



JOHN RAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

(part of CHANGE Schools Partnership)

Admission Arrangements

2020/2021

John Ray Junior School

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DfE Number: 881/2150

Published Admission Number: 2020/2021: 120

Admissions Policy

The Schools Planning and Admissions Department at Essex County Council co-ordinates all intake of children wishing to join John Ray Junior School. The application process is in accordance with the co-ordinated scheme for primary admissions and involves completion of the Common Application Form.

Applications can be made by post or online using the Essex Online Admissions Service at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

If you would like to come and have a look around John Ray Junior School and meet the Headteacher/Head of School, before you make your application to Essex County Council, then please contact 01376 324107 to arrange an appointment.

For mid-year applications to John Ray Junior School please contact us so that we can advise you if there is a vacancy in that year group and if you request a place we can add your child to the waiting list which we hold. Please note that applications still need to be sent to the Local Authority, Planning and Admissions in the normal way. Please see the **Primary Education in Essex booklet**, available to view on the website: www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Admissions for 2020/2021

All applications must be received by 15th January 2020.

There is no guarantee for a place for children living in the priority admission area*.

Looked After Children and previously looked after children (as defined in the Primary Education in Essex booklet) will be allocated a place providing an application is received by the closing date.

In the event of oversubscription any remaining places will be allocated using the following criteria in the order given*:

1. Children with a sibling attending the school;
2. Children living in the priority admission area*;

3. Remaining Applications;

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criteria, priority will be determined by straight line distance from home to school, those living closest being given the highest priority.

When considering twins, triplets or other multiple births, priority will be given to the other twin, triplet or multiple birth children whose twin, triplet or multiple birth was offered a place within the admission number.

*For applications received after the start of Year 3 Looked After Children and previously looked after children will be given priority ahead of all other applicants.

Admission Outside of the 'Normal Age Group'

Parents may seek a place at a school outside of a child's normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Any such request must be made in writing with an application setting out clearly the reasons, with any supporting evidence from relevant professionals such as teachers or doctors. Each such case will be considered by the Trust on an individual basis. The views of the Headteacher of the school(s) at which the place is requested will be sought. There is no guarantee that a request for a place outside of a child's normal age group will be agreed.

Home Address

Applications will normally be processed on the basis of the home address for the child at the time of applications, with an expectation that the child will still reside there at the time of admission. Where there is a new home address, proof of an exchange of contracts or copy of a tenancy agreement should be provided. The home address is considered to be the address at which the child resides on a permanent basis or is 'ordinarily resident'. This is generally the address of the parent. The child must be living with the parent or carer 24 hours per day, for the majority of the school week. Arrangements where parents can leave and collect children from a relative or a carer on a daily basis will be regarded as childcare arrangements, and the child will not be deemed to be 'ordinarily resident' with that person. In all cases we expect that the adult with whom the child is 'ordinarily resident' receives the child benefit for the child.

Address Checking

The school will ask applicants to provide proof of their home address. This will include a copy of the following:

- UK driving licence
- Council tax notification
- Two utility bills dated within the last 6 months (gas, electricity, water or landline phone).

The school reserves the right to take additional checking measures including further documentation and in some cases unannounced home visits.

If a school place is secured through false information regarding a home address, the school may withdraw the place offered.

Distance

The school uses straight line distance to prioritise its applications. This is measured from the address point of the home address to address point of the school. Distances are reported in miles to three decimal places. If a child's time is split equally between two residences, the address of the residence at which the child resides for the majority of the school week will be used by the Local Authority to measure the distance between the child's school and home. In the unlikely event of two applicants with an identical distance competing for a single place at the school, the place will be offered to one applicant on the basis of lots drawn by an officer of the Admission Authority for John Ray Junior that is not involved in admissions, with the exception of twins, triplets, etc.

Siblings

For applications made in the normal admission round, or mid-year, a relevant sibling is a child who has a brother, sister, adopted brother or sister, or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the same family home and address, who attends the school with an expectation that the sibling will be attending at the time of admission. Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings.

Looked After Children

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after become subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order will be given first priority in oversubscription criteria ahead of other applicants in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2012.

**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 of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.*

Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs

Children with statements of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school on the statement, are required to be admitted to a school regardless of their place in the priority order.

**A Statement of Special Need is a statement made by the local authority under Section 324 of the Education Act 1996, specifying the special educational provision required for that child. An Education, Health and Care plan (EHC) is a plan made by the local authority under Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special education provision required for that child.*

Waiting Lists

All unsuccessful applicants will be held on a waiting list, ranked in priority order, according to the admissions criteria for the school. This applies to both on time and late applications.

The school will hold these waiting lists until the end of each academic year, following the term in which the application was refused. Parents will need to reapply at the start of the new academic year.

It is to be noted that waiting list positions can change, for example, as a result of an offer of a place being made or as new applications for the school are received. It is possible, therefore, that a child's position on a waiting list could move down as well as up.

Appeals against Admissions Decisions

Parents have the right to appeal against admissions decisions to an Independent Appeal Panel. Information on appeals are available on the website: www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.