



DANESMEAD, FULFORD CROSS, YORK YO10 4PB

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Admissions policy

General Statement

The procedure for applying to the school is set out in a document titled ['Information for families approaching the school'](#).

In this policy the word 'applicant' refers either to the applicant pupil or to their parent(s) or guardian(s), depending upon context.

The school aspires to a non-selective admissions policy and does not discriminate between applicants on grounds of physical or intellectual ability, gender, religion, ethnic origin or for any reason other than its capacity to meet the applicant's educational needs. The school wishes to treat all applicants fairly and openly, and to be timely and effective in its communication with them.

All applicants to the school for Classes 1 to 8 will 'visit' for a period of 2-3 weeks in the class.

The criteria for admission are as follows:

1. the availability of a place in the class appropriate to the applicant's age
2. the capacity of the school to meet the applicant's educational needs, taking into account its responsibility to the children already in the class and the distinctive nature of the curriculum
3. the willingness of the applicant's family or guardian(s) to contribute financially.

1. The availability of places

Each year group in Kindergarten main school can under normal circumstances accommodate 25 children.

These are the levels at which the classes are regarded as technically full. When the number in a class is below these levels, places will usually be given to applicants who meet the other criteria for admission in the following order:

1. to the children of staff coming to or already working in the school
2. to the siblings of existing pupils
3. to the children of past pupils of York Steiner School
4. to children from other Steiner schools
5. to those families who have demonstrated their commitment to Steiner education
6. on a first come first served basis

If a place is offered but not taken up, the applicant will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list if the place is still wanted. At the end of each academic year the school will contact all those on the waiting list to ask if they wish to remain on it.

The school may decide to admit additional pupils above the level at which the class is technically full, provided that the educational needs of the pupils to be admitted and those already in the class, can continue to be met. Decisions will be taken on an individual basis and may take into account the ease with which applicants are expected to adjust to the class and the curriculum. In some cases this may result in an applicant being offered a place before another, earlier applicant.

Kindergarten places are initially allocated based on a pooling system. All families applying before the advertised cut off point are interviewed for a place in Kindergarten; places are then allocated based on the criteria above. When Kindergarten is full a waiting list will be opened up.

The capacity of the school to meet the applicant's educational needs

The school has always given places to families regardless of their financial circumstances. As a result of this policy of inclusivity there are some constraints on the resources available to support pupils requiring additional learning support and/or having special educational needs. Each class is, however, able to accept some children with specific learning needs. Extra help for these children is available from the dedicated Learning Support Department.

When the school considers that an applicant may have special needs, these needs will be assessed with regard to:

1. their own needs
2. the resources available in the Learning Support Department to meet those needs and
3. the make-up and balance of the class they are approaching.

This assessment will be made by the Education Mandate Group.

If, following the assessment by the Education Mandate Group the school considers that it cannot meet the applicant's educational needs, it will write to the applicant explaining the reasons for this conclusion.

In some cases, places may be offered subject to conditions requiring, for example, extra tuition. Any such conditions will be clearly set out when offering a place.

When the school considers that it can meet an applicant's educational needs in Early Years (Kindergarten) it does not automatically follow that it will be able to do so in Classes 1 to 8. The progression from Early Years to Class 1 is therefore subject to an individual assessment of the school's capacity to meet the child's continuing educational needs. This assessment will be made before the child's 5th birthday or by the end of the Spring Term of the year in which the child turns 5, whichever is the sooner.

3. Contributions

The school requests financial contributions towards its operating costs. A schedule is published annually of the amounts requested, which are intended to be contributions to the cost of running the whole school and does not reflect the cost of providing the education on an individual or class basis.

Applicants are required, as part of the application process, to agree to pay the requested amount or a lower amount agreed by the school as fairly reflecting the applicant's financial circumstances. The school's ideal is to be socially inclusive and to welcome families having a wide range of financial circumstances. It aims also to be fair in the level of contributions it requests from individual families.

Applicants are expected to be aware of the school's need for non-financial support, as set out in the statement published in 'Information for families approaching the school'.

Reviewed: November 2018

To be updated: January 2020