



ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 INTAKE (Adopted from Wakefield MDC's Admissions Policy)

Crofton Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Date of Policy: October 2019
Date of Review: Summer 2020



Crofton Academy High Street Crofton Wakefield WF4 1NF
Tel: 01924 862985
Fax: 01924 865985

1. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- 1.1 *“The LA”* means Wakefield Metropolitan District Council acting in its capacity as local authority.
- 1.2 *“The LA area”* means the area in respect of which LA is the local authority.
- 1.3 *“School”* means a community school, or voluntary controlled school. Community special schools are not covered by the policy.
- 1.4 *“Specified year”* means the school year beginning at or around the beginning of September 2020.
- 1.5 *“Admission authority”* in relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the LA. The governing bodies of foundation (trust) and aided schools are the admission authorities for those schools. The Secretary of State is the admission authority for Academies.
- 1.6 *“Admission arrangements”* means the arrangements for a particular school or schools which govern the procedures and the decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school.

2 EXPRESSING A PREFERENCE

- 2.1 For admission to secondary schools, applications from Wakefield residents should be made on **Wakefield’s Common Application Form**.
- 2.3 Applications, at any time, from residents outside the Wakefield District should be made in accordance with the applicant’s “home” LA’s Common Application Form.
- 2.4 Repeat applications made for entry to the same year group at the same school will not be considered unless there has been a material change in circumstances since the original application. School Admissions will determine if there has been a material change in circumstances. Examples of a material change include a change of address. Where information was known at the time of the original application, or appeal, but parents chose not to use it, this information will not be considered as additional information or a change in circumstances.
- 2.5 Where parents submit a Common Application Form under a Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme, whether in the normal admissions round or in-year, which names more than one community or voluntary controlled school, all applications will be treated equally and eligibility for a school place will be decided in accordance with this Admissions Policy.

3 THE ADMISSIONS POLICY

- 3.1 If the number of preferences received for a school does not exceed the Admission Number, all preferences will be met (see explanatory note 3.1).
- 3.2 All applications received will be considered in the following order:

- Applications received by the closing date in the normal admissions round for secondary applications the closing date is **31 October 2019**.
- 3.3 For late applications received between the closing date for the normal admissions round and the end of the summer term the following dates will apply:
- Applications for secondary places received up to and including **23 November 2019** will be accepted as if they had been received by the closing date;
- 3.4 Applications received after these dates will be regarded as late applications and will be considered after all applications received on time.
- 3.5 If there are more applications for admission to a school than there are places available, preference will be given in the following order:
- (a) Children in care or who were previously in care; this refers to children who are:
 - Subject to a care order made by the courts under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 – for the courts to grant a care order they have to be satisfied that a child is suffering or would suffer “significant harm” without one.
 - Children who are accommodated by the Local Authority on a voluntary basis under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989); and
 - Children who have been adopted from Local Authority care, children who are subject to a Child Arrangements Order and those with special guardianship immediately following being Looked After will all be included within the higher priority for children in care (see explanatory note 13.2)
 - (b) (i) Children who live in the school's catchment area, who have brothers and sisters attending the school at the time of admission (see explanatory note 13.3);

(ii) Other children who live in the school's catchment area (see explanatory Note 13. 4);
 - (c) Children who have brothers or sisters in attendance at the school (see explanatory note 13.3);
 - (d) Other children, with priority being given to those living nearest to the school.
- 3.6 In all categories “live” means the child's permanent home address. A child is normally regarded as living with a parent or carer and the LA will use the parent or carer's address for admission purposes. An applicant cannot lodge a child with a friend or relation (e.g. for childcare purposes) in order to gain a place at a school.
- 3.7 For admissions purposes only one address can be used as a child's permanent address. Where a child resides with more than one parent/carers, at different addresses, the LA considers the home address to be the address where the child lives for the majority of the time during the school week (Monday to Friday) as the main place of residence. Where a child spends equal amounts of time at both addresses (50/50), applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to

verify addresses and/or other details provided. It is at the discretion of the LA what evidence is required (evidence may include, but is not limited to, Child Benefit, GP registration, evidence of home ownership/tenancy etc). The final decision on the home address of a child will be made by the LA.

- 3.8 By submitting an application for a school place, the parent is confirming that they have a parental responsibility for the child named on the form, or if parental responsibility is shared, that both parents are in agreement regarding the preferences stated on the application for a school place. In the case of parents disagreeing on the schools preferred, there is an expectation that parents will resolve these disputes themselves and make a single application which both parents are in agreement with.
- 3.9 In all categories, when decisions have to be made between children satisfying the same criterion, children living nearest to the school, measured as the crow flies, have priority. The distance measured will be from the central (centroid) point of the applicant's property to the central (centroid) point of the school's ground. Measurement will be made using the LA's in-house admission system and mapping software.
- 3.9 Where there is more than one application from a postal address contained within a block of flats, places will be decided by random allocation. If two or more pupils live equidistant from the school, the distance each pupil lives by road from the preferred school will be measured and the place offered to the pupil who lives nearest by this means. In the event of this being equal, places will then be decided by random allocation.
- 3.10 Where the admission of siblings from a multiple birth (e.g. twins, triplets) would cause the school to rise above its Planned Admission Number (PAN), all of the children from the multiple birth will be admitted.
- 3.11 Children will be placed in the appropriate category depending upon their circumstances at the closing date for receiving applications for admission to school. Changes in address will be accepted in accordance with the provisions of the Secondary Co-ordination Scheme. In cases where there is an anticipated change in circumstances, documentary evidence will be required.
- 3.12 In the event of any category being over-subscribed, places will be offered in the order of priority (a)-(d) detailed above.

4. CHILDREN WITH AN EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE PLAN

- 4.1 Children with identified Special Educational Needs have a significantly greater difficulty learning than their peers and/or cannot access learning without significant adaptations to the school facilities. This typically means that additional support will be required for them in order to access learning. Further information can be obtained from the SEND Code of Practice (January 2015), Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review Team (SENART) or the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information and Support Service (SENDIASS).

4.2 Admission authorities:

- Must consider applications from parents of children who have special educational needs or disability (SEND) but do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) on the basis of the published admissions criteria as part of normal admissions procedures
- Must not refuse to admit a child who has SEND but does not have an EHCP because they do not feel able to cater for those needs
- Must not refuse to admit a child on the grounds that they do not have an EHCP
- Must not discriminate against any child or young person who has a SEN or disability and must make reasonable adjustments as set out in the Equalities Act (2010) so that they can be admitted to the school where they do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

4.3 Children with an EHCP are dealt with under a different mechanism. Any child with a school named on their EHCP will automatically gain a place at the school named via the statementing process. Any child with an EHCP who is admitted to a mainstream community/voluntary controlled school will be counted against the school's admission number.

5. THE OFFER OF A PLACE AT A SCHOOL

5.1 Decisions will be posted 2nd class to parents on the following days:

Secondary schools: **2 March 2020**

5.2 Parents who have applied electronically will be able to access their offer of a school place via the on-line website after 12.00 midnight on the respective offer date.

6. POINT OF ENTRY

6.1 Pupils will start school in the in-take year (i.e. Y7 for secondary schools) on the first day the school is open following 1 September 2020.

7. ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE OF THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

7.1 Parents can seek school places outside their normal age group. Parents must make an application for their child's normal age group at the usual time, however a separate request must also be made at the same time for admission out of the normal age group.

7.2 A decision on these types of applications will be made by the Local Authority based on the individual circumstances of the request based on the information provided by the parents.

7.3 Where the decision is to refuse the request there is no right of appeal if the child is offered a place in another year group in the school.

8. UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

- 8.1 If a Wakefield pupil is not successful in securing a place at any school he/she has preferred, a school place will be allocated in accordance with the Wakefield Co-ordinated Admission Arrangement Scheme.
- 8.2 Any parent whose child is not offered a school place for which they have expressed a preference has the right to an independent appeal panel.

9. WAITING LISTS

- 9.1 Pupils will be added to the waiting lists of community and voluntary controlled schools where they were refused a place in accordance with the provisions of Secondary Co-ordination Schemes or In-Year Co-ordination Schemes.
- 9.2 Places will be allocated from the waiting list when the number of pupils in the relevant year group falls below the admission number for that school. Waiting lists will be kept in strict priority order against the oversubscription criteria above.
- 9.3 The waiting list for each school will be reviewed and revised each time a child is added to or removed from the waiting list and/or when a child's changed circumstances will affect their order of priority for a school place.
- 9.4 The waiting list will be established on the offer day and will be maintained up to the 31 August 2021. Any parent wishing to be placed on the waiting list for the subsequent academic year will have to reapply for that academic year.

10. IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

- 10.1 All applications made outside the normal admissions round (i.e. in-year applications) for community and voluntary controlled schools should be made on the Wakefield's Common Application Form, which is available from the School Admissions Team. Applications will be processed in accordance with the "In Year Co-ordination Scheme". Parents can express up to 5 school preferences.
- 10.2 Where there are sufficient places, an application will normally be agreed. The Admission Number for a school is set for the school's in-take year. As a general rule, this admission number then remains with that year group as it moves through the school. There may be exceptions, for example, if accommodation in a school is removed, then the admission number may change for subsequent year groups.
- 10.3 If a place is not available, a refusal letter is sent outlining the right of appeal. If the application is from a Wakefield resident then a place will be allocated at the next nearest community and voluntary controlled school with places. Should the child be already attending a Wakefield school then no school will be offered as an alternative. The child's name will be added to the waiting list for the school in the order against the Admissions Policy above. All waiting lists are re-ranked when new applicants have been added. Should a vacancy arise at the school, the place will be offered to the child at the top of the waiting list.

11. FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL

11.1 The LA has agreed a Fair Access Protocol with its secondary schools. This means that, in some circumstances, pupils defined in the Protocol will have a higher priority for admission to schools and/or year groups, which are already full, than all other pupils seeking admission to that school. Full details of the Protocol can be obtained from the LA.

12. FALSE INFORMATION

12.1 Where the LA has made an offer of a place at a school on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent which has effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim to a place at the school, the offer of a place may be withdrawn.

12.2 Where a child starts attending the school on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information the place may be withdrawn depending on the length of time that the child has been at school.

12.3 Where a place or an offer has been withdrawn the parent will be asked to submit a new application form. This new application form will then be considered afresh against the relevant admissions policy and co-ordination scheme.

12.4 It is for the parents or guardian to satisfy the LA of their circumstances, as they apply to the admission criteria at the time of the application.

13 EXPLANATORY NOTES

13.1 Admission Numbers

Each maintained school has an Admission Number for each “relevant age” group. Each year, the LA consults with the Governing Body of the school before the Admission Number is set. In the case of year of entry (i.e. Year 7), a child may not normally be refused admission to a school unless the number of applications for admission exceeds the admission number, or a child is offered a school which is ranked higher on a Common Application Form under the respective Co-ordinated Admissions Policy

13.2 Children in Care and Children who were previously in Care

This refers to children who are subject to care orders and interim care orders or who are accommodated by a local authority in full time placements. Children who were previously in care includes children who have been adopted from Local Authority care, or who are subject to a Child Arrangements Order and those with special guardianship immediately following being in care.

13.3 Brothers and Sisters

This category includes children with brothers or sisters (including step-brothers or sisters residing at the same address) of statutory school age, living at the same

address, in attendance at the same school, or a school on the same site, on the date of admission.

13.2 Catchment Areas

The LA believes it is important that schools should serve their local communities and so each one has its own catchment area. However, parents are required to express a preference, stating their choice of school, even if this is within their catchment area.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that there will be a place for every child in its catchment area school, it cannot be guaranteed that this will always be the case.

If parents are in any doubt about the catchment area school for the area in which they live, they need to contact their local school or the School Admissions Team. Further information is also available for parents in the “Secondary and Primary Guide for Parents”.

The home addresses of some pupils may fall into an area that forms part of the catchment area of two schools (this is known as an Option area). Where a pupil’s address falls within two catchment areas, the LA will consider the application as children who live in the catchment area for both schools.

13.5 Families Living Outside the District Boundary

Children from families living outside the Wakefield Metropolitan District boundary will be considered alongside those who live within the Wakefield Metropolitan District.

13.6 Address

The LA will investigate any queries about addresses and, depending on what is found the offer of a school place may be withdrawn. When an offer is made, it is assumed the parental address will be the same in the following September as is held on the LA’s records. If a parent plans to move or has moved house, the parent must let us know immediately. If the house move is after the 6 January 2020 for Secondary places, the parent must tell the LA the new address. The date of the move may affect the category of the child and the LA may have to offer the child a place at another school. If the parent fails to tell the LA that they have moved, the LA will still consider the application under the new address and the offer of a school place may be withdrawn or the LA may offer a place at another school.

13.7 Parental Disputes

Parental Responsibility gives both parents important legal rights as well as responsibilities to be involved in decisions such as the choice of school. If the LA receives conflicting school preferences from both parents, the LA will require evidence of parental consent to the application, in the form of written confirmation from both parents with parental responsibility.

In the event that parents are unable to agree on a choice of school, parents are advised to take their own legal advice with a view to making an application to the court for a Specific Issue Order to decide which parent should be responsible for securing a school place for their child. However, the Courts would encourage parents to come to an agreement and to resolve the issue between themselves. The LA will require evidence of any such Order.

Until the LA receives the relevant evidence, the LA will be unable to process the application or allocate the child a school place.

14. Local Authority Policy

This policy has been adopted from the Wakefield MDC School Admissions Policy 2020/2021 Version 3.0 dated 18 February 2019.