



## **Oasis Academy Watermead Admission Arrangements for 2025-2026**

### **Introductory statement**

At Oasis Academy Watermead we believe that children learn best when they have opportunities to talk, play, explore, work together, ask questions and practice their developing skills. We believe in a curriculum that gives children the chance to learn language and new skills through real life and practical experiences.

### **Admission number(s)**

The school has an admission number of 60 for entry in Reception.

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

### **Application process**

Arrangements for applications for places in Reception at the Academy will be made in accordance with Sheffield's coordinated admission arrangements and can be made online or on the Common Application Form provided and administered by Sheffield City Council.

The closing date for applications will be 15 January 2025. You will be sent an email from Sheffield Local Authority on 16 April 2025 to confirm your outcome. Please visit Sheffield City Council website for further information <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/apply-school-place>

### **Late Applications**

All applications received by Sheffield Local Authority after 31 January 2025 will be considered to be late applications.

Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

### **Oversubscription and Tie Breakers**

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of students with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

#### **Category 1**

##### **CHILDREN IN CARE OR PREVIOUSLY IN CARE**

Pupils who are in Care or who were previously in Care will be admitted to the school. Children who were previously in Care are children who were in care but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject of a child arrangement or special guardianship order immediately following being in Care.

This includes those children who appear to Oasis Community Learning to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.



## **Looked After Children who were previously in state care outside of England**

The School will also extend this priority to Looked After Children who were previously in state care outside of England so that they will be treated on an equal footing to those children looked after and previously looked after by a local authority in England.

### **Category 2**

#### **CATCHMENT AREA & SIBLING**

Children who live in the catchment area at the latest date for receiving applications and who will have siblings attending the preferred school or linked Junior School (see 5 for further definition of sibling).

### **Category 3**

#### **CATCHMENT AREA**

Children living in the catchment area for the preferred school that do not have a sibling attending, will be considered next. Catchment areas can be checked at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/pupiladmissions](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/pupiladmissions).

### **Category 4**

#### **BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF CHILDREN REFUSED A PLACE AT THEIR CATCHMENT SCHOOL**

In circumstances where, in previous years, parents had applied on time but been refused a place at their catchment school for older siblings and allocated a place at a non-catchment school, any younger sibling will be afforded priority sibling status. This will only apply where allocated a preference ranked lower than the catchment school or allocated the nearest school available.

### **Category 5**

#### **BROTHERS OR SISTERS**

A sibling is defined as a child who permanently or usually lives at the same address as:

- a brother and/or sister
- a stepbrother and/or a stepsister (to include half-brothers/sisters) and in both cases will attend or has been allocated the preferred or linked school at the point of entry.

In addition, where the requested school is an infant school, the attendance of an older sibling at the linked junior school will be included.

#### **OTHER APPLICATIONS**

Any child who does not fit into one of the above categories will be considered next. Places will be allocated up to the published indicated admission number.

#### **TIE BREAKERS**

Where the admission number is reached mid admission category there are two stages of further consideration:



Where exceptional medical, social or special educational needs are demonstrated by supporting evidence from a professional an application may be prioritised by the Admissions Committee but only within the same admission category (please see the detailed explanation of how the Admissions Committee operates). If you feel you have exceptional circumstances you should provide full details and supporting third party evidence. For example, if your reasons relate to a medical condition of you or your child, you should support your explanation with a letter from a relevant medical professional.

If there are no exceptional circumstances, all other applications will be prioritised first by the admission category and then by distance from the home address to a designated point at the school building. This is a straight-line measurement from the school to the house.

### **CHILDREN LIVING EQUAL DISTANCE FROM THE SCHOOL**

In circumstances where two or more children live at addresses that are equidistant from the school the process of Random Allocation will take place. The Random Allocation will: (i) be independently supervised by a representative of the City Council's Legal Department.

### **TWINS AND MULTIPLE BIRTHS**

In circumstances where there is one place remaining and the next eligible children are twins or multiple birth, the Local Authority may make an exception and allocate above the admission number. The Authority cannot guarantee that other siblings of multiple birth families will automatically follow if one is offered a place through normal arrangements.

## **Waiting lists**

The waiting list for Oasis Academy Watermead is held and maintained by Sheffield City Council. For more information on the waiting list, please visit <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/apply-school-place>

## **Appeals**

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Appellants should contact Sheffield City Council for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/apply-school-place>

## **Applicants living outside the Local Authority**

Parents living outside the Local Authority, where the academy is located, should use the Common Application Form provided by their home Local Authority.

## **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested, and the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place. When such a request is made, the academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the



best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the Principal and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. In the first instance, please contact [info@oasiswatermead.org](mailto:info@oasiswatermead.org).

## Notes/Definitions

### **Looked After Children:**

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).

### **Looked after children and previously looked after children**

- i. Looked after children are those who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority under section 22 of the Children Act 1989. 1989 Children's Act
- ii. In relation to school admissions legislation a 'looked after child' is a child in public care at the time of application to a school. Applicants can provide evidence demonstrating their child was previously in care to an institution acting as a Local Authority, or an organisation that supports the best interests of the community/child. In the case of previously looked after children, admission authorities may request a copy of the adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order and a letter from the local authority that last looked after the child, confirming that they were looked after immediately prior to that order being made, or such evidence that demonstrates a child was in state care outside of England prior to being adopted.

### **Home address:**

The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

### **Sibling:**

A sibling is defined as a brother or sister attending the applied for school when the applicant will take up the place and living at the same address. This includes adopted siblings, stepsiblings and foster children; Siblings who are in a nursery class of the primary school will not give the applicant a sibling priority.