



PPA Admissions Policy 2016.17

Tees Valley Education Trust

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1. INTRODUCTION

Admissions Policy for 2016/17; Pennyman Primary Academy, Tees Valley Education

Trustees of Tees Valley Education have adopted the Middlesbrough's Admissions Policy and Coordinated Scheme.

2. RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

The Local Authority has a standard form which is used for the purpose of admitting pupils into reception classes (applications can also be made online). Both applications routes specify the closing date and, in the case of the paper application, the address to which the form must be returned. This year, applications for reception places must be submitted by 15th January 2016. Parents will be informed of the decision no later than the 16th April 2016. Any appeals against decisions should be submitted as soon as possible. In such cases, final decisions are made during June/July following independent panel hearings.

Application forms received after the closing date will be dealt with after all the other applications unless there is a good reason for their lateness, e.g. if a family moves into the area. In these cases, the application can be considered along with all of those that came in on time, providing the allocation of places has not already been completed.

Waiting lists for reception places continue to be maintained by the LA until the end of the Autumn Term. Any places that become available during this time will be allocated in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria (see below).

3. MID-YEAR ADMISSIONS

Applications for places in the reception class after the end of the autumn term and for other year groups are coordinated by the Local Authority. Parents should contact the LA Admissions Team or the academy to enquire about the availability of places and to request a 'Mid-Year Preference Form' (MYPF). Once completed, this form should be returned to the LA Admissions Team within five school days. If the form is not returned during this period, the parent will be contacted by the Admissions Team. Wherever possible, children should continue to attend their current school/academy until the transfer has been considered and agreed. Failure to return the form within the five days whilst children are not attending a school may mean that the Children Missing Education Officer and Education Welfare Service will be informed.

Prior to making an application to the academy, parents are encouraged to visit and should contact the academy office (01642 210704) to make arrangements. If a parent wishes to submit a MYPF during their visit to the academy, the administrative team will be happy to forward the form to the LA on their behalf.

The MYPF gives parents an opportunity to express up to three preferences and give their reasons for each preference. All preferences expressed will be considered on an equal weighting basis. Where a pupil is eligible for more than one place, they will be offered the highest ranked preference that has available places by the LA as the admissions authority, or on behalf of another LA or the admissions authority of a VA, Foundation School or Academy. If a place cannot be offered at a preferred school/academy, a place will be offered at the nearest alternative school that has places available.

The offer of a place is made by the LA Admissions Team and pupils will not be admitted to Brambles Primary Academy until a place has been confirmed with the academy.

If a pupil wishing to attend Pennyman Primary Academy already attends a Middlesbrough primary school/academy, parents should, in the first instance, discuss the transfer with the pupil's current school/academy. If, following this discussion, they still want the transfer to proceed, they should then contact the LA Admissions Team to request a MYPF. The parent/carer should return the form to the LA within five school days. The LA will then contact the academy to confirm whether there is a place available. In the event that a place is available, then a start date will be agreed.

If Pennyman Primary Academy has reached its admission limit, and is unable to admit further pupils, a place will be refused and the parent/carers will be informed of their right to appeal against the decision and be issued with appeal forms. In exceptional circumstances, the academy may refuse to admit a pupil even when there are places available. Again, parents have a right of appeal against this decision. Information on the appeals process is included in the correspondence from the LA Admissions Team.

4. IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is important that parents ensure that the correct forms are used in all applications as those not presented on the agreed forms will not be considered unless the parent has also completed either the Middlesbrough paper or online application or, if resident in another area, their home area's application form upon which the academy is nominated.

5. PRIMARY ADMISSIONS - DETERMINING OFFERS IN RESPONSE TO APPLICATIONS.

The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of mainstream places by the relevant admission authorities. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed where:

- (a) it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority; or
- (b) an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or
- (c) an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.

6. ADMISSION NUMBER FOR 2016 / 2017

Admission numbers are set with regard to the assessed capacity of schools.

However, these numbers may vary depending upon future plans and developments which impact on the physical capacity of the academy

Brambles Primary can currently admit 45 mainstream children into each year group. Where there are more applications made than places available, then all places are allocated using the following over-subscription criteria.

7. OVER-SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

- (a) children who are cared for by the Local Authority

Children who are looked after or who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.

A looked after child is a child who is (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 (Section 22(1) of the Children's Act 1989).

(b) children who are permanently resident in the admission zone defined for the academy.

For the purposes of determining whether a child lives within the admission zone, only the address at which the parent/guardian ordinarily resides and with whom the child normally lives will be taken into account. If parents are separated and the child lives for periods of time with both parents, the address used will be of the parent who receives child benefit for the child. You may be asked to provide proof. Short term tenancies entered into with the prime objective of securing admission for a child at a particular school will not qualify as places of ordinary residence.

The Authority will take action should false information be submitted in order to secure a place at a particular school/academy.

(c) children not living in the admission zone who have elder brothers or sisters attending the academy in the 2016/17 school year.

Brothers and sisters and step brothers and sisters will qualify under this criterion as long as they both live at the same permanent address and the elder sibling is still attending the academy in the 2016/17 school year.

Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

(d) children not living within the admission zone who have exceptional social and/or medical reasons for attending a particular school/academy, professionally supported by an independent third party and sustained by the authority's professional advisors.

Social reasons generally do not include domestic circumstances such as parents' working commitments, childcare arrangements, separation from friends.

In the case of medical reasons, evidence would need to demonstrate the exceptional long-term nature of the condition. All mainstream schools are able to cater for a wide range of medical needs which may be encountered by children.

You are strongly urged to provide independent third party information (e.g. from a professional person who knows or is involved with your child) in support of any exceptional long term medical or social reason as to why you think your child should be given special consideration for placement in a particular school. This written support must make clear why the preferred school is the only school which could meet your child's needs.

The submission of independent information will not automatically guarantee a place under this criterion. However, the evidence will be carefully considered by the authority's professional advisors as to whether or not your application falls into this category.

(e) children living closest to the school

The distance from home to school will be measured by computer on a straight line basis using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the school.

8. TIE - BREAK

If it is necessary to distinguish between children within categories (a)-(d), places will be offered using the criteria listed above in priority order and determined by criteria (e) - measurement on a straight line basis using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the school.

In the case of a tie break in category (e), the final allocation will be determined using the shortest walking route using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the school.