



ASPIRE
Academies Trust

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Reviewed: November 2017 Review Frequency: Annual

Purpose

This document sets the way in which the Aspire Academies Trust manages its admissions.

Introduction

The Aspire Academies Trust applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this academy. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 introduced a new framework for school/academy admissions as of September 2000. This policy conforms to the regulations that are set out in that Act and are also further explained in the statutory Schools Admissions Code of Practice and the statutory Appeals Code of Practice.

Aims and objectives

- a. We are inclusive and welcome children from all backgrounds and abilities.
- b. All applications will be treated on merit and in a sensitive manner.
- c. The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we enforce the [Admissions rules set out by Hertfordshire County Council](#) in order to determine whether a child is accepted or not. It is our wish to allow parents the right to have a place at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to the excess demand on the academy places available.
- d. The level of ability of a child plays no part in our admissions policy.

How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our academy

The Local Authority (LA) is the 'Admissions Authority' for our academy. The regulations for entry to each school are published each year by the LA. Parents receive a copy of these regulations directly from the LA.

The LA publishes a composite admissions prospectus each year, which gives information about how parents can apply for a place in the school/academy of their choice. Parents have a right to express a preference for the school/academy of their choice and they should do so on the application form. Expressing a preference does not, in itself, guarantee a place at this academy. Application forms are sent from the Admissions Department of the LA and should be completed by the date stipulated on the forms. Parents are notified by the LA whether they have been successful or not.

We have entry annually in September.

Parents can make an application for their child to start in Reception class in the **September following their 4th birthday**. All schools within the Trust provide full time education for those offered a place in Reception class. Parents of children born between April and August may not defer entry. However, if you feel there are extenuating circumstances you may submit a request in writing to the Principal of the Academy attaching any evidence from professionals to support the case. Each case will be considered on an individual basis and a decision will be taken by the admitting authority which is the Trust.

We have a Continuing Interest list for those who are unsuccessful and wish to be considered for future entry.

Admission appeals

- a. If we do not offer a child a place, it is because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the numbers of children in the academy to increase too much.
- b. If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry they can do so by applying to the LA. An independent appeals panel then meets to consider all appeals by parents who have been refused a place and who wish to appeal against this decision. An appeals panel's decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to our academy, then we will accept this and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our academy. (Details of appeal arrangements are set out in the Code of Practice on Academy Admissions Appeals, which came into force in September 1999.)
- c. In the event that an in-year application is refused, parents have the right of appeal to the academy's Governing Body.

The standard number is 30 into Nursery, and 30 from Reception

The standard number is the number of children the academy can accommodate. We keep this number under review and the governors may apply to change the number if circumstances allow.

Class Size

Our aim is to teach children in classes of no more than 30.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually in the light of any changed circumstances in our academy or the local area.