



## Admissions Policy

2020-2021

## 1. Admissions of Pupils to Atkinson Road Primary Academy (2 - 11) Policy 2020/2021

This policy document is intended to provide an easily understandable process for parent and carers as well as being accessible, open and fair.

Atkinson Road Primary Academy will comply with all relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice (the School Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice), including Section 149 Equalities Act, as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with the law on admissions as it applies to maintained schools. Reference in the codes to admission authorities shall be deemed to be references to the Trust Board.

Atkinson Road Primary Academy will work in accordance with the 'Monitoring Panel'.

Atkinson Road Primary Academy will continue to participate in the coordinated admission arrangements operated by Newcastle-upon-Tyne Local Authority (LA).

Notwithstanding these arrangements, the Secretary of State may direct Atkinson Road Primary Academy to admit a named pupil to the School on application from a LA. Before doing so, the Secretary of State will consult with Atkinson Road Primary Academy.

### *Arrangements for Admission to the Nursery Phase*

The admission arrangements for the Nursery phase (age range 2-4 year olds) of Atkinson Road Primary Academy, subject to any changes approved by the Secretary of State are:

- Atkinson Road Primary Academy has an agreed admission number of 104 (3-4yr old) children (FTE) in the Nursery. These will be made up of 104 part time places. Each child will have their entitlement of 15 hours of free Nursery education which extends to 30 hours for working parents who fit the criteria.
- Atkinson Road Primary Academy currently has a 12 place class for funded 2-yr olds.
- The Planned Admission Number (PAN) for the Early Years phase has been chosen to be consistent with the demographic trends locally and so as not to destabilise the current admission in other local primary schools.
- Pupils in the Nursery phase **will not** automatically join Reception class of Atkinson Road Primary Academy. An application **must** be made through the LA. **It must not be assumed therefore that a place in Nursery guarantees a place in Reception.**

### *Arrangements for Admission to the Primary Phase*

The admission arrangements for the primary phase age range (4 - 11 year olds) of Atkinson Road Primary Academy subject to any changes approved by the Secretary of State are:

Atkinson Road Primary Academy has an agreed admission number of 60 pupils. Atkinson Road Primary Academy will accordingly admit at least 60 pupils in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received.

#### General Arrangements for Admissions to Atkinson Road Primary Academy

The general admission arrangements for Atkinson Road Primary Academy subject to any changes approved by the Secretary of State are:

- Pupils will not be admitted above the Published Admission Number (PAN) unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- Where there are more applications for admission than places available, the following oversubscription rules will be used to determine which children will be allocated places, after children with Statements of Special Educational needs, where the statement names a specific school and places will be offered to applicants ranked highest:-

a) Looked-After Children in the care of a local authority or children that were looked after by the local authority and immediately after that became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order (see definitions). Evidence of the appropriate order must be submitted before the closing date.

#### **Definitions:**

A **Looked After Child** is a child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time the application for admission to school is made and whom the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the date of admission.

An **Adoption Order** is an order made under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

A **Residence Order** is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989.

A **Special Guardianship Order** is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians.

b) Where there will be an older brother or sister (a sibling) in attendance at the school at the date of admission. Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent or carer's partner where the children live at the same address.

c) Children with a specific medical reason needing to go to the school. For example, where the child or one or both parents has a disability, which means that they can only go to one school. Supporting evidence from a doctor, psychologist or other professional involved with the child must be provided. The evidence must relate specifically to the school for which the application is being made and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the child's needs and explain the difficulties that would arise if the child has to attend an alternative school. This evidence must be submitted before the closing date. If the required evidence is not provided, the Admissions Authority will be unable to consider giving the child higher priority.

d) The measure of the straight line distance from a single fixed central point at the school to a point in the center of the home address of the child, using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer or a suitable alternative geographical information system. This is an objective measurement, which does not take into account factors such as the safety of routes or the needs for some families to take other children to a different school or schools. Available places will be allocated to those applicants living the nearest.

### ***Right of Appeal***

There will be a right of appeal to the Independent Appeals Panel for unsuccessful applicants.

## **2. Process of Application**

Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the LA's coordinated admission arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form (CAF) provided and administered by Newcastle LA. Atkinson Road Primary Academy will use the following timetable for applications each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year).

September - Atkinson Road Primary Academy will publish in its prospectus information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (e.g. in September 2018 for admission in September 2019). This will include details of open evenings and other opportunities for prospective pupils and their parents to visit the Academy.

September/October - Atkinson Road Primary Academy will provide opportunities for parents to visit the Academy. The Closing date for Reception Applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**.  
**18<sup>th</sup> April 2019** will be the offer day for Reception applications.

#### **Transferring to secondary school:**

- The Closing date for Year 7 transfers is **31st October**.
- **1st March** offers made to parents for Year 7 transfers.

### **3. Consideration of Applications**

Atkinson Road Primary Academy will consider all applications for places. Where fewer applications are received than is stated in the admission numbers set out in sections 4, 5 and 7 of this policy, Atkinson Road Primary Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

- It will not be possible to change preferences after the closing date for applications.
- Late applications will be processed after all those received on time.
- Children will be kept on a waiting list for any school ranked higher on their application than the school they have been offered and will be allocated a place if one becomes available.
- Parents will have two weeks to return an acceptance form. If an acceptance form is not received it will be assumed that a place is no longer required.

### **4. Operation of Waiting Lists**

Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in the LA's coordinated admission scheme, the Academy will operate a waiting list. Where in any year Atkinson Road Primary Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the autumn term (31<sup>st</sup> December). This will be maintained by Atkinson Road Primary Academy and it will open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in paragraph 6 of this policy. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

## **5. Arrangements for Appeals Panels**

Parents will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision with regards to Atkinson Road Primary Academy. The Appeal Panel will be independent of the Academy. The arrangements for appeals will be in line with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals published by the Department for Education and Skills as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel will be made in accordance with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals and it is binding on all parties. The Academy should prepare guidance for parents about how the appeals process will work and provide parents with a named contact who can answer any enquiries parents may have about the process.

## **6. Annual Procedures for Determining Admission Arrangements**

### **Consultation**

Atkinson Road Primary Academy shall consult every 7 years on its proposed admission arrangements, unless there are changes to the Admission arrangements, in which case a consultation will take place.

Atkinson Road Primary Academy will consult in accordance with the statutory procedure.

## **7. Determination and Publication of Admission Arrangements**

Following any consultation, Atkinson Road Primary Academy will consider comments made by those consulted.

Atkinson Road Primary Academy will then determine its admission arrangements by **March 2019** of the relevant year and, if necessary due to their having been a consultation, will notify those consulted on what has been determined.