



Piper's Vale Primary
A Paradigm Academy

Piper's Vale Primary Academy admission arrangements for the 2026/2027 school year

Introductory statement

Piper's Vale Primary Academy admits girls and boys of all backgrounds, aptitudes, abilities/disabilities and beliefs. The academy does not have any religious affiliation.

Paradigm Trust is the admissions authority for Piper's Vale Primary Academy. This means that it will set and apply the admissions criteria for the school.

Published Admission Number

The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 for entry into the Reception Year.

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number 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 application for places at the academy will be made in accordance with the Local Authority's (LA) co-ordinated admission arrangements. Applications for this school can be made online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions or by filling in a paper application form (CAF1) available from the Local Authority Admissions Team on 0345 600 0981 (local rate) or from www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions. Paper applications should be sent to the Admissions Team, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.

The closing date for applications is 15 January. Offers will be made on 16 April or the next working day.

The academy will consider all applications for places that meet the criteria set by the LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements. Where fewer applications for places than

the PAN for the relevant age group are received, the academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

Oversubscription criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils 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:

1. Looked after children (children in care) and previously looked after children (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, immediately following having been looked after, including those 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. Sibling: where the child has a sibling in the school or a sibling has already been offered a place at the school, and where the sibling will still be attending the school at the time of admission but not in a specialist unit or a nursery. Priority will be given, where necessary, to applications where there is the smallest age gap in calendar days between the child's date of birth and the date of birth of any sibling already attending the school, or who has been offered a place at the time of application.
3. Children who are **ordinarily resident** in the catchment area and who live nearest to the school. We will measure the distance by a straight line ('as the crow flies'). All straight line distances are calculated electronically by Suffolk County Council using data provided jointly by the Post Office and Ordnance Survey. The data plots the co-ordinates of each property and provides the address-point between which the straight line distance is measured and reported to three decimal places. Where there is more than one home within a single building (for example apartments) we will measure to a single point within that building irrespective of where those homes are located.
4. Children who live outside the school's catchment area in the same priority order as set out in criterion 3 above.

Tie-break

It is possible that the PAN of the school will be reached in any one of the categories set out above. For this reason, all applications will be prioritised according to the criteria described. Decisions will be made about the offer of places in accordance with those priorities. If it is necessary to use a tie-breaker to distinguish between two or more applications, a distance criterion will be used. We will give priority to the applicants who live nearest to the school as measured by a straight line.

In the unlikely event that two applicants competing for a single place at a school live the same distance from the school, the place will be offered to one applicant on the basis of lots drawn by someone independent of the school.

If the final place available is offered to a twin, triplet or other multiple birth and the remaining sibling(s) would ordinarily be refused, we will offer places to the remaining sibling(s). Where a sibling of a twin, triplet or other multiple birth has a school named on their EHC plan, we will from the date of issue of the EHC plan treat their twin, triplets or other multiple births under the sibling oversubscription criterion for the named school. This does not apply to siblings of children in a specialist unit or a specialist resource base for Hearing Impaired provision or a nursery, because they do not meet the sibling definition in the oversubscription criteria.

Sibling tie-breaker

Priority will be given, where necessary, to applications where there is the smallest age gap in calendar days between the child's date of birth and the date of birth of any sibling already attending the school, or who has been offered a place at the time of application. In the unlikely event that two applicants competing for a single place at a school have the same number of days difference in age from their closest aged sibling, the place will be offered to one applicant on the basis of lots drawn by an officer of Suffolk County Council not involved with admissions.

Late applications

All applications received by the Local Authority after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If you were unable to apply by the closing date, and the Local Authority agrees that there are very exceptional reasons for an application being late, it will be considered as on time if it is received by the exceptional late date in the

Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme and evidence is provided with your application. This only applies in circumstances outside your control which made it impossible for the application to have been made on time. Further information is available from the Local Authority on 0345 600 0981 or at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.

Deferred entry for infants

Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

It is expected that children will normally be educated within their normal age group (chronological year group). However, we will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned in line with the School Admissions Code.

You can make a request to the school in writing. This will need to include, where relevant, any supporting information about why the child should be admitted out of their normal age group.

When considering the request this will include, but is not limited to, taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social, and emotional development; whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. Any evidence in respect of these or any other reasons can be submitted. Where relevant, consideration can be given to the child's medical history and any evidence from a medical professional involved with the child's care or treatment such as:

- a speech and language therapist
- an occupational therapist
- a social worker
- a paediatrician

- the child's nursery, childminder or current school.

The decision will also take into account the views of the headteacher of the school(s) concerned.

Parents and carers are not expected to get evidence that they do not already have.

We will write to you with the outcome including the reasons for the decision. If the request is refused, you will be given the details of how to complain to the school.

A CAF1 application form must be sent to Suffolk County Council along with the decision letter from the school and other relevant evidence by the national closing date. Even if the request is agreed there is no guarantee there will be a place available.

Waiting lists

The school will operate a waiting list for the Reception Year where the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, the waiting list will operate until 31 December.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

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.

Information on how to make an appeal will be provided in the letter refusing your child a school place.

In-year applications

Piper's Vale Academy will manage in-year admissions. The application form ADM1, for in year admissions, is available from the school reception. You should complete the form and return it to the school directly together with the child's birth certificate or passport to confirm their identity. We will consider your application and let you know whether we can offer your child a place at the school. If there are more applications

than places available, we will use the admissions oversubscription criteria to see who can and cannot be offered a place. We will write to all successful and unsuccessful applicants within 10 working days of receipt of the application form. We will also let you know how to appeal against the refusal of a place. The school will also inform the local authority admissions team of all decisions made. We do not hold waiting lists for in-year applicants. If a place becomes available in a year group that has been full we will consider all current applications for that place, any applications that have been refused in the last 30 working days (excluding weekends and school holidays) and any applicants for whom an appeal has been lodged and is still to be heard. Applications will be priority ordered according to the over-subscription criteria and offered accordingly. Parents should stay in regular contact with the academy to determine whether school places are available or likely to become available in year.

If a place has been made available for your child, you must take up that place by the date given in the offer letter. The school will put your child on roll by this date. If you fail to take up that place, it may be withdrawn and may be reallocated.

In-year appeals

If you are unsuccessful in gaining an in year admittance you have the right to appeal to an independent panel. This process is managed by the Education Appeals Office. Information relating to this process will be sent to you by the school, with the 'refusal of place' letter. Please ensure that appeals papers, when completed, are headed with the school name and address and are returned to the Clerk of the Education Appeals Office. Dates, venues and panels will be arranged by this office to ensure fair access.

Notes:

Sibling

The term 'sibling' includes: natural, half, step, and adopted brothers and sisters; a child of the partner of the parent/carer; and children who are fostered into the family. In all these cases, the child and their sibling will both be living at the same address (that is where the child is ordinarily resident) in a single family unit. This means that children from different family units, where those separate families are living together at the same address, are not considered siblings under this criterion.

Ordinarily resident

By ordinarily resident we mean the place where your child usually lives. We consider this to be where they sleep overnight. We may need proof of this address. If you use another address to give the impression that your child lives at a different address to where they are ordinarily resident, such as a second home or a grandparent's address, so that you have a higher priority for a place at that school; we consider this to be a fraudulent application. Where a child lives at two or more addresses, each for part of the week, the address at which the child is ordinarily resident will be considered to be the address that the child lives at for most of the week (excluding weekends and school holidays). Separate evidence in writing from each parent must be provided to confirm the child's living arrangements at the time of application.

In cases where the child spends an equal proportion of the school week at two or more different addresses, evidence of which is to be considered the main contact address will be required to support the application. Agreement in writing by the parents will be required to state which address is to be used as the ordinarily resident address. This address will then be used when processing all school preferences expressed. It is not acceptable to use one address for one school preference and another address for another school preference.

If we are aware of a parental dispute affecting the application, we may not be able to deal with the application and you may need to seek independent legal advice in order to resolve the matter.

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).

Previously looked after children

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

Children adopted from state care outside of England

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 and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Catchment Area

This is the area each school serves. We cannot guarantee your child a place at their catchment area school. Catchment area list and maps are available online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions. If you would like a copy of the map or list sent to you, or you are unsure of your catchment area please call the Admissions Team on 0345 600 0981.