

STAR MAT ADMISSIONS POLICY 2021/2022

Introduction

The STAR MAT Trustees have agreed that this policy should adhere to the principles of the NYCC Admissions policy for Maintained and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

This policy applies to applications for the following schools, for whom the STAR Multi-Academy Trust is the admissions authority:

Appleton Roebuck Primary School
Brayton CE Primary School
Kellington Primary School
Kirk Fenton CE Primary School
Monk Fryston CE Primary School
Riverside Primary School
Saxton CE Primary School
Sherburn High School
Sherburn Hungate Primary School
South Milford Primary School
Tadcaster Grammar School

The Trustees have agreed that admissions to the above schools will be co-ordinated by NYCC, as per previous arrangements.

Statutory Requirement

The Trustees are required by section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit to a school a child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) that names that specific school as their preferred choice. This is not an oversubscription criterion. This relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) has been issued.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the number of applications for a school exceeds the Published Admission Number (PAN), after the admission of children where a school is named in the Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) the following oversubscription criteria will apply:

ORDER OF ADMISSIONS PRIORITY

Priority Group 1:

Looked after children and all previously looked after children for whom the school has been expressed as a preference. 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 arrangement order or special guardianship order.

This applies to all looked-after children, including those who are in the care of another local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function at the time of making an application. In the case of previously looked after children, a copy of the relevant documentation will be required in support of the application.

This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and Children who were adopted under the Adopted & Children's Act 2002. Child Arrangement Orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a Child Arrangement Order.

Priority Group 2:

Children the Trust considers have special social or medical reasons for admission.

The Trust will only consider applications on social or medical grounds if they are supported by a professional recommendation from a doctor, social worker, or other appropriate professional. The supporting evidence should set out the particular social or medical reason(s) why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. Panels of professionally qualified people will be consulted in consideration of all applications made under priority group 2.

Priority Group 3:

Children living within the normal area of a school.

Priority Group 4:

Children living outside the normal area of the school.

Children in higher numbered priority groups will be offered places ahead of those in lower numbered priority groups. All applications within each priority group will be considered equally (i.e. all applications, regardless of order of preference).

Tie break:

If there are not enough places for all the children in one of these priority groups, the Trust will give priority first to those with a sibling at the school in September 2020 (in all cases sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent / carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling) and then to those living nearest the school. If within a priority group there are not enough places for all those with a sibling at the school in September 2020, the Trust will give priority to those children with a sibling living nearest the school.

Note:

All distance measurements are based on the nearest route recognised by the County Council's electronic mapping system from a child's home address to school. The measurement is made from a fixed point within the dwelling, as identified by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school entrance using footpaths and roads. The routes measured to determine the allocation of school places will be those recognised by the electronic mapping system used by the school admissions team. If the distance tie-break is not sufficient to distinguish between applicants in a particular priority group a random allocation will be used.

Random Allocation Procedure

Random allocations are necessary where:

1. There is more than one applicant ranked equally according to the published admission rules and there are insufficient places available to allocate all of the equally ranked applicants;
2. This occurs where applicants are equidistant from a school because the usual method of measuring distance to the school results in two unrelated applicants having the same distance measurement. Each random allocation event only holds for the allocation of the currently available school place. On any waiting list the remaining applicants remain equally ranked and any further place is offered as the result of a further random exercise. In making a random allocation it is important that there is scrutiny from a person who is not involved in the allocation process.

Definition of Roles and Process to be Followed (in relation to the random allocation procedure)

Independent Scrutineer (IS) – this is a person who ensures the process is carried out in a correct and transparent way. The IS must be independent of the Trust for which the allocation is to be made and also must be independent of the Council’s Admissions and Transport team.

Admissions Officer (AO) – this is an officer from the Council’s Admissions and Transport team who is responsible for carrying out the administration of the random allocation procedure and recording the results, under the scrutiny of the IS.

Person who makes the draw (P) – this must be a person independent of the Trust for which the allocation is to be made and must be a person who is not part of the Council’s Admissions and Transport team.

Note: The following process is to be carried out in sight of, and under the scrutiny of, the IS.

1. The AO allocates each pupil to be included in the draw a number and records it on the ‘Random Allocation Cross Reference Sheet’. This is placed in a sealed envelope.
2. The AO prepares as many equal sized pieces of white paper as are necessary, which are numbered consecutively.
3. The AO folds each numbered sheet and seals them in identical envelopes, i.e. envelopes with no visibly identifiable differences.
4. The AO shuffles the envelopes and hands them to P who shuffles the envelopes again, picks one envelope and opens it.
5. The AO records the first number drawn on the ‘Random Allocation Record sheet’.
6. If more than one place can be offered they continue to draw envelopes and record numbers until all of the available places are allocated.
7. The AO then opens the previously sealed envelope containing the ‘Random Allocation cross reference sheet’ and records the numbers drawn on the ‘Random Allocation cross reference sheet’, marking clearly which child(ren) has(have) been allocated a place and which have not.
8. Once the process has been completed, the AO, IS and P should sign and date both the ‘Random Allocation Record sheet’ and the ‘Random Allocation cross reference sheet’ in order to certify that the procedure has been carried out correctly.

We may be able to meet your preference for a place at a school that does not serve the local area you live in. In this case, you will normally be responsible for travel arrangements and the costs of your child's travel to and from school.

Deferred Application for Infants

Admissions authorities **must** provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. 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.

Summer Born Children

Children born in the summer term are not required to start school until a full year after the point at which they could first have been admitted – the point at which other children in their age range are beginning year 1. As noted above, school admissions authorities are required to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, but flexibilities exist for children whose parents do not feel they are ready to begin school at this point. If you feel that your summer born child is not ready to start school in the September following his/her fourth birthday, you should still submit your application for your child's normal age group at the usual time and at the same time submit a request for admission out of the normal age group directly to the local authority. You will be advised of the outcome of your request for delayed entry prior to the primary national offer date. The DfE has issued non-statutory guidance, "Advice on the Admission of summer born children", which can be accessed via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>

The DfE guidance states that:

- 'It is reasonable for admission authorities to expect parents to provide them with information in support of their request – since without it they are unlikely to be able to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case. This should demonstrate why it would be in the child's interests to be admitted to reception rather than year one.'
- In some cases parents may have professional evidence that it would be appropriate for them to submit, for example, when a child receives support from a speech and language therapist. However, there should be no expectation that parents will obtain professional evidence that they do not already have. Admissions authorities must still consider requests not accompanied by professional evidence. In such cases the supporting information might simply be the parent's statement as to why they have made their request.'
- If your request is agreed, your application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before a place is offered. If your request is refused, you must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an in year application for admission to year one for the September following your child's fifth birthday.
- Where your request is agreed, you must make a new application as part of the main admissions round the following year.

Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

The School Admission Code states that 'Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. 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 year 1.’ When such a request is made, the local authority 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 headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. This will include taking account of the parent’s views; information about the child’s academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have 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. The local authority will notify parents in writing of the outcome of their request setting out the reasons for their decision. Parents have 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 at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

PAN Information

Details of the Published Admission Number (PAN) for each of the STAR MAT’s schools can be made available on request from the school’s headteacher.

Other Admissions Related Guidance and Procedures

On all remaining matters to do with school admissions, The Trustees of STAR MAT will follow the principles and procedures outlined in NYCC’s Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements document, which can be found on the STAR MAT website. This document outlines information – or where to view information – on the following matters:

- In-year admissions
- Appeals
- Late applications
- False Information
- Waiting Lists
- Timescales and timetables relating to the admissions process
- Pupil allocations
- Place offers
- Transfer schemes

Appendix A

ADMISSIONS TO STAR MAT NURSERY SCHOOLS, NURSERY CLASSES, PRE-RECEPTION CLASSES AND SCHOOL/TRUST RUN PRE SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO TRUST GOVERNANCE

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2020/21

The Trustees are required to admit to a setting a child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) where the specific setting has been named. This is not an oversubscription criterion. This relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom a final EHCP has been issued.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places the Trust (via NYCC who manage pre-school admissions in line with all other admissions that fall within the policy) will apply the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications.

First priority:

Looked after children and all previously looked after children for whom the school has been expressed as a preference. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (1) or became subject to a child arrangement order (2) or special guardianship order.

This applies to all looked-after children, including those who are in the care of another local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function at the time of making an application. In the case of previously looked after children, a copy of the relevant documentation will be required in support of the application.

1This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and Children who were adopted under the Adopted & Children's' Act 2002.

2Child Arrangement Orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a Child Arrangement Order.

Second priority:

Children who are recommended by the Chief Education Officer. This includes those children in the care of a local authority or where a recommendation is received by the child's appropriate designated medical officer or other assigned professional.

Note: we will only consider applications in this category if they are supported by a recommendation from a doctor, social worker or other appropriate professional which sets out the particular reason(s) why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.

Third priority:

Children from homes with poor housing conditions or overcrowding, or from a background which could affect the child's normal educational development.



Note: this should be supported by the recommendation of a doctor, social worker or other appropriate professional.

Fourth priority:

Children within the normal area of the school, giving priority to the oldest children first.

Fifth priority:

Children from outside the school's normal area, giving priority to those whose home is nearest to school first.