



# Admissions Policy

EKC Schools Trust



Approval Date: March 2020

Next Approval: September 2020

## **Policy statement and principles**

### **1.1 Policy aims and principles**

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.

This policy details the academies arrangements for admissions and will apply to all admissions from September 2021 to August 2022. This includes in-year admissions within this period.

Parents are encouraged to visit the academy with their child if they are planning to apply for a place.

The EKC School Trust will consult on the admissions arrangements if there are proposed changes to the admission arrangements which require consultation.

This policy is consistent with all other policies adopted by the Trust and is written in line with current legislation and guidance.

### **1.2 Monitoring and review**

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

If there are urgent concerns these should be raised to the Headteacher(s) in the first instance for them to determine whether a review of the policy is required in advance of the review date.

## **Academy admissions**

The academies in the EKC Schools Trust admits pupils of primary school age.

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.

### **1.3 Definitions**

The academy uses the following definitions when applying this policy:

#### **Distance**

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

### Dual address

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.

### Catchment area

Admissions of pupils on the basis of catchment proximity to EKC Schools Trust Academies will be as defined by Kent County Council.

### Siblings

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 residents order
- Another child living in the same household where the adult has parental responsibility

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.

## 1.4 Eligibility criteria

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

## 1.5 Waiting list

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 selected academy if a place becomes available.

Each academy will maintain a waiting list until 31 December following the main academy intake. 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.

## 1.6 Withdrawal of a place

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

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 Headteacher of 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.

### 1.7 Determining arrangements and consultation

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

If the Trust changes any significant aspect of the admissions procedure then the Trust will be informed prior to making changes and beginning the consultation process.

The Trust will consult on admissions arrangements when changes to an academy's arrangements are proposed. 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.

We will publish any consultation for admissions on the EKC Schools Trust and the academy's website and notify appropriate stakeholders. If there are any substantive responses to the academy's consultation then these will be sent to the academy and shared with the EKC Schools Trust.

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

### 1.8 Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group in exceptional circumstances, for example, if the child has significant educational needs and it is recommended by a professional or has experienced problems such as ill health. If parents wish to do this they must contact the Headteacher. Contact with the academy must be made at the earliest opportunity to avoid any delays in the application process.

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 pupil's:

- ☐ Academic ability
- ☐ Social and emotional development
- ☐ Views of the parents or carers and Headteacher; and
- ☐ Any additional relevant information available such as evidence provided by professionals from other agencies.

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 pupil 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.

Once the governing body has made a decision the child can then apply to the academy using the process detailed in this policy. Parents or carers 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.

### **1.9 Complaints about admissions arrangements**

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

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

#### **Primary admissions**

*Where the individual academy has a school run nursery, please contact the schools directly for admission and application information.*

The process detailed in this section is for admissions for primary admissions. For further information on this process please contact the individual school using the contact details on each website.

Each school has a specific number of allocated places for Reception pupils. This number (PAN) is published on each academies website.

#### **Application process**

To apply for a reception class school place (the September after your child turns 4) you need to complete the local authority's (LA) common application form (CAF) and submit this directly to the LA or child's primary school by the deadline. All the details are listed on the Kent County Council Website following the link below:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places#tab-3>

Parents are asked to apply online, or they can request a form from the primary school or from the Local Authority.

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

All offers of Primary School places will be made via the Local Authority. Academies will not contact individual families until after the offers have been made.

#### **Oversubscription criteria**

If any academy receives more applications than there are available places then children with the academy named on an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP) 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:

1. Looked after children and 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. A looked after

child is 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).

2. Having brothers or sisters (siblings) who are already at the academy when your child is due to start
3. Child of staff employed at the Academy
4. Geographical. The Academy will give priority to those living nearest to the Academy.

If the Academy still has an oversubscription then a further tie breaker will be used. Distance from the Academy will be used as a tie breaker whenever two children have the same priority based on any criteria.

#### In-year admissions

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 the Local Authorities Fair Access Protocol. In-year admissions forms can be obtained from each Academy in the Trust.

Kent County Council has produced a standard form, known as the In-Year Casual Admission Form (IYCAF), which the Academy Trust uses to allow applicants to apply for school places in any year group outside of the normal admission round. Details can be found on the LA website following the link below;

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/3522/in-year-application-form.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/3522/in-year-application-form.pdf)

Forms must be returned to the individual Academy and will be processed no later than 5 working days from receipt.

#### Unsuccessful applications

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.

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.