

**Admission Arrangements for Ridgewood School:
The Academy @ Ridgewood Trust
2017/2018 School Year**

- 1 The Governing Body (GB) of The Academy @ Ridgewood Trust is the Admission Authority for the school, and only they are able to decide who is eligible for a place at the school. Neither the Headteacher nor their representatives are able determine eligibility for places.

General Statement

- 2 Traditionally, each school serves a local community, usually referred to as the 'catchment area'. These arrangements reflect the philosophy that 'efficient education' is particularly fostered by closely associating a secondary school and a group of linked primary schools, who will have a defined relationship with the school. In this way, the school becomes part of the provision for a community and the education of the community's children benefits greatly from the association of its schools.

Admission Number

- 3 A school must have an admission number for each 'relevant age group', defined in law as 'an age group in which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school in question'. The admission number for each year group is set with regard to the capacity assessment for the school taking into account the nature and type of the school buildings and provides for an acceptable amount of space for each pupil. Therefore, the admission number is set to benefit the children who are taught in the school and those who teach and support them. Each school year, the school sets an admission number which, for 2017/18 is 240.
- 4 Where places are offered in excess of the admission number these are offered by decision of the Governing Body against specific criteria. Those criteria listed in the over-subscription criteria, are dealt with in the criterion order given.
- 5 A child will normally be eligible to a place unless the number of applications for admission exceeds the admission number or they are offered a school which is ranked higher on an Application Formⁱ (AF) or Transfer Formⁱⁱ (TF) under a Coordinated Admission Schemeⁱⁱⁱ (CAS).

Expressing A Preference

- 6 Applications for admission should be made in accordance with the relevant CAS.

Closing Date For Receipt Of Parental Preferences

- 7 The closing dates for receipt of preferences for the year of entry are in accordance with the Local Authority's published CAS.
- 8 Late applications for the year of entry are processed in accordance with the relevant CAS.

Eligibility For A Place At School - Oversubscription Criteria

- 9 This section outlines the criteria to be used to decide upon eligibility for a place where the number of preferences exceeds the admission limit.

Preferences for each school will be sorted in the order of the criteria outlined below. Each is applied in order of priority as tie breakers, with criterion f) being the final tie breaker.

a) **Looked After Children or all Previously Looked After Children^{iv}**

b) **Catchment Area**

Children who are ordinarily resident^v in the catchment area of the preferred school. (Details of Catchment Areas are available from the LA.)

For applications for the year of entry, a catchment area school will be determined in relation to the address at which the pupil is ordinarily resident on the date set in the relevant co-ordinated admission scheme. Once a waiting list is formed, a child's place on that list will be updated in light of any new address.

c) **Siblings**

Children who are living within the same family unit (e.g. stepchildren) who will be attending the requested school, (excluding sixth form), at the point of admission. Where there are insufficient places in the appropriate year group to enable all siblings from a family unit to be admitted, including twins, triplets, etc, priority for available places will be given in order of birth, eldest first.

d) **Children who are pupils of Primary Schools in a defined relationship with Ridgewood School: The Academy @ Ridgewood Trust, supported by a Memorandum of Understanding^{vi}**

Children who are pupils of such schools, with a Memorandum of Understanding current as at 1 September 2012, having been on roll at that school on the closing date for late applications, and having attended that school continuously for more than one calendar year.

Primary Schools currently in this category

Barnburgh Primary, Copley Junior, Richmond Hill Primary, Rosedale Primary, Scawsby Saltersgate Junior

e) **Proximity**

Children who live nearest to the requested school measured in a straight line from the centre point of the child's ordinary place of residence^v, to the entrance nearest to the reception point of the school building.

If two or more pupils live equidistant from the school, the distance each pupil lives by road from the preferred school will be measured and the place offered to the pupil who lives nearest by this means. In the event of this being equal (e.g. in the case of flats), places will then be decided by Random Allocation.

Measurements will be made using ONE provided by Capita Education Services and/or ArcView GIS provided by Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc or suitable substitute.

The Offer Of A Place At A School

10 Decisions will be sent to parents in accordance with the Authority's CAS.

Waiting Lists

11 For the year of entry, pupils will be added to the waiting list where they are refused a place and the school was ranked higher on the AF than the place offered. Places on the waiting list will be strictly prioritised in criterion order given above and will operate until the end of the autumn term.

- 12 Places will only be allocated from the waiting list when the number of pupils falls below the Admission Limit of the school. Whilst the waiting list is in operation, when a place does become available it will be allocated to the child at the top of the list on the day that the vacancy arises, after consultation with the school.

In Year Transfers

- 13 Applications for in year transfers will be considered in accordance with the policy and practice of Ridgewood School: The Academy @ Ridgewood Trust and with the LA's CAS. Notification of the offer of such a place will only be made once agreed between the school and the LA.
- 14 Applications should be made on the LA's TF and submitted to the LA for consideration by the school in line with the LA's CAS and relevant policy and practice.
- 15 After such consultation a pupil will normally be deemed eligible for a school place if there are sufficient places, unless specific circumstances apply^{vii}.
- 16 Where multiple applications are received for the same year group and there are insufficient places available, eligibility for admission will be considered in accordance with the admission criteria set out in Section 9.
- 17 Where a place is not available, the application will normally be refused and the applicant will be offered the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel.
- 18 If a place is offered under the above approach (14-16), the school will, within two weeks of the decision that an offer of a place is agreed, determine a start date, unless circumstances under point 15 above apply.
- 19 Pupils are normally admitted to a school at the start of the next new term other than with the prior approval of the school. Circumstances beyond the parent's control, e.g. movement into/within the Borough, to take up residence in the catchment area, may be considered highly relevant in determining the approach to any individual case, though this is discretionary.
- 20 Pupils are normally required to start at the school on the start date offered. Where circumstances oblige, this can be within two weeks of that date. Places cannot be held open beyond this period. Applicants must be in a position to take up a place within the relevant stated period.
- 21 Repeat applications made for entry to the same year group at the same school will not be considered, unless there has been a significant and material change to either the families or the schools circumstances since a previous application, and this is relevant to the application for admission. Where information was known at the time of the original application or appeal, but parents chose not to use it, this will not be considered as additional information or a change in circumstances.
- 22 In accordance with DFE requirements pupils may be admitted with reference to any Fair Access Protocol in which the school is an active participant at the time, outside of the normal admission arrangements noted above. This would be only following full negotiation, due process, and agreement between the LA and the school (paragraph 1 above applies).

Allocation Of Places

- 23 If, following the consideration of an application from a Doncaster resident, an application is refused and the pupil does not currently have a place in a Doncaster school, the LA, in line with its CAS will offer a place at an alternative school as appropriate.

Admission To Post 16 Provision

- 24 The School will publish specific criteria in relation to minimum academic entrance requirements for admission or transfer to the Post 16 provision. Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter Year 12 will be expected to have met the minimum academic entry requirements for Post 16 Provision.
- 25 Priority is given to applications from pupils in year 11 already at the school.
- 26 External pupils can, and it is envisaged will be, admitted to the Post 16 provision. If there is a need to limit the admission number for external applicants this limit will be set in light of the pupil number parameters notified by the EFA. If there are more applicants who meet the minimum academic entrance requirements than there are places, the school will apply the same academic entry requirements as it does to pupils already on roll in the school. If a tie-break is necessary to determine who is admitted from this external cohort, the criteria set out in section 9 above will be applied, as will the availability of places on specific courses applied for.
- 27 The closing date for external sixth form applications in the normal application round is 30 January 2017.

Independent Appeals

- 28 If a place is not offered at the school parents, and in the case of Post 16 the student, have the right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Details of the procedure will be sent to parents/students who indicate their intention to appeal.
- 29 Parents/students who intend to make an appeal should normally submit a notice of appeal within 10 days of receiving the refusal letter to: Litigation and Education Section, Directorate of Resources, Doncaster Council, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

General Information

False Information

Any place offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application will be withdrawn, e.g. giving a false address. It is for parents to satisfy the school of their circumstances as they apply to the admission criteria at the time of application.

Multiple Addresses

Where a child is resident with parents at more than one address, the address used for admission purposes shall be the place at which the child spends the majority of the school week (Monday to Friday) during term time. Where there is a clear 50/50 split, parents should decide.

Further Information

Further, more detailed information about the admission process is available in the Admission To School Booklets, from the school or the LA.

Explanatory Notes

i Common Application Form (AF)

This is a form used in the admission process on which parents express preferences for a school or schools for the year of entry.

ii Common Transfer Form (TF)

This is a form used in the admission process on which parents express preferences to transfer a school or schools.

iii Co-ordination/Co-ordinated Schemes(CAS)

All local authorities are required to co-ordinate the admission arrangements for residents within their area whereby parents will submit a AF or TF to their home LA who will then ensure, as far as is possible, that a single offer of a place is sent to parents.

iv Looked After Children or all 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. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.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. See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

v Ordinarily Resident/Residence

Reference to where a child is ordinarily resident means that they are habitually and normally resident at their address, other than for occasional absences, for a settled purpose which is not solely to receive education. This will only be considered when they are living at their new address and waiting list place amended as necessary.

vi Schools with current Memorandum of Understanding defined relationships with Ridgewood School: The Academy @ Ridgewood Trust

Barnburgh Primary, Copley Junior, Richmond Hill Primary, Rosedale Primary and Saltersgate Junior schools.

vii Specific Circumstances For Refusal

An application will normally be agreed if there are sufficient places unless specific circumstances apply, as outlined in the School Admissions Code, and following discussion and agreement between the School and the Local Authority.