



## TRUST IN LEARNING (ACADEMIES)

### ORCHARD SCHOOL BRISTOL ADMISSIONS POLICY



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### ADMISSION POLICY

#### FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2022 INTAKE

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Orchard School Bristol (**School**) is a mixed secondary academy located in Horfield, Bristol. It is part of Trust in Learning (Academies) (**Trust**), a multi academy trust.
- 1.2 Admission to all state funded schools is governed by the School Admissions Code 2014 (**Code**). Under the Code, the Trust is the 'Admission Authority' for the School, and has a legal duty to formally determine the 'admission arrangements' for each year's intake in accordance with the requirements of the Code.
- 1.3 The Trust Board determines the admission arrangements each year, however the application of the admission arrangements to admission applications, and other admission related tasks (for example, the consideration of Request for Admission Outside Normal Age Group), is delegated to a committee of three Local Governors of the School called the Local Governing Body Admission Committee.
- 1.4 This policy and all other admission related documents referred to herein and used during the admission process, together form the School's admission arrangements. Any proposed changes to the admission arrangements are subject to statutory consultation before they can be determined. Determined admission arrangements can only be varied in specific circumstances, and usually only with Secretary of State consent.

#### **2 Definition of a 'Parent'**

- 2.1 In this policy and in education law, the definition of a 'parent' includes a natural or adoptive parent of the child (regardless of whether they child lives with them, has contact with them, or they have parental responsibility for the child). It also includes a person who is not a natural or adoptive parent of the child, but who has care of and/or parental responsibility for the child.

#### **3 Inclusivity and Equality**

- 3.1 The School is fully inclusive and welcome applications for the admission of children with special educational needs (**SEN**), physical, mental or behavioural disabilities and other protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010. The School's admission arrangements are determined and implemented with its equality duties in mind, including the public sector equality duty (**PSED**).

#### **4 Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC plan)**

- 4.1 Children with an EHC plan are admitted to school under separate statutory procedures which are managed by the child's home Local Authority, not under the school's determined admission arrangements. Parents of children with an EHC plan should therefore liaise with their child's home Local Authority's SEN team if they want them to propose to name the School in their child's EHC plan and consult with the School as to the suitability of the proposed placement.
- 4.2 Where, after consultation, the child's home Local Authority names the School in the child's EHC plan, the child will be admitted. Where this happens in the normal admission round (i.e. entry to Reception Year or Year 7 in September), these children will be allocated their places before all other applicants, which will reduce the

number of places left within the published admission number (**PAN**). At other times, they child will be admitted whether or not the PAN will be exceeded.

## **5 Published Admission Numbers (PANs)**

5.1 The PAN for **Year 7** is **185** pupils.

## **6 Oversubscription Criteria for Reception Year and Year 7**

6.1 Where there are more applications than places available, the order in which places will be allocated will be as follows:

### **6.1.1 Looked after and previously looked after children**

A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions, in England. A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after in England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements or residence order, or a special guardianship order.

Applications in this category must be accompanied by a signed letter from the child's social worker or former social worker confirming their status, to be received by the application deadline in the normal admission round.

### **6.1.2 Children living in the First Priority Area with a sibling at Orchard School Bristol**

The child's home address (as defined below) must be located in the Orchard School First Priority Area defined in the map contained in **Appendix 1** of this policy, and the sibling must attend Orchard School Bristol in Year 7 to Year 11 at the time of application/the application deadline **and** when the applicant child is admitted.

For the purpose of this category, a 'sibling' is a full sibling (sharing both parents), a half sibling (sharing one parent), an adopted sibling, a long term foster sibling (i.e. not a temporary placement), a step sibling (one child's parent married to the other child's parent), or a child of their parent's cohabiting partner. In all cases, the sibling must live at the child's home address (as defined by this policy) as part of the same core family unit. For the avoidance of doubt, a child of a friend or extended family member (e.g. cousin) will **not** be a 'sibling' for this purpose, even if they live at the same address as the applicant child.

For inclusion in this category, parents must state the sibling's details in the application form.

### **6.1.3 All other children living in the First Priority Area**

The child's home address (as defined below) must be located in the Orchard School First Priority Area defined in the map contained in **Appendix 1** of this policy.

### **6.1.4 All other children with a sibling at Orchard School Bristol**

The sibling must attend Orchard School Bristol in Year 7 to Year 11 at the time of application/the application deadline **and** when the applicant child is admitted.

For the purpose of this category, a 'sibling' is a full sibling (sharing both parents), a half sibling (sharing one parent), an adopted sibling, a long term foster sibling (i.e. not a temporary placement), a step sibling (one child's parent married to the other child's parent), or a child of their parent's cohabiting partner. In all cases, the sibling must live at the child's home address (as defined by this

policy) as part of the same core family unit. For the avoidance of doubt, a child of a friend or extended family member (e.g. cousin) will **not** be a 'sibling' for this purpose, even if they live at the same address as the applicant child.

For inclusion in this category, parents must state the sibling's details in the application form.

#### 6.1.5 **All other children**

This category will include all children who do not fall into any of the oversubscription categories above.

### **7 Tie Breaker**

- 7.1 Where there are more applications than places remaining in any of the oversubscription categories, the order in which places will be allocated will be determined by the distance between the child's home address (as defined by this policy) and the School, with those living nearest receiving highest priority.
- 7.2 Distance will be measured in a straight line from the designated point in the child's home address to the designated point within the school building using Bristol City Council's 's' dedicated software for this purpose.
- 7.3 Where the child lives in a multi-dwelling building (for example, an apartment block), distance will be measured from same designated point in the building so that the distance will be the same for all children living there.
- 7.4 Where two or more children live an equal distance from the School (including where they live in the same multi-dwelling building), the order in which places are allocated will be determined by random allocation supervised by someone who is independent of the School.

### **8 Child's Home Address**

- 8.1 The child's home address is the residential (not business) address of their parent (as defined in this policy) at which they live and sleep for more than 50% of their time from Sunday to Thursday night during term time. It will usually be the address at which they are registered with their GP, hospital, dentist and/or optician, at the time of application.
- 8.2 Where any uncertainty arises in respect of the child's home address, the School reserves the right to seek documentary evidence to determine which address meets the definition stated above. For the avoidance of doubt, it is the address which meets this definition that will be used to process the application, which may not be the address given by the parent.
- 8.3 Where the child/child's family is/are not living in the area of the Academy at the time the application is submitted, the application will still be accepted and processed. However, the address used will be the child's current address unless the application is supported by documentary evidence of the future new address which will meet the definition set out above (for example, a signed tenancy agreement, formal mortgage offer, HMLR title deed/document, NHS/GP registration card/letter, etc.).
- 8.4 In the case of the children of UK Armed Forces personnel or Crown servants, if the application is accompanied by an official letter confirming a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address, that address will be used to process the application before the family relocates.

### **9 Twins, Triplets and Siblings of a Higher Multiple Birth**

- 9.1 Where a twin, triplet(s) or sibling(s) of a higher multiple birth achieves a place at the School within the PAN in the normal way, but their twin, triplet(s) or sibling(s) of a higher multiple birth does not achieve a place, the School will admit their twin, triplet(s) or sibling(s) of a higher multiple birth even where this means exceeding

the PAN.

## **10 Application Procedure for Admission to Year 7 in September**

- 10.1 Applications for admission to Year 7 in September are known as applications made 'in the normal admission round'.
- 10.2 Applications in the normal admission round must be made **directly to the child's home Local Authority** by completing and submitting a Common Application Form (CAF), which is available to download/complete online via the child's home Local Authority's website, by the application deadline. Parents must state a preference for the School in the CAF.
- 10.3 Parents should carefully consider the oversubscription criteria stated above to determine whether other documentation must be submitted in support of the application. This documentation must be submitted to the child's home Local Authority **by the application deadline**. If not, the child will be placed in the next oversubscription category that applies.
- 10.4 The application deadline for admission to Year 7 in the normal admission round is **Monday, 1 November 2021**.
- 10.5 National Offer Day for admission to Year 7 in the normal admission round is **Tuesday, 1 March 2022**.
- 10.6 Applications received after an application deadline will be treated as **late applications**, which means they will be processed after all on-time applications have been processed and places allocated thereby reducing the chances of the child being offered a place.

## **11 Application Procedure for In-Year Admission (Mid-Year/Other Year Groups)**

- 11.1 Applications for admission to Year 7 other than in September, and to Years 8 to 11 at any time, are known as applications made 'outside the normal admission round' or 'in-year admission'.
- 11.2 Applications for in-year admission must be made **directly to the School, not the Local Authority**, by completing an In-Year Admission Application Form and submitting it to the School marked for the attention of the Clerk to the Local Governing Body Admission Committee. This form is available to download on the School's website or in hard copy from the School's main office.
- 11.3 Parents should carefully consider the oversubscription criteria stated above to determine whether other documentation must be submitted in support of the application. This documentation must be submitted at the same time as the application, or the child will be placed in the next oversubscription category that applies.

## **12 Waiting List**

- 12.1 The School operates a waiting list for children who are unsuccessful in achieving a place in all year groups throughout the school year.
- 12.2 The waiting list is ranked strictly in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in this policy, and not by reference to the date that the child's name was added to the list. This means that a child's name can go down as well as up the waiting list as more names are added.
- 12.3 Children placed at the School under the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol will take priority over children on the waiting list.



### 13 **Statutory Right of Appeal**

- 13.1 Parents have a statutory right of appeal against the refusal of a place at the School. This applies to all year groups.
- 13.2 Full details of the statutory right of appeal will be set out in the formal letter notifying parents of the refusal of a place, including the deadline for lodging an appeal.
- 13.3 The School will also publish an appeals timetable for appeals against the refusal of a place in the normal admission round (i.e. to Year 7 in September) alongside this policy on or before 28 February in the year in which offers are made.

### 14 **Requests for Admission Outside Normal Age Group**

- 14.1 Parents have a right to request that their child is admitted to a year group other than their normal year group at the School. This may be to a year group below or above, and there may be a variety of reasons for making this request. For example, the child might be gifted, suffer from long-term or serious illness, or have been educated overseas and/or used to studying at a different level (these are examples only, not an exhaustive list).
- 14.2 However, parents do not have a right to decide that their child **will** be admitted outside their normal age group. Such requests must be considered by the Local Governing Body Admission Committee, in order to decide whether or not to agree the request **in principle**, or refuse the request, taking into account the factors set out below.
- 14.3 Requests for admission outside normal age group are not applications for admission, which must still be made in the usual way. Parents are strongly encouraged to make their requests in a timely manner, preferably well ahead of any application deadlines, so that they can obtain a decision in principle which will enable them to make informed decisions when they subsequently apply for admission. A separate request must be made to the Admission Authority for each school being considered.
- 14.4 The Local Governing Body Admission Committee will make decisions on the basis of **the circumstances of each case** and in the **best interests of the child concerned**, taking into account the parents' views, information about the child's academic, social and emotional development, the child's medical history and the views of their medical professionals, whether they have previously been educated or attended nursery out of their normal age group, and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group, if it were not for being born prematurely. They will also take into account the views of the Headteacher of the Academy and, where provided, the Headteacher of any current or previous school. This is not an exhaustive list, and parents may put forward any matters for the committee to consider.
- 14.5 Parents should make their requests by completing a Request for Admission Outside Normal Age Group Form and submitting it with any supporting documents to the School marked for the attention of the Clerk to the Local Governing Body Admission Committee. This form is available to download on the School's website or in hard copy from the School's main office.
- 14.6 In all cases, the Local Governing Body Admission Committee will notify parents of the outcome of their request formally in writing, explaining its reasons in sufficient detail for parents to understand why it came to that decision. Where the request is agreed in principle, this letter should accompany the application for admission subsequently made for a place at the School.
- 14.7 Parents do not have a statutory right of appeal against a refusal of a request for admission outside normal age group, but they may submit a complaint under the School's published Complaints Policy if they do not believe the request was dealt with properly.

**15 Review and determination of the School's admission arrangements**

- 15.1 The term 'admission arrangements' means *"The overall procedure, practices and oversubscription criteria used in deciding the allocation of school places including any device or means used to determine whether a school place is to be offered"*. The admission arrangements therefore include not only this policy, but all other admission related documents and any other published information about the School's admission processes.
- 15.2 Under the Code, the Admission Authority for a school must formally determine the admission arrangements for the next intake at that school every year on or before 28 February. Where no changes (other than changing dates/deadlines) are proposed, there is no need to consult. However, where changes are proposed (other than a proposed increase in PAN), the Admission Authority must carry out a 6 week statutory consultation in accordance with the Code between 1 October and 31 January ahead of determination of the admission arrangements. The Admission Authority must in consult on the admission arrangements every 7 years where no changes have been made during that period.
- 15.3 Once determined, the School's admission arrangements for that intake must be published and a copy provided to the Local Authority. Determined admission arrangements cannot be varied except in very limited circumstances to correct a mistake or give effect to a decision of a Schools Adjudicator. Any other variations will require Secretary of State consent, which will only be granted where there has been a 'major change in circumstances'.
- 15.4 The admission arrangements for the September 2022 intake were determined by the Trust Board at their meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021. They will be reviewed again early in the Autumn term for the next intake.

## APPENDIX 1 - ORCHARD SCHOOL FIRST PRIORITY AREA

