

Serby Park Academy Admission Arrangements 2025-26

Applications for places at Serby Park Academy are made in accordance with the National School Admissions Code and with Nottinghamshire County Council Admission Arrangements.

Published Admission Number

The Academy Advisory Board (AAB) has determined a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of:-

- 60 on the Primary phase
- PAN of 60 for Y7 (with another 60 pupils transferring from the current Y6 on roll to make a total of 120).

This is the number of children who can be admitted into the “intake year” and preferences are agreed until the PAN has been reached.

Applications must be made through your home local authority. For Nottinghamshire residents, this can be found on the NCC website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions and applications should be completed by the closing date for applications as stated in the Nottinghamshire Coordinated scheme.

Information about closing dates for applications and outcomes can be found at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions>

Nursery Admissions

Children are accepted into the Nursery Unit from the following term of their 3rd birthday.

Reception year admission criteria

Children who already attend Serby Park Academy Nursery must reapply for admission in to Reception. Children born between the 1 September and the 31 August, in the year they are 5, are admitted into Reception on a full-time basis at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Parents / carers can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the academic year. Applicants of a summer born child that has an allocated place must take up that place within the current academic year. Parents who choose to defer their child’s admission until the September after their fifth birthday must reapply. The parents of a summer born child (born between 1 April and 31 August) may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that the child is admitted out of the normal age group – to Reception rather than Year 1.

In the event of oversubscription, the following criteria, listed in orders of priority, will then be applied to determine which other applications will be granted places.

1. Children looked after by a local authority and previously looked after children **as well as** those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children who live in the catchment area and who, at the time of admission, have a brother or sister attending Serby Park Academy.
3. Other children who live in the catchment area.

4. Children who live outside the catchment area who have a brother or sister attending Serlby Park Academy at the time of admission.
5. Other children who live outside the catchment area.

Year 7 admissions

It should be noted that children attending the Primary phase transfer automatically into Year 7 unless parents request otherwise.

Year 7 Admissions Criteria

In the event of oversubscription, the following criteria, listed in orders of priority, will then be applied to determine which other applications will be granted places.

1. Children looked after by a local authority and previously looked after children **as well as** those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children who live in the catchment area and who, at the time of admission, have a brother or sister attending the Academy.
3. Other children who live in the catchment area.
4. Children who live outside the catchment area but who are attending a linked Primary phase school on the closing date for applications preceding admission to Secondary school and who have a brother or sister at Serlby Park Academy at the time of admission.

Our linked Primary schools are:

- All Saints Harworth Church of England Primary School
 - St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
 - The Primary School of St Mary and St Martin, Blyth
 - Misson Primary School
5. Children who live outside the catchment area and who, at the time of admission, have a brother or sister attending Serlby Park Academy.
 6. Children who are attending a DELTA Primary Academy.
 7. Children who live outside the catchment area but who are attending a linked Primary phase school on the closing date for applications preceding admission to Secondary school.
 8. Other children who live outside the catchment area.

For applications into any year group and in the event of oversubscription within any criterion, preference will be given to children who live nearest to the Academy as 'the crowflies'. Distances are measured from the entrance of the child's home to the principal entrance of the main administrative building of the Academy using the Local Authority computerised distance measuring software. In the event of two distances being equal, lots will be drawn by an independent person. The random allocation process will be supervised by someone independent of the school, and a fresh round of random allocation will be used each time a child is to be offered a place from a waiting list.

Parents can check their catchment area and apply for a place at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions

Admission Oversubscription Criteria

Siblings - For school admissions the academy will consider the following as sibling:

- a brother or sister who share the same parents
- a half-brother or half-sister or legally adopted child living at the same address as the child
- a child looked after by a local authority placed in a foster family with other school age children
- stepchildren or children who are not related but live as a family unit, where parents both live at the same address as the child.
- Twins and multiple births - where one child of a multiple birth can be admitted, the other child/children will also be admitted.

Late Applications

Certain late applications submitted in the normal admissions round will be treated as on time by Nottinghamshire Local Authority up to the Local Authorities set late admissions deadline. Such applications will be from parents or carers that: Families who have recently moved into Nottinghamshire or can prove that at the time of completing the form that there were exceptional reasons for missing the published date. The Local Authority will treat such applications as on time where it is practical to include them in their first ranking. All other late applications for Secondary school places received by Nottinghamshire Local Authority after the specified date will be dealt with after offer day. Further information about late applications can be found on the Nottinghamshire County Council website at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/applying-for-a-school-place-september>

Waiting Lists

If your child has not been offered a place at their preferred school, you will be informed of your right to appeal and your child will be added to their year group's waiting list. The waiting list for admission to Serlby Park Academy will remain open until the end of the Autumn term of that academic year (31st December). Parents must make a request for their child's name to be put on the waiting list which will be revised annually. Applications that have been refused will automatically be placed on a waiting list. The lists are ranked in the same order as the oversubscription criteria which means that a child's position could go up or down throughout the year. Any late applications will be added to the list in accordance with the order of priority for allocating places. Inclusion on a waiting list does not guarantee that a place will eventually become available for your child, however, should a place become available, we will notify you as soon as possible.

Serlby Park Academy will maintain waiting lists in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council until December 31st, following closure of the waiting list repeat or new applications will be dealt with in accordance with the fair access protocol.

Children will then be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria outlined in this document. Looked after children, previously looked after children, as well as those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, and those allocated a place at the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol, must take precedence over those on a waiting list.

In the event of an application being refused as there are more applications than places available, parents have a right to appeal to an independent appeals panel. The appeal should be lodged within 20 school days.

In Year Applications

Serlby Park Academy participates in Nottinghamshire County Council's in-year coordinated scheme. Applications can be made for admission outside of the normal round (in-year) at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/changing-school

Applications for places in any year group made during the school year, will be considered by the AAB. Where there are sufficient places, an application will normally be agreed by the Admissions Committee. Where the number of applicants exceeds the number of available places, applicants will be ranked in accordance with criterion listed in the 'Over-subscription' section in the same order of priority and places will be awarded accordingly. If a place is agreed, parents will receive confirmation from Nottinghamshire County Council and a start date will be determined.

Any parent whose child is not offered a place in any year group at the Academy will be notified of their right for independent appeal.

Serlby Park Academy participates in Nottinghamshire County Council's Fair Access Protocol.

Children of UK Service Personnel (UK Armed Forces)

The Academy will allocate places to children of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in that area, in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address in accordance with Section 2.18 of the Admissions Code when considering the application against its oversubscription criteria.

Admissions outside the normal age range

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group, for example, if a child is gifted or talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Children should only be educated out of the normal age group in very limited circumstances.

Nottinghamshire residents should submit a request in writing to Serlby Park Academy as early as possible. Designated officers will make decisions based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of the normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The views of the principal of the school concerned will also be taken into account. When informing parents of the decision on the year group to which the child should be admitted, the parents will be notified of the reasons for the decision.

Where it is agreed that a child will be admitted out of the normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (i.e. the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school) the local authority and admission authority will process the application as part of the main admissions round on the basis of their determined admission only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable.

The parent has a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. The right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school, but it is not in their preferred age group.

Transfer to Secondary schools

Where a child has been educated out of the normal age group it is the parent's responsibility to again request admission out of the normal age group when they transfer from junior to secondary school. It will be for the admission authority of the preferred school to decide whether to admit the child out of the normal age group. The admission authority must make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the child's best interests, and will need to bear in mind the age group which the child has been educated in up to that point.

Admission Under Special Circumstances

Special consideration will be given to children whose medical needs, mobility support needs, special educational needs or social circumstances are supported by written evidence from a doctor, social worker or other relevant professional stating that the Academy is the only school that can cater for the child's particular needs. Supporting evidence must be presented at the time of application. The AAB will consider each case on its merits and determine the allocation of any such place on the basis of the written evidence. Admission under 'special circumstances' will take precedence over all but the first of the numbered criteria.

Children of nomadic Travellers will be allocated a place at their catchment area school.

Looked after and previously looked after

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.

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) as well as those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. These children are referred to in the Admissions Code 2021 as internationally adopted previously looked after children (IAPLAC) and also includes children who are previously looked after in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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. This 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).

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. 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).

Home address

The child's place of residence is taken to be the parental home, other than in the case of children fostered by a local authority, where either the parental address or that of the foster parent may be used. If a child's parents live at separate addresses, the address where the child permanently spends at least three 'school' nights.

(Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) will be taken to be the place of residence. Addresses of other relatives or friends will not be considered as the place of residence, even if the child stays there for all or part of the week. Evidence that a child's place of residence is permanent may also be sought. The evidence should prove that a child lived at the address at the time of application. Informal arrangements between parents will not be taken into consideration.

In all cases all those with parental responsibility must be in agreement with the preferences made.

Parents

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' to include; all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person. Having parental responsibility means assuming all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority that a parent of a child has by law. People other than a child's natural parent can acquire parental responsibility.

Appeals

If a child has been refused a place, the parent has the right to appeal against the decision. The deadline for lodging appeals allows appellants at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and lodge their written appeal. The appeal must be made in writing to the Principal of the Academy. Advice on how to lodge an appeal will be included in the letter advising that a place has been refused and the reason why the place has been refused. More details on the appeals process can be found on the County Council's website at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/appeal-a-school-admission-decision>

*In the case of this document parent refers to the person/s with legal parental responsibility for the child

Catchment Areas for Serlby Park Academy

Details of the school's defined catchment area can be obtained from the academy or via the Nottinghamshire County Council's Website at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/search-for-a-school#/details/4002>

