

## Lift Firth Park Admission Arrangements for 2026-27



Lift Schools is the admission authority for the school.

Lift Firth Park has a published admission number (PAN) of 240 for entry into Year 7. The school will accordingly admit 240 pupils to Year 7 if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 240 or fewer apply.

If there are more than 240 applications, and the school is oversubscribed, then after applicants with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which names the school have been admitted, priority for any remaining places will be given to those children who meet the oversubscription criteria set out in the priority order below.

### **Oversubscription criteria**

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children.
2. Children resident in the catchment area with a sibling (brother or sister) who will still be on roll at the school at the time of admission.
3. Children resident in the catchment area.
4. Children with a sibling (brother or sister) who will still be on roll at the school at the time of admission.
5. Children attending one of the following feeder schools:  
Hatfield Primary Academy, Beck Primary School and Hartley Brook Primary School and Hucklow Primary School.
6. Distance - children resident closest to the school.

See definitions below

**Tie breaker:** Where two or more applicants have equal priority for the last available place (except for twins and children from multiple births) the final tie-breaker will be random allocation, which will be independently verified. N.B. Should the PAN be reached in any criterion before the final oversubscription criterion, then distance will be used to prioritise applicants, with those resident closest to the school receiving the higher priority.

### **Twins and Multiple Births**

Where the parent has made the same preferences of school and, through the normal operation of the admission arrangements, the last available place has been allocated to one twin or child from a multiple birth, the other twin or children from the multiple birth will be offered a place at the school. In such circumstances the PAN would be exceeded.

### **Waiting list**

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If the school receives more applications than there are places available, a waiting list will be maintained by the school until the last school day of the summer term. Places from the waiting list will be offered in the order set out in the oversubscription criteria and not in the order that the applications were received. After each added child, the list will be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria ( *see school website for further details*).

The school works in accordance with the **Fair Access Protocol** held by the local authority (Sheffield City Council); should a vulnerable child within the protocol require a place at the school, they will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

### **Late applications**

Applications received after the published closing date are late applications and will be dealt with in accordance with the co-ordinated admission scheme operated by the child's local authority. The local authority processes late applications after those applicants who applied on time unless there are exceptional reasons for the application not being received on time. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time (see [Apply for a school place \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools/apply))

### **In-Year Admissions**

In-year admissions are applications made outside the normal round of admissions. The local authority coordinates in-year admissions for all schools in Sheffield. The In-year application form and further information about the process is available on the local authority's website [Apply for a school place \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools/apply) .

### **Admission outside the normal age group**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal (chronological) age group, for example, if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group. The school will admit children outside their normal age group only in exceptional circumstances. If parents wish their child to be admitted outside their normal age group they must still make their application alongside children applying at the normal age and must make their request for admission outside the normal age group clear on their application form to the local authority for a school place. At the same time, parents should also write to the principal at the address below to *request* admission out of the normal age group. Parents should explain why it is in the child's best interest to be admitted outside of their normal age which may include information such as professional evidence as to why this is the case and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. The decision made by Lift Schools will be based on the individual circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In making the decision, Lift Schools will consider the views of the principal.

The school can be contacted at the following address:

## Lift Firth Park Admission Arrangements for 2026-27



The Principal  
Lift Firth Park  
Fircroft Avenue  
Sheffield  
S5 0SD  
Tel: 0114 2576238  
Fax: 01142 576239

### Appeals

Parents have a right to appeal the decision of the admission authority, Lift Schools, to refuse their child a place at the school. Lift Schools delegates the administration of appeals to the school. Parents who wish to appeal the decision of the admission authority to refuse their child a place at the school may apply in writing to the school at the address above. Parents have at least 20 school days from the date of their refusal letter to submit their written appeal and should explain clearly the reason(s) for their appeal. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel and will normally be held within 30 - 40 school days of the closing date for receiving the notice of appeal.

### Some Definitions

#### Looked after children

The highest priority in the oversubscription criteria must be given to looked after children and previously 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) at the time of making an application to a school.

A **previously looked after child** is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because they were **adopted** or became subject to a **child arrangement order** (formerly known as a residence order) or a **special guardianship order** immediately following having been looked after, including those who appear to the school to have been in state care outside of England (i.e. in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society) and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. The admission authority may request a copy of the adoption order, child arrangement order or special guardianship order and a letter from the local authority/care provider that last looked after the child confirming that he or she was looked after immediately prior to that order being made.

An **adoption order** is an order under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

A **child arrangement order** settles the arrangements as to the person with whom the child is to live under 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 arrangement order.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a **special guardianship order** as an order which appoints one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s).

#### Resident

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The normal family home is taken as the address where the child is resident and at which the person or persons with parental responsibility for the child resides. Where parents live at separate addresses and have joint custody, the address used will be the one where the child spends the main part of the school week (e.g. Sunday night to Thursday night inclusive). Where responsibility for a child is shared evenly, the school will follow the process used by the local authority (see [Apply for a school place \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk)). Childcare arrangements involving relatives' addresses do not qualify as normal family addresses for this purpose unless there is a Child Arrangement Order in place.

For children of UK service personnel and crown servants, the school will not refuse to process an application or refuse a place solely because the family do not yet have an intended address, or do not yet live in the area. The school will use the address at which the child will live when applying oversubscription criteria, as long as some evidence of their intended address is provided. The school will use a Unit or quartering address as the home address where requested.

### **Catchment area**

The catchment area finder on the local authority's website uses the postcode of the applicant's home:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/school-catchment-checker>

### **Sibling (brother or sister)**

Sibling is a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, foster brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner living in the same family unit in the same family household and address who attends the school. Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings.

### **Distance**

The distance measure between the applicant's home and the school is provided by the local authority. The local authority's measuring system uses the straight line distance from the centre of the home to the centre of the school building.

### **Fraudulent Applications / Withdrawing Offers**

The school reserves the right to check any address and other information provided so it can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly. As an admission authority, the school has the right to investigate any concerns it may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if it considers there is evidence that a fraudulent claim has been made or misleading information provided, for example if a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. If a place is withdrawn, the application will be considered afresh and you will be advised of your right of appeal if a place is refused.

**These arrangements were determined on 10 February 2025.**