

## **Consultation on proposal to change the published admission number and over-subscription criteria for Ashington Academy and Bedlington Academy.**

The Trustees of the North East Learning Trust are required to determine our school admissions arrangements every year. This involves reviewing a range of related factors and then deciding whether any changes need to be made.

In considering the options this year, we have identified some developments, including the Academies joining the North East Learning Trust, changes to the admissions offer at several local schools and a growing body of evidence around parental preferences, and in addition, admission authorities are currently required to give looked after children and previously looked after children highest priority in their oversubscription criteria. The Government is intending to amend the School Admissions Code 'when the opportunity arises' to ensure that children who are previously in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, also receive the same high priority for admission into a school in England. Until such time however, the Government wishes Admissions Authorities to introduce oversubscription criteria to give these children second highest priority for admission into school.

The consultation will take place between 15 October 2018 and 7 December 2018.

### **Proposed PAN and Admission Arrangements for 2020/2021**

#### **Introduction**

The North East Learning Trust is the Admissions Authority responsible for determining and applying this policy in the following Academies:

- Ashington Academy
- Bedlington Academy

The Trust will consider all admission applications sent to them by the Local Authority (LA) and will apply the policy fairly and consistently to every application received.

#### **Published Admission Number (PAN)**

The PAN is the number of places we intend to make available for our normal intake. Once the PAN has been set for an Academy we will not refuse any applications submitted during the normal admission round for Year 7 where the PAN has not been exceeded.

However, if there is an unexpectedly high demand and the Trust believes we could admit additional children, we will inform the LA and either admit children above the agreed PAN or increase the PAN accordingly to accommodate more children.

The current PAN for the Academies is:

<b>Academy</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Current PAN</b>	<b>Proposed PAN 2020/2021</b>
Ashington	Secondary	210	180
Bedlington	Secondary	122 28 Year 9	150

### **Applying for a place in Year 7 in Northumberland**

To apply for a place at Ashington and Bedlington Academy parents/carers should complete the common application form supplied by Northumberland County Council. The completed application form must be returned to the Local Authority by no later than **31 October 2020**. Any application forms received after that date will be classed as 'late' and will not be dealt with until all applications received on time have been through the application process.

### **Oversubscription Criteria for Ashington Academy and Bedlington Academy**

#### **1. Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order\*.**

A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions. (see definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.

#### **2. Children who appear to the admission authority of the school to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.**

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

#### **3. Medical reasons**

Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.

#### **4. Sibling links**

Children who have a sibling already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at the time of admission.

#### **5. Children of staff employed at the Academy**

Children of staff employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made and/or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage, and/or the member of staff has relocated.

## **6. Distance**

Distance from the front door of the child's home to main gate of the school will be the deciding factor with preference being given to those whose home address is nearest to the school as measured in a straight line ('as the crow flies'). The distance checker is contained within the EMS school admissions software using GIS data. Distance checking is an integral function within the school admissions software ensuring consistency in measurement.

This will be based on the child's address. Where the last place to be allocated would mean that a multiple birth sibling group i.e. twins, triplets, or other multiple birth sibling groups, would be split, the sibling group will be given priority over other children. Otherwise, if only one final place can be offered, and two applicants live equidistant from the Academy, the LA's system of random allocation will apply.

Children with disabilities will be treated no less favourably than other applicants for admission. Schools are under a duty to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that pupils with disabilities are not placed at a substantial disadvantage, and no child will be refused a place on the grounds of disability. A pupil has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

In cases where an application for a place has been unsuccessful, parents may request that the child's name be placed on a waiting list for the school in question. Waiting lists can only apply to transfer year groups and will only be maintained until 31st December of the year in question. A place on the waiting list does not affect your right to appeal.

Those parents whose application to a school has been unsuccessful will be notified of their right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 gives this right to all parents whose application for a school has been unsuccessful. The decision of an Appeal Panel is binding on both the Admission Authority and the school. The School Admissions Appeals Code can be found on the DfE website at: [www.DfE.gov.uk](http://www.DfE.gov.uk).

## **Late applications for a Northumberland School Place**

If your application is late and is not considered as exceptional, you will not be offered a place on 2 March 2020. This will be the case even if you live in the catchment area for the school. If you are a Northumberland resident, you will get an offer on or after 1 March 2020.

## **Notification of Places**

The formal offer of a place will be issued by the LA who will write to parents/carers on **2 March 2020**.

### **Waiting lists/appeals**

The Academy will maintain the waiting list. Positions on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Unsuccessful applicants may also contact Mrs J Barker, Governance Manager, North East Learning Trust by telephone 0191 5270757 Extension 202 or email [joanne.barker@nelt.co.uk](mailto:joanne.barker@nelt.co.uk) to be advised of their right to an Independent Appeal Panel and/or request to be included on the waiting list.

### **Withdrawing an offer of a place**

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw an offer of a place if:

- It was made in error;
- Parent/carer fails to respond to the offer of a place within the agreed deadline;
- It is established that the offer of a place was obtained through fraudulent or misleading application.

The North East Learning Trust welcome comments on the proposal to change the PAN, to have a PAN for Years 7 to 11, and the oversubscription criteria.

Responses to the consultation can be sent by email to [joanne.barker@nelt.co.uk](mailto:joanne.barker@nelt.co.uk) or by post to Joanne Barker, Governance Manager, Easington Academy, Stockton Road, Easington, County Durham, SR8 3AY. The deadline for responses is 5pm on Friday 7 December 2018.