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Primary Academy

Admissions Policy October 2021

Office use

Published: October 2021	Next review: October 2022	Statutory/non: Statutory	Lead: Sarah Kahler, Principal
Associated documents: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions/appeal-a-decision www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions/changingschool www.gov.uk/schools-admissions/admissions-criteria			
Links to: The Equality Act 2010 DfE – School Admissions Code https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001050/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf s85(2) The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Adoption Act 1976			
		Adoption and Children’s Act 2002. s.8 of the Children Act 1989 s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014 14A of the Children Act 1989 - ‘special guardianship order’	



Diverse
Academies

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Executive Summary

1.1 The School Admissions Code ('the Code') has been issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 ('SSFA 1998'). The Code has been made following a consultation under Section 85(2) of the SSFA 1998 and after being laid before Parliament for forty days.

1.2 This Code came into force on 19 December 2014 and unless otherwise stated, applies with immediate effect. It applies to admission arrangements determined in 2.15 for admission in school year 2016/17 and any future years.

1.3 Application of the Code to Academies. Academies, by which we mean Academy Schools, (including those that are Free Schools), University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools, are state-funded, non-fee-paying independent schools set up under a Funding Agreement between the Secretary of State and the proprietor of an Academy (most commonly, and hereafter, referred to as an Academy Trusts).

1.4 Each Academy within Diverse Academies is required by its funding arrangement to comply with 'the code' and the law relating to admissions, although the Secretary of State has the power to vary this requirement where there is demonstrable need.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Admissions to a Diverse Academy are controlled by the

National Co-ordinated Scheme and Diverse Academies participates in Nottinghamshire County Council's Fair Access Protocol.

Full details of the relevant Local Authorities' policy on admissions and the application process are available by visiting the following website:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions/

The Published Admission Number (PAN) will normally be admitted in the academic year beginning in September. This is the admission limit (AAL) set by the Authority after consultation with the Diverse Academies board.

3. Scope and Purpose

The School Admissions Code. The purpose of the Code is to ensure that all school places for maintained schools (excluding maintained special schools) and Academies are allocated and

offered in an open and fair way. The Code has the force of law, and where the words 'must' or 'must not' are used, these represent a mandatory requirement.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Diverse Academies Trust has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory framework. The Trust has delegated day-to-day responsibility for operating the policy and ensuring its maintenance and review to (locally) responsible persons in each academy.

5. Published admission numbers

All Diverse Academies are required to have a published admission number. This is the number of pupils each school can admit. This is found on each academy website in their own admissions annex, for this school the PAN is 40.

6. Primary Admission Arrangements

6.1 Applications to the Reception Year will be determined by the published admission number (PAN). This is the number of children who can be admitted into the Reception Year and preferences are agreed until the PAN for first admission has been reached.

6.2 In the event of over-subscription, the following criteria will be applied, in priority order, to determine which applications will be granted once places have first been allocated to pupils who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan which names the academy:

~~a) Children looked after by a local authority and previously looked after children.~~

Looked after children and previously looked after children, including those children 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.

b) Children who live in the catchment area and who, at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister attending the academy.

c) Other children who live in the catchment area.

d) Children who live outside the catchment area and who, at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister attending the academy.

e) Other children who live outside the catchment area.

6.3 The admission round opens in November 2021. The closing date for applications for First admission places in the 2022 cohort is in January 2022.

6.4 Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until a later date in the academic year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age.

Parents can request that their child takes up a place part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

7. Applications

All applications must be made on the Local Authority Admission Application form, which is available on the relevant Local Authority website.

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place

The way waiting lists are maintained and used can be found in Nottinghamshire County Council's 'Admissions to Schools' booklet.

7.1 Late Applications

Late applications received after the closing date will be considered in accordance with the Nottinghamshire County Council co-ordinated scheme.

8. Appeals

In all cases, if a student is refused a place, parents/carers have a statutory right of appeal. Appellants have at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and lodge their written appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel. The decision of the panel will be binding on parents and on the academy. For more details on appeals please see the following link:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions/appeal-a-decision/

9. Special Circumstances

9.1 The following groups of students will be given special consideration in their application for a particular place.

Looked after and previously looked after children

The School Admissions Code 2021 states that all admission authorities must give highest priority to this group of children and provides the following definition:

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.

Previously looked after children are 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). Further references to previously looked after children means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children 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.

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.

Children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

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

Children whose particular medical needs, mobility support needs or social circumstances are supported by written evidence from a doctor, social worker or other relevant professional stating that the academy is the only school which could cater for the child's particular needs. The evidence must be presented at the time of application.

9.2 The Local Academy Board will consider each case on its merits and determine the allocation of any such place on the basis of the written evidence. Admission under 'special circumstances' will take precedence over all but the first numbered criteria; **with the only exception being if the Academy decides to invoke clause 3.12 on the Admissions Code:**

'Where a governing body does not wish to admit a child with challenging behaviour outside the normal admissions round, even though places are available, it must refer the case to the local authority for action under the Fair Access Protocol 66. This will normally only be appropriate where a school has a particularly high proportion of children with challenging behaviour or previously excluded children. The use of this provision will depend on local circumstances and must be described in the local authority's Fair Access Protocol. This provision will not apply to a looked after child, a previously looked after child or a child with a statement of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school in question, as these children must be admitted'.

10. Oversubscription

10.1 Oversubscription Criteria

If the number of preferences received for Diverse Academies does not exceed the admission limit, all preferences will be met,

10.2 However, if there are more applications for admission to an academy than there are places available, preference will be given to children in the following order :

- a. When the Academy is oversubscribed, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order
 - i. Looked after children and previously looked after children. As defined in Section 9.1
 - ii. Children who live in the catchment area* and who, at the time of admission, will have a sibling attending the academy.

- iii. Other children who live in the catchment area.
- iv. Children who live outside the catchment area and who, at the time of admission, will have a sibling attending the academy.
- v. Other children who live outside the catchment area.

*A map of each Diverse Academies academy catchment area is available on request through the academy's website. Or alternatively please use the link below to determine the catchment area of an address.

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/school-search/catchment-areas

- 10 In the event of over-subscription within any criterion, preference will be given to children who live nearest to the academy as the crow flies. Distances are measured from the main administrative point at the school campus to an address point (using eastings and northings as defined by Ordnance Survey) to the child's home using the local authority's computerised distance measuring software. In the event of two applications that cannot be separated by distance, both applications will go to the local board of governors for consideration and decision made by drawing lots which will be independently verified. Where one child of a multiple birth can be admitted, the other child/children will also be admitted.

Three documents to confirm proof of address may be required in the form of:

1. Solicitor's letter confirming completion of a house move OR a signed tenancy agreement OR rent book
2. Utility bill, driving licence or evidence of council tax payment schedule.
3. Child benefit book, child tax credit record or doctor's record

11. In Year Admissions

Diverse Academies participate in Nottinghamshire County Council's in-year scheme. Infant class size restrictions will also need to be considered. For full details, please refer to the respective Local Authority's website:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions/changingschool

If places are available within the year group, applications will be considered in accordance with the admission criteria and oversubscription criteria. However, special consideration may be given to students who are unable to access their current education provider regardless of whether they have moved to the catchment area or not. If places are available, the student will be admitted to the academy. If a place is not available, the student's application will be refused and their name will be added to a waiting list.

Parents will be offered a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel in accordance with paragraph 2.24 of the School Admission Code. For further information on appeals please refer to the following link:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions/appeal-a-decision

12. Waiting lists

12.1 If applications exceed the number of places available in Key Stage 1, Diverse Academies Primary Academies will apply the oversubscription criteria to determine which children are offered a place.

For all applications that are refused the academy will operate a waiting list for the 'Reception Year' in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Places on the waiting list may go up or down depending on whether places become available. The Local Academy Board, in partnership with the Local Authority will administer the waiting list for the duration of the co-ordinated scheme. The waiting list will close at the end of the autumn term.

12.2 Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

12.3 Priority will not be given to children based on the date the application was received or the date their name was added to the list. Looked after Children, previously looked after children and those allocated a place in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

Diverse Academies do not operate a waiting list for any other year group.

13. Withdrawal of Offered Places

13.1 An offer of a place at the respective academy may be withdrawn if the parent has not responded by the deadline for acceptance as outlined in the original offer. A reminder letter will be sent to anyone who has not responded by this date. If the academy has still not received confirmation that the place is required by the extended deadline outlined in the reminder letter, it will be assumed that a place is not required and the offer will be withdrawn.

13.2 The offer of a place will also be withdrawn if it has been obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

13.3 In both of the circumstances outlined above, the applicant has no right of appeal against the withdrawal of an offer and must re-apply in September.

14. Admission of students outside the normal age group

14.1 Parents may seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group, for example, if the child has experienced problems such as ill health. Children should only be educated out of the normal age group in very limited circumstances.

14.2 Nottinghamshire residents should submit a request in writing to the respective academy via the relevant Local Authority's school admissions team as early as possible. Decisions will be based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional and whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group. When informing a parent of the decision on the year group to which the child should be admitted, the parent will be notified of the reasons for the decision.

14.3 Where it is agreed that a child will be admitted out of the normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (i.e. the age group to which students are normally admitted to the academy) the local authority and admission authority must process the application as part of the main admissions round on the basis of their determined admission arrangements only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. The parent has a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place in the academy but it is not their preferred age group.

In addition, the parents of a summer-born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than Y1. If you are a Nottinghamshire resident, you should submit a request in writing to Nottinghamshire County Council's school admissions team stating whether you wish your child to be admitted into the reception year or year 1 the following academic year.

15. Transfer to junior and secondary education

Where a child has been educated out of the normal age group it is the parent's responsibility to again request admission out of the normal age group when they transfer to junior secondary school. It will be for the admission authority of the preferred school to decide whether to admit the child out of the normal age group. The admission authority must make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the child's best interests, and will need to bear in mind the age group the child has been educated in up to that point.

16. Siblings

For school admissions Diverse Academies will consider the following as a sibling:

- a. A brother or sister who share the same parents
- b. A half-brother or half-sister or legally adopted child living at the same address as the child
- c. A child looked after by a local authority placed in a foster family with other school age children
- d. Stepchildren or children who are not related but live as a family unit, where both parents live at the same address as the child.

'At the time of admission' for the above purpose means on roll at the academy at the time of admission.

17. Multiple Births

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to an academy under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the academy's PAN.

18. Review of the policy

This policy is reviewed annually by Diverse Academy Trust who will monitor respective applications and outcomes of this policy to ensure it is working effectively. If any changes are to be made, these will be consulted upon with the senior leaders within Diverse Academies Trust changes will be determined and if required, updated and published in accordance with statutory guidance.