



**Admission Arrangements  
for schools within the Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust**  
Colwich CE Primary School  
St. Andrew's CE Primary, Weston  
St. Peter's CE Primary, Hixon

**Normal Age of Entry: Academic Year 2020 – 2021**

The Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust (hereafter called 'The Trust') will work closely with Staffordshire Local Authority with regard to the admissions process.

Full time places in Reception classes will be available in September of the academic year within which the child becomes five years old.

Although parents have the right to express a preference for the school that they wish their child to attend, there is no guarantee of a place being offered at their preferred school.

It is the policy of the Trust to try and meet parents' wishes where possible. However, in some cases there may be more applications for a particular school than there are places available. Admission to oversubscribed schools is determined by the oversubscription criteria detailed below.

**Oversubscription Criteria**

If the total number of preferences for admission to a school exceeds the school's Published Admission Number (PAN), the following order of priority is used to allocate the available places. (N.B. After applying the oversubscription criteria, where an applicant can be offered a place at more than one preferred school then they will be offered a place at the school ranked highest on their application.)

1) Children in care and children who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).

2) Children who satisfy both of the following tests:

Test 1: The child is distinguished from the great majority of other applicants either on their own medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances.

Medical grounds must be supported by a medical report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application). This report must clearly justify, for health reasons only, why it is better for the child's health to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

Exceptional circumstances must relate to the choice of school and the individual child, i.e. the circumstances of the child, not the economic or social circumstances of the parent/carer. They should be supported by a report written by a professional, e.g. a social worker (this should be obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application). This report must clearly justify why it is better for the child to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

Test 2: The child would suffer hardship if s/he was unable to attend the preferred school.

Hardship means severe suffering of any kind, not merely difficulty or inconvenience, which is likely to be experienced as a result of the child attending a different school. Applicants must provide detailed information about both the type and severity of any likely hardship at the time of application.

- 3) Children who have an older sibling in attendance at the preferred school and who will still be attending the school at the proposed admission date. (For admission purposes, siblings are children who live at the same address and either: have one or both natural parents in common; are related by a parent's marriage; are adopted or fostered by a common parent or are unrelated children who live at the same address whose parents live as partners.)
- 4) Children living within the catchment area of the preferred school.
- 5) Other children arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the main gate of the school; this is determined by a straight-line measurement.

Where it is not possible to accommodate all children applying for places within a particular category then the Trust will allocate the available places in accordance with the remaining criteria. If for instance, all the catchment area children cannot be accommodated at a school, children who are resident within the catchment area will be arranged in order of priority according to the remaining criteria.

### **Additional Notes**

Copies of school catchment area maps are available from the Local Authority, The Trust or individual schools.

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to a school.

Admissions are administered through a Local Authority coordinated admission scheme. Each child will receive only one offer of a place at a Staffordshire school.

In accordance with legislation, children who have a statutory statement of special educational need or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names a particular school as being the most appropriate to meet the child's needs must be admitted to that school. This will reduce the amount of places available to other applicants.

Children in Care means children who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority (in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making the application.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide any supportive information required in order for the application to be assessed against the published admissions criteria, the Mid-Trent Trust will not seek to obtain this information on behalf of the applicant.

The requirement for the Trust to meet the Infant Class Size legislation may result in the refusal of catchment area or sibling applications where an infant class has already reached its limit of 30 pupils. However, as an exception, the Trust will give careful consideration to offering places above the Published Admission Number to applications from children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted even when there are no other vacant places.

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parent/carer's main and genuine principal place of residence at the time of the allocation of places i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than legal guardianship) the friend's or relative's address will not be considered for allocation purposes.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

It is expected that parents will agree on school places before an application is made and it may be necessary to request evidence to confirm that this is the case. The Mid-Trent Trust is not in a position to intervene in disputes between parents over school applications and will request that these are resolved privately.

If a child's home address changes during the admissions process it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the Local Authority (who co-ordinate admission applications in the first instance) immediately. Where there is a proposed house move taking place during the admissions process the Local Authority and Trust will only accept the revised address for purposes of allocation where parents/carers can provide documentary evidence of the move by 16 March 2020. It will be necessary for sufficient evidence of a permanent move to be provided by the applicant by this date before it will be taken into account for allocation purposes at the national offer date.

If a place is offered on the basis of an address that is subsequently found to be different from the child's normal and permanent home address at the time of allocation of places, then that place is likely to be withdrawn.

If there are a limited number of spaces available and the Trust is unable to distinguish between applicants using the criteria listed, such as in the case of children who live in the same block of flats, then the child or children who will be offered the available spaces will be randomly selected. This process will be independently verified.

Any Staffordshire child not obtaining a place at any of their parent's preferred schools will be allocated a place at their catchment area school (if places remain available) or

the next nearest school with a space available and advised about the independent appeals process.

### **Deferred Entry to Reception Class**

Parents may request that their child be admitted to a Reception Class on a part-time basis or that their child be admitted to school later in the same academic year until the child reaches compulsory school age (i.e. beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday). The effect is that the place will be held for the child in Reception and is not available to be offered to any other child within the same academic year in which it has been offered.

Before deciding whether to defer their child's entry to school, parents should visit their preferred school(s) to clarify how the youngest children in Reception are catered for and how the needs of these children are met as they move up through the school.

### **Admission Outside of the Normal Age Group**

Parents may seek to apply for their child's admission to school outside of their normal age group, for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of summer born children may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group to Reception rather than Year 1.

These parents will need to make an application alongside children applying at the normal age. The application should explain why it is in the child's best interest to be admitted outside of their normal age and may include information such as professional evidence to support the case and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. A decision as to whether this is an appropriate course of action will be made by the Trust who will take into account the circumstances of the case and views of the headteacher of the school concerned. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

### **Waiting lists**

Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria stated above and not based on the date their application was received. There will be a period of two weeks after the national offer date whereby available places will not be reallocated. If places become available after this date they will be offered according to the child at the top of the waiting list.

For cases where the infant class size regulations apply, the waiting list will operate until the cohort concerned leaves Year 2 and parents will be written to each year to ask whether or not they wish their child's details to remain on the list.

For all other cases, waiting lists will be kept until the end of the autumn term of admission.

Inclusion on a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available at the preferred school.

A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed and is subject to change during the year i.e. they can go up or down the list since each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria.

Children who are subject of a direction by a local authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

### **Late Applications**

Preferences received after the closing date will be considered alongside those applicants who applied on time wherever possible. Where it is not practicable because places have already been allocated, or are shortly to be allocated, then late preferences will be considered only after those that were made before this point.

A late application does not affect the right of appeal or the right to be placed on a school's waiting list.

### **Repeat Applications**

Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Trust has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.

### **“In-Year Transfer” Arrangements**

Parents or carers seeking to transfer to a school within the Trust may make an application using the appropriate application form. This application will be processed in line with the procedure outlined in the determined admission arrangements and parents and carers need to be aware that any date set for joining the new school may be after the next term or half term holiday and those parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child continues to receive appropriate education in the interim.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of the Mid-Trent MAT)

**Date of latest review: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Date of next review: Autumn 2019**