

SUNNYSIDE ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2015/2016 and 2016/2017

Sunnyside Academy is the Admissions' Authority for the academy however the academy works with Middlesbrough Local Authority who coordinate admissions into Reception class and Year 7.

Admission Numbers

Sunnyside Academy has an agreed Published Admission Number (PAN) of 50 pupils for entry in Reception Year. The Academy will accordingly admit at least 50 pupils in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 50 or fewer apply.

Proposed Application Procedures and Timetables

It is proposed that the timetable, for both Primary and Secondary Admissions Schemes for 2016/17 is similar to previous years and takes into account the statutory dates in the School Admissions Code.

A summary for each scheme is provided below.

Primary Schools

Middlesbrough has a single admission date, with all reception pupils admitted full-time in September 2016.

Parents can defer the date their child is admitted to school until later in the academic year or until the child reaches compulsory school age*, but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the academic year. Parents can also request that their child takes up the place part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

*A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their fifth birthday. (Or on the fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day) The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August
The application procedures for admission to reception classes are in accordance with the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme and are similar to those for Secondary Schools, but with a different timetable for the process. It should be noted that all children requiring a reception place at a school must apply for a place even if the child attends the school's nursery.

Parents/carers will be provided with their application forms in November 2015, with the national closing date of 15 January 2016. Parents must complete an application and can express up to three preferences for primary schools, including academies, voluntary aided schools, foundation schools and schools maintained by other Local Authorities.

The exchange of information with other local authorities will be completed by 28 March 2016.

All preferences are considered equally and parents will be informed of their allocated schools on 16 April 2016.

Parents/carers will be able to make on-line applications for admissions for the 2016/17 school year via the Middlesbrough Council web site www.middlesbrough.gov.uk.

The timetable for primary school admission arrangements is as follows;

November 2015	Advertisement in local press inviting parents/carers to apply for primary places within the area for September 2016.
16 November 2015	Letter to parents/carers with Common Application Form.
15 January 2016	Closing date for parents/carers to return form or make on-line application.
31 January 2016	List of applicants sent to other admission authorities (i.e. academies, VA schools and other LAs) received by Middlesbrough LA, as the home authority.
6 March 2016	VA Schools, and Academies inform LA of their allocations, as well as list of pupils who have been refused places, with reasons.
March 2016	Exchange of information with other local authorities.
March – April 2016	Local Authority considers preferences and allocated places.
16 April 2016	Letters posted (2nd class) to parents/carers confirming outcome of application. (Emails sent to on-line applicants)
June/July 2016	Appeals as required.

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Applications

Applications for a reception place must be made on the Local Authority common application form in accordance with the Local Authority timetable. Parents will be notified as to whether or not their child has been allocated a place by the Local Authority.

The Local Authority school admissions team can be contacted at the following email address:

admissions@cfl.mgrid.org.uk

Oversubscription Criteria

If the Academy is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan where the school is named in the Statement or Plan, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. 'Children looked after' (in public care), and children previously 'looked after', but ceased to be so because they were adopted* immediately following having been looked after. (* or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order)

2. Pupils permanently resident in the Admission Zone, i.e. the address at which the child is registered for child benefit, who express a preference for that school (proof of address may be required).
3. Pupils who will have a brother and/or step brother and/or sister and/or step sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner living at the same address attending the school in the September of admission.
4. Pupils with exceptional social and / or medical reasons for attending the school, which in the latter circumstances are substantiated by the LA medical advisors. A letter from the child's GP or other relevant professional such as a social worker must be submitted with the application. Social reasons do not include domestic arrangements such as parents working commitments or childcare arrangements. Only exceptional circumstances such as parents who have a disability, which may mean their child must attend a particular school, will be considered. (In this instance a letter from the parent's GP or other relevant professional such as a social worker must be submitted with the application)
5. Pupils who reside closest to a particular school, measured in a straight line. The measure will be taken from the front door of the pupils' home to the main entrance of the school.

When distinguishing between pupils within the same criteria the pupil with the highest second criteria will be admitted i.e. a pupil living within the admission zone who has a brother or sister attending the school in the September of admission will have a higher criteria than a pupil who lives in the admission zone but does not have a brother or sister attending the school.

Please note that a place in the academy nursery is not a guarantee of a reception place in the academy. A separate application must be made for any transfer from nursery to reception.

Tie Breaker

If it is necessary to use a tie-breaker to distinguish between two or more applications, a distance criterion will be used. We will give priority to the applicants who live nearest to the academy as measured by a straight line from the front door of the home of the front door of the main reception of the academy site that was on the original application for a place.

If the distance is the same for two or more applicants, random allocation will be used as a final tie-break. This process will be independently verified.

Late Applications

Whilst every effort will be made to ensure parental applications are received by the published closing date, applications received after the closing date for oversubscribed schools will only be considered if there is evidence of a good reason for the lateness. Examples of good reasons may include when a single parent has been ill for some time, or a family has just moved into the area, or a family is returning from abroad.

Where families have moved to a new address after places have been allocated, preferences will only be agreed if places remain available in the preferred school. If the preferred school, including the admission zone school, is full, a place will be offered at the school closest to the home address with places available.

Any parent (except under very limited circumstances) whose child has been refused a school place, for which they have applied, will be offered the right to appeal against the Admissions Authority's decision.

Operation of waiting lists

Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in the coordinated admission scheme, the Academy will operate a waiting list. Where in any year the Academy receives more Applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the 31st December. This will be maintained by the Academy and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application. Places from the waiting list will be offered in the priority order set out above, not in order of the date applications are made.

Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school

The school provides for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Where the school offers a child a place at the school, that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents may request that (a) the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the same school year (but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made), or (b) their child attends part-time until they reach compulsory school age (but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age). In these circumstances the child must start school full-time no later than the start of the term after their fifth birthday.

The academy's view is that deferral or part-time attendance may be appropriate in exceptional circumstances, for example, where health, educational or care needs would make a deferred start the most beneficial for the child. But generally pupils should commence school in the September following their fourth birthday.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Head Teacher.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

In exceptional circumstances parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child (i.e. a child born from 1 April to 31 August) may prefer not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

The academy's view is that admitting a child outside their normal age group may be appropriate in exceptional circumstances. The academy will take into account all relevant factors on a case-by-case basis including the parent's views; the Head Teacher's views, information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely; and any other relevant factors.

When informing a parent of its decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the academy will set out clearly the reasons for their decision. There is no statutory right of appeal against this decision.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Head Teacher.

Appeals

If the academy is unable to offer a child a place, it will include the reason or reasons for this decision and the relevant deadline for lodging an appeal.

Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Admissions Authority to refuse their child a place in the Academy may apply in writing to the Sunnyside Academy Board of Directors at the following address, setting out their grounds for appeal:

Sunnyside Academy
Manor Farm Way
Coulby Newham
Middlesbrough
TS8 0RJ

Appeals will be heard by an independent panel in accordance with the School Admissions Appeal Code.

Date Written: March 2015

Author: A Dunn

Date adopted by Governors: 25 March 2015 (Pending re-submission)

Review Date: March 2016

Date	Amendment	Signed
17 April 2015	Changes made to reflect revised admissions code December 2014. P3 Oversubscription criteria - change of wording to 'child arrangement order' (previously residence order) P4 Operation of Waiting Lists - change of wording to 31 st December (previously end of the first term) Advice sought from C Hook, Muckle.	AD