

Ormiston Academies Trust

## Sandymoor Ormiston Academy Admissions policy 2023/2024

### Policy version control

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# Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>1. Policy statement and principles.....</b>                  | <b>3</b> |
| 1.1. Policy aims and principles.....                            | 3        |
| 1.2. Monitoring and review.....                                 | 3        |
| <b>2. Academy admissions.....</b>                               | <b>3</b> |
| 2.3. Definitions.....   | 4        |
| 2.4. Distance.....  | 4        |
| 2.5. Dual address.....  | 4        |
| 2.6. Siblings.....  | 4        |
| 2.7. Eligibility criteria.....                                  | 4        |
| 2.8. Waiting list.....  | 5        |
| 2.9. Withdrawal of a place.....                                 | 5        |
| 2.10. Determining arrangements and consultation.....            | 5        |
| 2.11. Admission of children outside their normal age group..... | 6        |
| 2.12. Complaints about admissions arrangements.....             | 6        |
| <b>3. Secondary admissions.....</b>                             | <b>7</b> |
| 3.1. Number of spaces (PAN).....                                | 7        |
| 3.2. Application process.....                                   | 7        |
| 3.3. Selection criteria.....                                    | 7        |
| 3.4. Oversubscription criteria.....                             | 7        |
| 3.5. In-year admissions.....                                    | 8        |
| 3.6. Unsuccessful applications.....                             | 8        |

# 1. Policy statement and principles

## 1.1. Policy aims and principles

- 1.1.1. This policy is designed to ensure there is an open and fair admissions procedure for all applicants and to help guide parents and their children through the application process. The academy's admissions arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs, and that other academy policies do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.
- 1.1.2. This policy details the academies arrangements for admissions and will apply to all admissions from 2023 to 2024. This includes in-year admissions within this period.
- 1.1.3. Parents are encouraged to visit the academy with their child if they are planning to apply for a place. We have a number of open days during the year, these will be publicised on our school website. Arrangements for visits outside these dates can be made through the academy office and Transition Leader on 01928 571217.
- 1.1.4. The Academy Trust will consult on the admissions arrangements at least once every seven years or if there are proposed changes to the admission arrangements which require consultation.
- 1.1.5. This policy is consistent with all other policies adopted by OAT / the academy and is written in line with current legislation and guidance.

## 1.2. Monitoring and review

- 1.2.1. This policy will be reviewed annually or in the following circumstances:
  - Changes in legislation and / or government guidance
  - As a result of any other significant change or event
  - As the result of a decision of an Adjudicator
  - In the event that the policy is determined not to be effective
- 1.2.2. If there are urgent concerns these should be raised to the Clerk to the Governing Body in the first instance for them to determine whether a review of the policy is required in advance of the review date.

# 2. Academy admissions

- 2.1. The academy admits students between the ages of 11-16. The main intakes are:
  - Secondary
  - Primary

- Secondary
- Sixth form

2.2. We encourage entry at the academy's main intake time so as to aid academic progression without interruption, however, applications are welcome for entry in any year.

## 2.3. Definitions

2.3.1. The academy uses the following definitions when applying this policy. Please contact the school if you have any difficulties understanding any aspect of this policy

## 2.4. Distance

2.4.1. This is the straight line distance between the academy main gate and the child's home address (front door).

2.4.2. Halton Local Authority applies a computerized distance measuring system for ordinary admissions. Pupils living nearest to the school measured using an Ordnance Survey address point system which measures straight line distances from the address point of the school to the address point of the nearest residence of the pupil. Where two dwellings with the same front entrance the closest dwelling to the front door (lower floor and counting clockwise) will be regarded as being closer to the academy.

## 2.5. Dual address

2.5.1. Where a child lives at two different addresses, the 'home' address will be determined as the address at which the child resides for the majority of school nights. School nights are Sunday night to Thursday night inclusive. In a case where the child spends an equal number of school nights at each address, then the address where the child benefit is paid will be used. Where no child benefit is claimed the address used to register the child with a doctor will be used.

## 2.6. Siblings

2.6.1. A sibling is defined as:

- A brother or sister (including half brothers or sisters) who shares one or both parents, whether or not resident in the same household
- A step-brother or sister where the two children are related by a parent's marriage
- An adopted or foster child living in the same household under the terms of the resident's order
- Another child living in the same household where the adult has parental responsibility

2.6.2. In the case of twins or other children from multiple births (two or more siblings in one year group) and where only one place is available, the application will be considered together as one application.

## 2.7. Eligibility criteria

2.7.1. Entry to the academy is subject to the regulations regarding nationality, residency status and eligibility to study in the United Kingdom. Students / pupils are eligible to be admitted to the academy if:

- They are British citizens and / or EU nationals
- They are a non-EU national that has –
  - 'Exceptional' or 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' in this country
  - Refugee status

## 2.8. Waiting list

2.8.1. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, children who have been refused a place will be automatically placed on a waiting list unless there is a specific request that this should not happen. The child may gain entry to the academy if a place becomes available.

2.8.2. The academy will maintain a waiting list until 31 December following the main academy intake in 2023-2024. Each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the academy's oversubscription criteria in which the application was originally considered. Priority will not be given to children based on the date their application was received or the date when they were added to the list.

## 2.9. Withdrawal of a place

2.9.1. The academy will only withdraw an offer of a place if:

- The place was offered in error
- Acceptance of the place was not received in a reasonable period of time
- The offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application (the academy may request evidence to ensure the child meets the admissions criteria) – if this occurs the application will be considered afresh

2.9.2. The academy will not withdraw the place if the student has started at the academy unless the place was obtained fraudulently. If this is the case then the academy will decide whether to withdraw the place based on the circumstances including the length of time the child has been at the academy.

## 2.10. Determining arrangements and consultation

2.10.1. Admissions arrangements will be set annually, this will happen even if there are no changes from previous years and a consultation is not required.

2.10.2. If the academy changes any significant aspect of the admissions procedure then OAT will be informed prior to making changes and beginning the consultation process. Any significant changes proposed by the academy must be approved by OAT.

2.10.3. The academy will consult on admissions arrangements when changes to the academies' arrangements are proposed (no consultation is required for an increase in PAN or changes to ensure compliance with the admissions regulations). Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that we must consult on our admission arrangements at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

2.10.4. We will publish any consultation for admissions on our website and notify appropriate stakeholders. If there are any substantive responses to the academy's consultation then these will be sent to OAT. Any subsequent changes will be made in consultation with OAT.

2.10.5. Once our admissions arrangements have been determined we will notify the appropriate bodies and publish a copy of the determined arrangements on our website.

## 2.11. Admission of children outside their normal age group

2.11.1. Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. If parents wish to do this they must contact, in the first instance, Senior Assistant Principal. Contact with the academy must be made at the earliest opportunity to avoid any delays in the application process.

2.11.2. The decision whether a child is admitted outside of their normal age group will be made on a case by case basis by the academy's governing body. A panel of at least three governors will consider the admission request based on the student's:

- Academic ability
- Social and emotional development
- Views of the parents and principal; and
- Any additional relevant information available

2.11.3. The panel will have to be satisfied that the child would be able to cope with the work of the year applied for **and** that the student would be able to cope with the personal development whilst being with a year group who are of a different age. In order to support any application parents will need to submit evidence to demonstrate that the admission into a different year group is in the best interests of the child.

2.11.4. Once the governing body has made a decision the child can then apply to the academy using the process detailed in this policy. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place however this right does not apply if the child is offered a place at the academy but it is not in their preferred age group.

## 2.12. Complaints about admissions arrangements

2.12.1. Any person, or body, can make an objection to the Schools Adjudicator when they consider the academy's arrangements are unlawful, or not in compliance with the School Admissions Code / relevant legislation relating to admissions.

2.12.2. Complaints about the appeals panel can be made to the Secretary of State.

## 3. Secondary admissions

The process detailed in this section is for admissions for secondary admissions. For further information on this process please contact our Assistant Principal for Pupil Development and Ethos.

### 3.1. Number of spaces (PAN)

3.1.1. The academy has an agreed admission number of 120 per year.

### 3.2. Application process

3.2.1. Applications for the 2023 – 2024 academic year begins September 2022.

3.2.2. To apply you need to complete the local authority's (Halton BC) common application form (CAF) / academy's form and submit this directly to the LA / academy by the deadline, 31 October 2022. Further information is available on the Halton BC website ([www.halton.gov.uk](http://www.halton.gov.uk)) or by emailing [schooladmissions@halton.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@halton.gov.uk)

3.2.3. Late applications will not be considered until all other applications have been reviewed.

3.2.4. All offers of secondary places will be made through the LA. The academy will not contact parents about the outcome of their application until the offer from the local authority has been received. All offers will be made on the secondary national offer day (1 March or the next working day).

### 3.3. Selection criteria

3.3.1. If the number of applications is less than the number of spaces then all children will be offered places.

### 3.4. Oversubscription criteria

3.4.1. If the academy receives more applications than there are available places then children with the academy named on an education, health care plan (EHC) or equivalent will be automatically admitted to the academy. If there are still places available, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the oversubscription criteria set out below:

3.4.2. Looked after children and those who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after was adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. A Looked After Child is either a child who is in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (definition used is in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989); or, those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously Looked After Children are those who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

- 3.4.3 Admission of students whose siblings currently attend the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission. The term sibling covers elder brothers and sister including half brothers and sisters and unrelated children living together as part of the same household.
- 3.4.4 Children of staff, where the member of staff has been employed by the Academy for 2 or more years at the time of the application or the member of staff was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there was a demonstrable skills shortage.
- 3.4.5 Admission of students living nearest the school measured using an Ordnance Survey address point system which measures straight-line distances in kilometres or metres from the address point to the address point of the place of permanent residence of the student.
- 3.4.6 In the instance of a tie regarding distance for the last place to be offered (to two decimal places in metres), a place will be offered using the electronic admission system's random allocation function

### 3.5. In-year admissions

- 3.5.1. Applications for in-year admissions are considered in the same way as those made at the beginning of the academic year and are dealt with in accordance with the local authorities Fair Access Protocol. In-year admissions forms can be obtained from [detail how these can be obtained].
- 3.5.2. Students included in the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those held on the waiting list. Once a student has been identified for admission to the academy under the Fair Access Protocol the academy will notify the local authority within seven calendar days of the decision to accept or refuse the student's admission.
- 3.5.3. If the academy refuses entry, the local authority may request a direction from the Education Funding Agency (on behalf of the Secretary of State). The academy will set out its reasons for refusal in writing to the local authority within 15 calendar days (for CLA this is reduced to seven calendar days) and may make further representations directly to the EFA (these will be made within seven calendar days). The decision of the Secretary of State will be binding upon the academy.

### 3.6. Unsuccessful applications

- 3.6.1. The academy will inform the child's parent if a decision has been made to refuse their child a place at the academy for which they have applied, this will include the reason why admission was refused, information about the right to appeal, deadlines and contact details.
- 3.6.2. A child is allowed to be on the academy waiting list while lodging an appeal and the appeal will not affect their position on the list. The decision of the appeals panel is binding on the academy.