsequent years.

- a) 40 pre-nursery places at any time for children who are 2 years old until the beginning of the term before their 3rd birthday
- b) 32 nursery places for children turning 3 years old, from the beginning of the term before their 3rd birthday until the end of the school year before their 4th birthday
- c) 39 pre-reception places for children turning 4 years old, from the beginning of the school year during which they are 4 to the end of that school year.

4 The academy admits more children than the number of places available because many children attend for part of the school week. It is not possible to state how many part-time or full-time children are admitted to each stage of the pre-school provision. This is because the number of places available at any time depends on how many children have already been admitted, how long they stay and whether they attend full-time or part-time. The academy also has to stay within permitted staffing ratios.

ADMISSION NUMBERS FOR SCHOOL PLACES

5 The Priory Witham Academy will have the following agreed admission numbers for the school year 2021/2022 and, subject to any changes approved or required by the Secretary of State, for subsequent years:

- a) 60 pupils in the Reception Year (age 5 during the Reception Year)
- b) 30 pupils in Year 7 (the Year 7 group will therefore have up to 90 pupils, including the pupils entitled to transfer automatically from Year 6)
- c) 10 places in Year 12, in addition to those for students from the Priory Witham Academy who wish to stay on into the sixth form.

FINDING YOUR WAY ROUND THESE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

- 6 For pre-school places (age 2 to 4) please go to paragraphs 7 – 16
For primary school places in the Reception Year please go to paragraphs 17 – 25
For secondary school places in Year 7 please go to paragraphs 26 – 32.
For places in the sixth form please go to paragraphs 33 - 39.

Then, for important information for all age groups, please go to paragraphs 40 – 63.

APPLICATIONS FOR PRE-SCHOOL PLACES (ages 2 to 4)

Process of application

7 You make applications for pre-school places directly to the academy. This is because admissions to pre-school education are subject to separate admission arrangements from those for the rest of the academy. The academy offers free (funded) places (15 or 30 hours per week) for eligible children, and paid-for places. You can find a more detailed document giving the full range of types of places available on the academy's website (<https://www.priorywitham.co.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=1406>) and as a printed copy from the academy.

8 Accepting a place in any part of the pre-school provision does not guarantee a place in the Reception Year (age 5) at the Priory Witham Academy or at any other school. A separate application must be made for a school place in the Reception Year, using the local authority's coordinated scheme, when the child is about to reach compulsory school age.

9 The number of places available in any age group in the academy's pre-school provision depends on how many children of that age are already enrolled at the academy at the time of admission. Applications for places for pre-school provision can be made at any time after a child's birth. Children take up pre-nursery places after they are 2 years old. Children take up nursery places at the beginning of the term in which they reach the age of 3. Children take up places in the pre-Reception class at the beginning of the school year in which they reach the age of 4.

10 If a place in the right age group is available when you apply, we will admit your child. If a place is not immediately available, your child's name is placed on a waiting list. The academy will keep a waiting list for the whole year in each of the age groups in which it provides pre-school places.

11 If a parent of a child already on the academy's roll wishes to increase the number of hours, and those hours are not immediately available, then the child will need to go onto the waiting list for the additional hours. The child remains on roll with her or his current provision, but need to be considered alongside other applicants for the additional hours.

12 A child's position on a waiting list is determined only by the oversubscription criteria, irrespective of the time the child has been on the waiting list. Each waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria every time there is a new applicant or a child leaves the waiting list.

Admission criteria for pre-school places

13 The Priory Witham Academy will first accept all pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan (*Children and Families Act 2014*) that names the academy.

Oversubscription criteria for pre-school places

14 Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the number of places available, the Trust will consider applications against the criteria set out below.

15 After the admission of pupils with EHC plans, the criteria below will be applied for the remaining places, in the order in which they are set out:

- a. looked after children, or previously looked after children (*please note the revised definition in paragraph 51 below*)
- b. children where recognised professional opinion, including medical reasons, shows that a child's circumstances present a particularly strong case for taking in the child, and that opinion is accepted by the academy.
- c. ***for two-year olds only*** children who are entitled to early years funding for two-year-olds
- d. siblings of pupils who are on the roll of the academy at the time of the application
- e. children of a member of staff of the academy who has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time of the application

In the event of more applicants than places under criteria 15b, 15c, 15d or 15e above, children living nearest to the academy have priority, using criterion 15f.

- f. children who live nearest to the academy measured by the straight-line distance from the Post Office address point of the academy's main entrance to the Post Office address point of the child's home.

In the event that two or more applicants under criterion 15f live the same straight-line distance from the school, the place or places will be allocated at random by an independent person

16 Children of staff recruited after 16th April in the year of admission to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage may be considered as exceptional admissions.

APPLICATIONS TO THE RECEPTION YEAR (age 5)

Process of application

17 You make applications for places in the Reception Year at the academy through the co-ordinated admission arrangements in the local authority area in which your child lives. You apply using the Common Application Form (CAF) provided and administered by the relevant local authority.

18 Parents resident in Lincolnshire can apply online through Lincolnshire County Council's website: www.lincolnshire.gov.sch.uk/schooladmissions. You can also apply by telephone, or ask for a hard copy application form, by telephoning 01522 782030. Parents resident in other areas must apply through the local authority in which they live.

19 The academy will normally admit pupils at the beginning of the school year in which they reach the age of 5 (that is, from the September following their fourth birthday). Parents offered a place can choose to delay entry until later in the same school year, but must ensure their child begins school by the time they are of compulsory school age (the start of the term after their fifth birthday). Parents offered places from September must also take them up by the beginning of the following summer term. Parents may also request that their child takes up the place part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. We advise that any parent considering either option should contact the academy to discuss the arrangements, preferably before applying.

20 The academy will normally admit pupils into the designated year group for their age. It will, however, consider applications from summer-born children (born after 1 April) to begin school in Year R in the following September when they are five, rather than with their designated age group. In addition to completion of the CAF, these applications must be made in writing, giving one or more reasons for the request. Any parent considering this should contact the academy to discuss the implications of this arrangement before applying. Each application will be dealt with individually to ensure all the circumstances are taken into account when making a decision. In coming to a conclusion, the academy will consider a range of evidence, including that provided by the parent, and take account of:

- the parent's views
- any available 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 previously been educated out of their normal age group
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely

- the views of the headteacher.

21 The Priory Witham Academy will use the following timetable for applications each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year) which, whenever possible, will fit in with the common timetable agreed by the Lincolnshire local authority:

- a) By 1 September – The Priory Witham Academy will publish in its prospectus information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (for example in September 2020 for admission in September 2021). This will include details of open evenings and other opportunities for prospective pupils and their parents to visit the academy.
- b) By the end of November – The Priory Witham Academy will provide opportunities for parents to visit the academy.
- c) By 15 January – parents complete the CAF and return it to the relevant local authority to administer
- d) Between 16 January and 15 April –
 - the local authority sends application information to the academy for consideration by the Trust
 - the Priory Witham Academy sends a list of pupils to be offered places by the Trust to the local authority.
- e) 16 April - the relevant local authority will make the offers of places to parents of pupils joining primary provision on behalf of the Trust, as required by the School Admissions Code.

Admission criteria for the Reception Year (age 5)

22 The Priory Witham Academy will first accept all pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan (*Children and Families Act 2014*) that names the academy.

Oversubscription criteria for the Reception Year

23 Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, the Trust will consider applications against the criteria set out below.

24 After the admission of pupils with EHC plans, the criteria below will be applied for the remaining places, in the order in which they are set out:

- a. looked after children, or previously looked after children (*please note the revised definition in paragraph 51 below*)

- b. siblings of pupils who are on the roll of the academy at the time of the application
- c. children eligible for the early years pupil premium, the pupil premium or the service premium who are in a pre-school class in the Priory Witham Academy
- d. children of a member of staff of the academy who has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time of the application

In the event of more applicants than places under criteria 24b, 24c or 24d above, children living nearest to the academy have priority, using criterion 24e.

- e. children who live nearest to the academy measured by the straight-line distance from the Post Office address point of the academy's main entrance to the Post Office address point of the child's home.

In the event that two or more applicants under criterion 24e live the same straight-line distance from the academy, the place or places will be allocated at random by an independent person

25 Children of staff recruited after 16th April in the year of admission to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage may be considered as exceptional admissions.

APPLICATIONS TO YEAR 7 (age 11)

Process of application

26 You make applications for places in Year 7 through the co-ordinated admission arrangements in the local authority area in which your child lives. You apply using the Common Application Form (CAF) provided and administered by the relevant local authority.

27 Parents resident in Lincolnshire can apply online through Lincolnshire County Council's website: www.lincolnshire.gov.sch.uk/schooladmissions. You can also apply by telephone, or ask for a hard copy application form, by telephoning 01522 782030. Parents resident in other areas must apply through the local authority in which they live.

28 The Priory Witham Academy will use the following timetable for applications each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year) which, whenever possible, will fit in with the common timetable agreed by the Lincolnshire local authority:

- a) By 1 September – The Priory Witham Academy will publish in its prospectus information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (for example in September 2020 for admission in September 2021). This will include details of open evenings and other opportunities for prospective pupils and their parents to visit the academy.
- b) By the end of October – The Priory Witham Academy will provide opportunities for

parents to visit the academy.

- c) By 31 October – parents complete the CAF and return it to the relevant local authority to administer.
- d) Between 1 November and 28 February –
 - the local authority sends application information to the academy for consideration by the Priory Federation of Academies Trust (“the Trust”).
 - The Priory Witham Academy sends a list of pupils to be offered places by the Trust to local authority.
- e) 1 March - the relevant local authority will make the offers of places to parents of pupils joining secondary provision on behalf of the Trust, as required by the School Admissions Code.

Admission criteria for Year 7 (age 11)

29 The Priory Witham Academy will first accept all pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan (*Children and Families Act 2014*) or a statement of special educational needs (*Education Act 1996*) that names the academy.

Oversubscription criteria for Year 7

30 Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, the Trust will consider applications against the criteria set out below.

31 After the admission of pupils with EHC plans or statements, the criteria below will be applied for the remaining places in the order in which they are set out:

- a. looked after children, or previously looked after children (*please note the revised definition in paragraph 51 below*)
- b. siblings of pupils who are on the roll of the academy at the time of the application
- c. children of a member of staff of the academy who has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time of the application

In the event of more applicants than places under criteria 31b or 31c above, children living nearest to the academy have priority, using criterion 31d.

- d. children who live nearest to the academy measured by the straight-line distance from the Post Office address point of the academy’s main entrance to the Post Office address point of the child’s home.

In the event that two or more applicants under criterion 31d live the same straight-line distance from the academy, the place or places will be allocated at random by an independent person

32 Children of staff recruited after 1st March in the year of admission to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage may be considered as exceptional admissions.

APPLICATIONS TO THE SIXTH FORM

33 The Priory Witham Academy offers a wide range of sixth-form courses at Level 3 (for example A level or BTEC) and some at Level 2 (for example GCSE and City and Guilds). All applicants for places in the sixth form must satisfy the academic entry requirements of The Priory Witham Academy.

34 For Level 3 courses we normally expect students to have achieved a grade 4 or above in both English and mathematics, and normally a grade 5 or its equivalent in a subject relevant to each preferred course. There are no minimum grade requirements for Level 2 courses. Academic entry requirements and subject-specific requirements are the same for internal and external applicants. Exceptionally, we may offer a place to an applicant for a Level 3 course who has not achieved a grade 4 in either English or mathematics.

35 We discuss with each applicant the best match of course to their subject background. Further information for individual subjects can be found in the academy's sixth form prospectus:

<https://www.priorywitham.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2740&type=pdf>.

Process of application

36 Dates for applications for entry to Year 12, and acceptances and refusals, will be published in the academy's sixth form prospectus. You make applications directly to the academy.

Admission criteria for Year 12

37 The Priory Witham Academy will first accept all pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan (*Children and Families Act 2014*) or a statement of special educational needs (*Education Act 1996*) that names the academy.

Oversubscription criteria for Year 12

38 Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, the Trust will consider applications against the criteria set out below.

39 After the admission of pupils with EHC plans or statements, the criteria below will be applied in the order in which they are set out:

- a. looked after children, or previously looked after children (*please note the revised definition in paragraph 51 below*)
- b. students wishing to study the academy's specialist subjects (performing arts, and business and enterprise)

Where the application of this criterion still leaves more students than places, then the 'total' of students' grades in GCSE examinations will be taken into account, in order, starting with the highest. In the case of tied totals, then the distance from home to the academy will be used as in criterion 39c below.

- c. a student who lives nearest to the academy measured by the straight-line distance from the Post Office address point of the academy's main entrance to the Post Office address point of the child's home.

In the event that two or more applicants under criterion 39c live the same straight-line distance from the academy, the place or places will be allocated at random by an independent person.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMITTING PUPILS TO OTHER YEAR GROUPS AND OTHER THAN AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

40 The academy will consider all applications to year groups between the Reception Year and Year 13 inclusive and, if the year group applied for contains fewer pupils than the published admission number (PAN) for the normal intake year for this year group, the academy will admit the child. If there are more applications than places then the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who should be offered places.

41 You should make these applications through Lincolnshire County Council or directly to the academy. You can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions. You can also apply by telephone, or ask for a hard copy application form, by telephoning 01522 782030. Sixth form applications, however, must be made directly to the academy.

ADMISSION OF PUPILS OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

42 The academy will normally admit pupils into the designated year group for their age. Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group if, for example, the child is gifted or talented, or has experienced significant problems such as ill health. As well as completion of the CAF, these applications need to be made in writing, giving one or more reasons for the request. Any parent considering this should contact the academy to discuss the implications of this arrangement before applying. Each application for admission outside the normal age group will be dealt with individually to ensure all the circumstances are taken into account when making a decision. In coming to a decision, the academy will consider a range of evidence as set out in the School Admissions Code, including that provided by the parent, and take account of:

- the parent's views

- any available 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 previously been educated out of their normal age group
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- the views of the headteacher.

CHILDREN OF UK MILITARY PERSONNEL

43 The Trust aims to support the military covenant by removing any disadvantage to UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces) moving to the area or Crown Servants returning from overseas to live in the area by:

- a) processing an application in advance of a move to the area provided it is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit address, intended address or quartering address (or the equivalent in the case of Crown Servants returning from overseas)
- b) accepting a Unit postal address, quartering area address or confirmed future residential home address for admissions purposes for a child of service personnel or Crown Servants moving to the area, where the parent requests this.

The Trust will not refuse a service child a place solely because the family does not have an intended address or does not yet live in the area. Evidence of an intended address will be required, such as tenancy agreement or mortgage statement. Please contact the academy for more details.

For late coordinated applications and in-year applications supported by the appropriate military documentation, the Trust will aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces). The Trust will consider whether:

- An application from that address would normally succeed in an oversubscribed year;
- There is any child on the reserve list with higher priority under the oversubscription criteria;
- The prejudice from admitting an extra child would be excessive.

The Trust has discretion to admit above the admission number in these circumstances if it wishes, but is not obliged to do so. If a place is refused, you will be informed of your right of appeal.

OPERATION OF WAITING LISTS

44 The academy will operate a waiting list until 31 December each year for all unsuccessful applicants for each year group from the Reception Year to Year 13. Waiting lists for pre-school places are held open for the whole of the school year. Children's position on a waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria

set out for the relevant year group above. The waiting lists for entry to the Year R and Year 7 are managed by Lincolnshire local authority's School Admissions Team from 16 April (Year R) and 1 March (Year 7) until the end of August each year.

45 Where places become vacant the Trust will allocate places to children on the waiting list in the order determined by the oversubscription criteria, irrespective of the time they have been on the waiting list. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria every time there is a new applicant, an applicant's details change or an applicant leaves the waiting list. You will need to inform the academy of your new address and any other new contact details if you move house while on the waiting list.

46 Once the waiting list has closed in each year group on 31 December, you will need to reapply if you wish your child to join the academy at a subsequent point.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

47 Parents or carers of all unsuccessful applicants have a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. This right of appeal applies to applications for admission from the age of 5 (Reception) upward. The appeal panel is set up under the School Admission Appeals Code. Appeals related to pre-school admissions are heard by a panel set up by the academy's local governing body. Details of how to make an appeal will be provided when a parent is informed of a decision to refuse their child a place at the academy.

FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL

48 The academy and Trust will participate fully with the Lincolnshire local authority's *Fair Access Protocol*, which makes sure that unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable children, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. Children allocated a place under the *Fair Access Protocol* take precedence over those on a waiting list.

CONCERNS ABOUT APPLICATIONS

49 As the admission authority for the academy, the Trust has the right to investigate any concerns it has about an application. The Trust may withdraw an offer of a place if it is found that parents have made a fraudulent claim or provided intentionally misleading information, such as a false address. The Trust reserves the right to check any information provided so it can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

DEFINITIONS

Looked after children

50 *A looked after child is a child who is (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) at the time of making an application to a school.*

51 Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order), including those children who appear to the Trust to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

52 Previously looked after children includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

53 Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

54 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).

Paragraph 51 above was amended on 12th July 2021 to conform to the requirements of the School Admission Code 2021 in respect of previously looked after children.

Admission to pre-school places on social or medical grounds

55 When applying for a pre-school place on social or medical grounds you should supply a supporting letter from an appropriate professional such as a social worker, doctor or consultant. The supporting letter should set out the particular reasons why the academy is the most suitable school for your child and the difficulties that would be caused if your child had to attend another school.

Siblings

56 A sibling is defined as:

- a natural brother or sister, whether or not a resident in the same household
- another child normally in residence for the majority (more than 50%) of term time in the household for whom the adult in the household has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act 1989 (for example, adopted siblings, half-brothers and sisters, step-brothers or sisters, and foster brothers or sisters)
- any child in the household where an adult is defined as a parent for the purposes of section 576 of the Education Act 1996.

The position of twins and siblings in the same year group

57 In the case of twins or other children from multiple births and where only one place is available, the applications will be considered together as one application. The academy will

then exceed its published admission number, including in infant classes, where it would be an exception to the infant class size limit.

58 *In the case of more than one sibling not from a multiple birth applying to join the same year group and where only one place is available, the applications will be considered together as one application. The academy will then exceed its published admission number, except in infant classes, where the infant class size limit still applies and only one place would be offered.*

Distance

59 *Distances are measured in a straight line and are calculated to three decimal places (for example 1.543 miles) by the Lincolnshire County Council school admissions team from the Post Office address point of the child's home to the Post Office address point of the academy (the gate at the main entrance to the academy on De Wint Avenue, Lincoln).*

Home address

60 *This is the address where the child lives for the majority of the school term time with a parent who has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act 1989 or where an adult in the household is defined as a parent for the purpose of section 576 of the education Act 1996. This could include a person who is not a parent but who has parental responsibility for her or him. It will not usually include other relatives such as grandparents, uncles, aunts etc. unless they have all the rights, duties, powers and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and their property.*

61 *In the case of a child who normally lives during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, or if the family has more than one home, we will take as the home address the address where you and your child normally live for the majority of the school term time. In either scenario if you can show that your child spends an equal amount of time at both addresses during school term time, you can choose which address to use on the application.*

Staff

62 *Staff means an employee of the Priory Federation of Academies Trust who is deployed for the majority of their working time at the Priory Witham Academy.*

'Total' of GCSE grades

63 *This is the total of the numbered grades that are awarded at the end of GCSE courses, including the equivalent number when converted from other qualifications.*