

# South York Multi-Academy Trust

Admissions Policy

2019 – 2020



## Introduction

1 This policy applies to applications for schools for whom the South York Multi-Academy Trust is the admissions authority, which are located within the City of York Local Authority area. These schools are:

- Fulford School

The Trust is responsible for determining the school's admissions arrangements (including this policy) and deciding who can be allocated a place in accordance with it.

2 This policy applies in the following admissions rounds:

- for Fulford School - the secondary admissions round, that is when applying for a place in Year 7 as the normal year of entry to start secondary school for the first time.

3 The Published Admission Number (PAN) is the number of pupils it is intended to admit into the first year group of school. This number differs for each school and for 2019 – 2020 these PANs are:

- for Fulford School, 240 places

4 This policy complies with and operates within the relevant City of York Coordinated Admissions Schemes in the City of York Local Authority area. The admissions authority for these schools is the trust board of the South York Multi-Academy Trust.

5 This policy does not apply to 'in-year' applications for a place. In-year admissions are those that are made either during the school year, or for admission into year groups other than the normal year of entry. Where applications for an in-year place are received, whether a place can be offered will depend upon the availability of places in the

relevant class/year group. If there are more applications for a place than places available, then the oversubscription criteria as in Section B of this policy will be applied to ascertain which child is most entitled to a place.

- 7 Advice and information for parent/carers on school admissions, including **key information that applies to all applications** as well as some frequently asked questions are available in the City of York Guide for Parents which is available at [www.york.gov.uk/guideforparents](http://www.york.gov.uk/guideforparents) or upon request from the City of York School Services team. It is recommended that all applicants consider the information in the [Guide for Parents](#) before making an application.
- 8 The admission of children with an Education, Health and Care plan or a statement of special educational needs is covered by different admission regulations. Following negotiation, if a school within the South York Multi-Academy Trust has been named, a place will be allocated for these children before considering other applications.

## A Admissions into Year 7

- 1 Pupils will normally be admitted into the year group relevant to the pupil's age.
- 2 If you would like to investigate accelerating your child's entry, so they do not start in the year group relevant to the child's age, but instead start at an earlier time, you should contact the Trust at an early stage to discuss your intentions and what the best approach might be.

If you would like to accelerate your child's entry, you should then put a formal request in writing, together with any supporting information, an details of whether your child has previously been educated out of their chronological age group, by no later than 30 November 2018. The Trust will then consider your request, if necessary in conjunction with other schools and professionals.

If the request is approved, wherever possible you should submit an application as part of the normal admissions round, for the year group it has been agreed is the most appropriate for the child. Parents/carers should make it clear in their application that an application out of the usual year group has been agreed. The application will then be considered in accordance with this admissions policy. The Trust will not give the application lower priority on the basis that the child is being admitted out of their normal age group. If the request is rejected, you should apply in the usual way for your child to join their correct age group. Should parents/carers disagree with a decision to refuse their request, they should put their complaint in writing and follow the Trust's complaints policy.

- 3 Applications should be made by the closing date for applications which is 31 October 2018. Applications can be made online at [www.york.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.york.gov.uk/schooladmissions). It is expected that most applications will be made online, but where applicants cannot apply online, they may request support from the Trust, LA, schools, or a paper application form known as the 'School admissions application for Secondary School in September 2019'. There is no additional 'Supplementary Information Form' required to apply for a school place at any South York Multi-Academy Trust school covered by this policy.
- 4 When making an application, parent/carers are advised to supply any additional information that may be required to the admissions authority by providing this information in writing direct to the school or by emailing [education@york.gov.uk](mailto:education@york.gov.uk) with the child's details. For example, additional information will need to be provided when applying on the basis of being 'previously looked after' or having exceptional social or medical needs which relate to the preferred school. Further guidance on additional information can be found in the [Guide for Parents](#).

- 5 Any school's resources, such as teachers and classrooms, have to be used carefully to ensure the best possible standards for education and a safe environment. If no limit were set on the number of pupils that can go to a school each year these standards could not be maintained. For this reason each school has a Published Admission Number – that is the number of places available that will be offered in the year of entry.
- 6 Applicants will be responsible for travel arrangements and the costs of travel to and from school.
- 7 Fulford School maintains a catchment area. The City of York Local Authority advises applicants to consider their 'catchment' school when making an application. If the place your child is allocated is at a school which you are not in the catchment area for, or if you move out of the catchment area you now reside in, then you may have less chance of being successful when applying for any younger siblings. Catchment areas are designated by the Local Authority and are made available to applicants in the [Guide to School Catchment Areas](#), online at [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) and upon request from the City of York School Services team.

## B Oversubscription criteria

Some schools will be oversubscribed – that is where the number of applicants exceeds the Published Admission Number. Where this is the case, priority is given to certain categories of children. The oversubscription criteria set out below will be used to prioritise all applicants who have applied for a place at a school in these circumstances in the following priority order:

- 1 **Children who are either currently or have previously been 'looked after'**. This applies to all children who are currently in the care of a local authority and all children who have been adopted from local authority care (subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order);

It is the responsibility of parent/carers, or the child's social worker to provide the information to the admissions authority that this criterion applies.

- 2 Children who live within the catchment area normally served by the preferred school, with a sibling at the preferred school at the time of admission. Catchment areas are designated by the Local Authority and are made available to parent/carers in the [Guide to School Catchment Areas](#), online at [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk), and upon request from the City of York School Services team. Siblings are defined as brothers or sisters living in the same house, as their primary place of residence (including half-, step- and foster-brothers or sisters);

The Trust uses the address provided in the application, and using GIS software, determines which catchment area an address, and therefore a child, resides in. This address must be the address at which the child is ordinarily resident. Further detailed advice on addresses is contained within the [Guide for Parents](#).

It is the responsibility of parent/carers to include with their application the name of any sibling(s) where this criterion applies for checking by the Trust.

- 3 Children who live within the catchment area normally served by the preferred school. Catchment areas are designated by the Local Authority and are made available to parent/carers in the [Guide to School Catchment Areas](#), online at [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk), and upon request from the City of York School Services team;

The Trust uses the address provided in the application, and using GIS software, determines which catchment area an address, and therefore a child, resides in. This address must be the address at which the child is ordinarily resident. Further detailed advice on addresses is contained within the [Guide for Parents](#).

- 4 Children considered by the admissions authority to have exceptional social or medical needs which makes the preferred school the most suitable school for the child. The admissions authority may consult with other medical or educational professionals for a further opinion as to whether the child should be allocated a place at the preferred school due to a particular medical condition or social need; It is the responsibility of parent/carers to provide the additional information where they believe this criterion applies. To be given priority on this basis, the admissions authority would have to be satisfied that the child's needs were such that the preferred school would be the most suitable school for the child.

The Trust may defer these considerations and decisions to others to consider any documentation provided by parent/carers and assess whether these needs are 'exceptional' in nature. Those applications with supporting information that the Trust determines are 'exceptional' would have to be where only the preferred school could meet the child's need.

- 5 Children with a sibling at the preferred school at the time of admission. Siblings are defined as brothers or sisters living in the same house, as their primary place of residence (including half-, step and foster-brothers or sisters);

It is the responsibility of parent/carers to include with their application the name of any sibling(s) where this criterion applies for checking by the Trust.

- 6 Children who live closest to the preferred school using the nearest available safe walking route. Distances are measured by a GIS mapping system from the child's home address to the entrance of the school.

Distances are measured using a system of walking routes rather than straight line distances to better reflect the length of the journey from home to school. Within a contiguous urban area these routes are those that are properly paved and lit alongside roads and other walkways and do not include the York outer ring road. Outside a

contiguous urban area, for example for applications from outside the City of York area, these distances continue to be measured along the road network.

Where there are fewer places than children in an oversubscription priority as above, in order to decide to whom places will be allocated, the following tie-breakers will be applied:

- first, to the child(ren) who also fulfil the next highest priority;
- second, to the child(ren) living closest to the school as defined in priority 6;
- and third, if the measurement of the distance from home to school above does not distinguish between two or more applicants with equal priority, random allocation will be used as the final tie-breaker, and independently verified.

Where the application of the above would lead to a place being made available for a child of multiple birth, but not their sibling(s), we will work within the Admissions Code in order to make a place available for the sibling(s) wherever reasonably possible.

For example, for two children who are both resident in the catchment area without a sibling on roll at the time of admission and are thus assigned the same (third) priority, the place would first be allocated to the child who also fulfils the next highest priority, for example, an exceptional social or medical need (fourth priority) over a child who lives closer to the school (sixth priority).

## C Appeals

- 1 Applicants refused a place at the school have a statutory right of appeal. If a preference for a place at the school is refused, the applicant will be informed of the reasons and of their right of appeal. This right does not apply if they are allocated a place but it is not in their preferred year group.

- 2 South York Multi-Academy Trust subscribes to the City of York’s independent appeals procedure and any decision made under this admissions policy can be appealed using that process. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel and their decisions are legally binding in line with the School Admission Appeals Code. We will publish our appeals timetable on our website by 28 February 2019. Applicants who wish to appeal should contact the LA School Services team to request the correct appeal form. Appeal forms should be returned within 20 school days of the date the place was refused.
- 3 Applicants will only be able to appeal once in any one school year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the admissions authority has accepted a second application because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent/carer, child or school.

## D False Information

Where an offer of a place has been made on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, which has effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

## E Late Applications

- 1 Applications received after the relevant closing date for applications of may be treated as ‘late’ applications – that is processed after all ‘on-time’ applications.
  - For applications for Fulford School – in the secondary admissions round, applications will be treated as late from 01 November 2018.

- 2 Where possible, 'late' applications and changes of preference and/or circumstances will be treated as 'on-time' applications if:
  - a) this is accompanied by a satisfactory reason provided at the time of application; and
  - b) it can be accommodated within the timescales of the coordinated scheme and/or admissions authority's processes.
- 3 Late applications received after the offer day, but before the start of the school year will be processed using the same arrangements and criteria as 'on-time' applications, although the availability of places will depend on where places are still available as well as the preferences of applicants.
- 4 Late applications received after the first day of the school year will be considered as 'in-year' applications. However, these preferences, if unsuccessful, will be held on a waiting list until the end of the first term in line with 'on-time' applications as set out in Section F of this policy.

## F Waiting List

- 1 If a school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held from when offers have been made until 31 December 2019. After 31 December 2019, if there is still a waiting list, an 'in-year' waiting list is then held until the end of that school year. Beyond the first school year, refused preferences do not 'roll over' into future school years. Should applicants wish to remain on a waiting list for a future school year, they should submit a new application by 1 June in the relevant year.
- 2 A child's position on the list will be determined by the oversubscription criteria set out in Section B of this policy and will reflect their current circumstances where these circumstances have been provided to the admissions authority. The list will also contain all other on-time and late preferences that have been refused or are requested. Should a

place become available while the waiting list is in operation, a place will be made available to the applicant on the top of the waiting list on the day the place became available.

- 3 Applications may only be made once for each school year unless there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent/carer, child or school, which the admissions authority agrees requires a new application.
- 4 Being on a waiting list does not affect a parent's/carer's right of appeal against an unsuccessful preference.

## G Timetable

by 12 September 2018	Opening date for applications. 'School admissions application for Secondary School in September 2019' form made available and online applications start to be accepted at <a href="http://www.york.gov.uk/schooladmissions">www.york.gov.uk/schooladmissions</a>
September 2018 – October 2018	Secondary school open evenings
31 October 2018	Closing date for 'on-time' applications for secondary schools (both online and by paper 'School admissions application for Secondary School in September 2019' form)
from 01 November 2018	Applications for secondary schools received may be treated as 'late'
01 March 2019	National Offer Day for secondary schools
29 March 2019	Deadline for return of appeal papers for 'on-time' secondary applicants
29 April 2019 – 27 June 2019	Admission appeals for 'on-time' secondary applicants
September 2019	Start of the school year
31 December 2019	Waiting lists close

## H Contact details for correspondence

The Chair of the Trust Board  
The South York Multi-Academy Trust  
c/o Fulford School  
Fulfordgate, York, YO10 4FY  
01904 633300  
office@fulford.york.sch.uk  
www.fulford.york.sch.uk

## I Schools in the South York Multi-Academy Trust

Fulford School (Secondary, 11-18)

[View school contact details on the City of York website](#)