

## Darlington Local Authority

### Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Schools in Darlington 2016-17

#### Introduction

1. This scheme is made by Darlington Local Authority under The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and The School Information (England) Regulations 2008 and applied to all schools in the Darlington area.
2. The co-ordinated scheme is for the academic year 2016/17 and shall apply to every school in Darlington Authority area (except Beaumont Hill Special School and Marchbank Free School) and will take effect from September 2015.
3. The scheme is determined in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 1 and processed in accordance with the timetable set out in Schedule 2.

#### Interpretation

4. In this scheme –

“the LA” means Darlington Borough Council acting in their capacity as a local authority;

“the LA area” means the area in respect of which the LA are the local authority;

“primary education” has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Education Act 1996;

“primary school” has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996;

“secondary education” has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“secondary school” has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“school” means a community, foundation or voluntary school (but not a special school) which is maintained by the LA;

“academy school” as defined in Section 1A of the Academies Act 2010;

“admission authority” has the meaning as in section 88(1)(4) of the SSFA 1998 and in relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the LA and, in relation to a Foundation, Academy or VA school means the governing body of that school;

“the specified year” means the school year beginning at or about the beginning of September 2016;

“admission arrangements” means the arrangements for a particular school or schools which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school;

“in-year admission” means any application for a place in the first year of primary or secondary education that is received after 1 September 2016;

“eligible for a place” means that a child has been placed on a school’s ranked list at such a point which falls within the school’s published admission number;

“nearest appropriate school” is defined as a school closest to the home address that has places available”.

## Schedule 1

### PART I - THE SCHEME

1. There will be 2 standard application forms supplied by the Local Authority for parents living in the Darlington area who wish to express a preference(s) for a school in the Authority area or to a school(s) in another LA area at the normal point of entry. The forms will be known locally as the Secondary School Admission Form (SSA) and the Primary School Admission Form (PSA). For any family wishing to make an application in-year, they will be requested to complete a standard In-Year Admission Form (IYAF)
2. The SSA will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into the first year of secondary education in the specified year.
3. The PSA will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into the first year of primary education in the specified year.
4. The IYAF will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into any year group of statutory education in the specified year after September of the normal year of entry.
5. The forms must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents resident in the LA area wishing to express a preference for their child(ren):
  - a. to be admitted to a maintained school, VA or Academy school within the LA area;
  - b. to be admitted to a school located in another LA’s area (including VA, Foundation schools and Academies).
6. The forms will invite the parent to express up to three preferences (five for primary at the normal point of entry) and give their reasons for each preference by completing the form and explain that the parent will receive no more than one offer of a school place and that:
  - a. all preferences expressed will be considered on an equal weighting basis but where a child is eligible for more than one place it will be the highest ranked school for which they are eligible that they will be offered by the LA as the admissions authority, or on behalf of another LA, and admission authority of a VA, Foundation or Academy School;
  - b. if a place cannot be offered at a nominated school, then the parent will be offered a place at the nearest alternative school that has places available.
  - c. at the normal point specify the closing date and where it must be returned, in accordance with paragraph 12.
7. The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to issue a SSA/PSA to every child living in the Darlington area who is due to transfer to secondary/primary education in September 2016 and the SSA/PSA is accompanied by a written explanation of the co-ordinated admissions scheme.
8. The LA will ensure that a supplementary form will be available for parents to complete who express a preference for a faith school.

9. All preferences expressed on the forms are valid applications. The governing body of a faith school can require parents who wish to nominate, or have nominated, their school on the SSA/PSA, to provide additional information on a supplementary form only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a supplementary form is required it must be returned to the LA, along with the SSA/PSA.

10. Where a school receives a form in error it should inform the maintaining LA, whether the parent lives in that area or not, so that the home LA can ensure that a form is received with preferences and ranking.

11. Where a school receives a supplementary form from a Darlington resident it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed the appropriate form and the school is nominated on it. Where supplementary forms are received directly by a faith school, the school must inform the LA immediately so it can verify whether the appropriate form has been received from the parent and, if not, contact the parent and ask them to complete a form. Under the requirements of the scheme, parents will not be under any obligation to complete an individual school's supplementary form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.

### **Processing of SSA/PSAs**

12. The closing date for secondary applications is 31st October 2015 and primary applications 15th January 2016. Completed SSA/PSAs are to be returned to the LA.

13. SSAs received after the closing date but before Friday 6th November 2015 will be considered by the Authority if there are exceptional/individual circumstances which prevented the submission of the SSA by the stated deadline. The same will apply for PSAs but consideration will be given up to and including Friday 22nd January 2016. Consideration will be given to families who have moved into the area, single parents who have been ill for some time or for parents who have been dealing with the death of a close relative. All must provide clear evidence for the LA to make a decision to accept their application. All SSA/PSAs will be considered on an individual basis, if the reason given is unacceptable then the application will be considered after the applications received by the deadline and the decision of the LA will be final. This allows for co-ordination between other LA's and admission authorities.

14. For secondary school applications by 13th November 2015 where parents have nominated a school outside the LA area, the LA will notify the relevant authority(s).

15. For primary school applications by 29th January 2016 where parents have nominated a school outside the LA area, the LA will notify the relevant authority(s).

16. For secondary school applications by 4th December 2015 the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every nomination that has been made for that school, including all relevant details and any supplementary forms received by this date, which schools require in order to apply their oversubscription criteria.

17. For primary school applications by 5th February 2016 the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every nomination that has been made for that school, including all relevant details and any supplementary forms received by this date, which schools require in order to apply their oversubscription criteria.

## Determining offers in response to the SSA/PSA

18. The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the SSA/PSAs. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the SSA/PSA where it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority or an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.

19. By 8th January 2016 schools' within Darlington Authority will have considered all applications for their secondary schools and informed the LA. By 5th February 2016 other LA's and their admissions authority schools will have considered the applications for their schools. They will then provide the LA with a list of those applicants ranked according to the school's oversubscription criteria who may potentially be offered a place at the school up to the PAN. Applicants that are refused also need to be listed in order of oversubscription criteria. The LA will compare the lists from all admission authorities against the schools nominated on the SSA. Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools that school will be provisionally allocated to the child.

20. By 4th March 2016 VA and Academies within Darlington Authority will have considered all applications for their primary schools and informed the LA. By 11th March 2016 other LA's and their admission authority schools will have considered the applications for their schools. They will then provide the LA with a list of those applicants ranked according to the school's oversubscription criteria who may potentially be offered a place at the school up to the PAN. Applicants that are refused also need to be listed in order of oversubscription criteria. The LA will compare the lists from all admission authorities against the schools nominated on the PSA. Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools that school will be provisionally allocated to the child.

21. Where a child is eligible for a place at more than one school, then a place will be provisionally offered at the highest ranked school for which they are eligible.

22. Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, the child will be provisionally allocated a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy.

23. The LA will consult with all relevant admission authorities until the allocation of places is resolved.

24. By 8th February 2016 the LA will negotiate with other LA's to finalise offer of places and by 15th February 2016 the LA will inform its secondary schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools.

25. By 14th March 2016 the LA will negotiate with other LA's to finalise offer of places and by 21st March 2016 the LA will inform its primary schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools.

26. Where no SSA/PSA was received, an offer of a place will be made at the nearest appropriate school with vacancies, to the permanent home address of the child.

**27. On 1st March 2016 (or the next working day) for secondary places and on 16th April 2016 (or the next working day) for primary places,** parents will be notified that they are being offered a place at an allocated school. The letter will give the following information:

a. the name of the school at which a place is offered whether it be an offer by the LA or on behalf of another admission authority;

- b. the reasons why the child is not being offered a place at each of the other schools nominated on the SSA/PSA;
  - c. information about their statutory right of appeal against the decision to refuse places at the other nominated schools;
  - d. contact details for the school and LA (and those nominated VA or Academy schools where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the governing body);
- e. where the child has been refused a place at a nominated VA, VC or Academy school, an invitation for the child's name to be added to a waiting list. The LA will operate waiting lists until the end of December 2016, to fill places that may become available in the first term of the school year.
- f. what to do if the place offered is in another LA;
  - g. what to do if an offer was not made at the preferred school which was within another LA, who to contact and the timescale in which to do so.
28. Parents will have initial 14 working days to respond to the offer letter to accept/decline the school place offered. They will then receive a reminder letter and after 21 working days the LA will then look to withdraw the offer.

## **PART II - LATE APPLICATIONS**

- a) SSAs received after 31st October 2015 (late applications) will be considered only in exceptional circumstances, e.g. families who have moved into the area after the closing date (refer to 13). These late applications will be considered up to and including Friday 6th November 2015.
- b) PSAs received after 15th January 2016 (late applications) will be considered only in exceptional circumstances, e.g. families who have moved into the area after the closing date (refer to 13). These late applications will be considered up to and including Friday 22nd January 2016.
- c) In any other circumstances SSA/PSAs received after the closing date (late applications) will be held on a waiting list for consideration once the process has been applied to those applications who had submitted forms by the required deadline.

## **PART III - WAITING LISTS**

- a) A child's position on a waiting list(s) will be determined by the oversubscription criteria for the relevant admission authority. If a parent/carer wishes to add their child's name to a waiting list for a school that they were refused a place at, then they must complete the 'options' form that will be attached to their offer letter.
- b) Vacancies often arise at short notice and those on the waiting list should be prepared to take up a place as soon as it occurs. Places will not be held for later consideration. The LA will

maintain waiting lists for schools for Reception and Year 7 pupils only, until the end of December 2016. Thereafter normal transfer/in-year admission arrangements will operate.

c) If a parent/carer did not initially apply for a school but then wishes to do so, they then must apply. Parent/carers must complete the section on the 'options' form indicating their wish to apply for an alternative school place. An offer or refusal letter will then be sent along with a supplementary form if applicable. Names can be then be added to a waiting list using the oversubscription criteria.

### **PART III – IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS**

Applications received after 1st September 2016 and for places in year groups other than the normal year of entry will be treated as in-year admissions.

Parents who are new to the Authority will be directed to the LA who in turn will send out an IYAF for completion with a required response within 5 working days to the LA. Parents will then be contacted again if no IYAF is returned.

Where a parent is wishing to transfer their child to another school in Darlington they can obtain an IYAF from their current school, where a meeting must take place before the IYAF is forwarded to the LA for processing.

#### **Processing of In-Year Admission Forms**

All completed IYAFs are to be returned to the LA.

On receipt of the IYAF the LA will ascertain the availability of places if a stated preference is for a school maintained by another admission authority, in Darlington or in another LA area.

Processing of IYAFS from date of receipt will normally take 5 working days.

#### **Determining offers in response to the IYAF**

Where an applicant has been deemed to be 'hard to place' then their request for a school place will be considered under the Fair Access Protocol.

For all other applications the relevant admissions criterion will be applied if there are more applicants than available places.

The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the IYAFs. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the IYAF where it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority or an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has expressed a preference for.

Where a child is eligible for a place at more than one school, then a place will be provisionally offered at the highest ranked school for which they are eligible.

Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the preferred schools, the child will be provisionally offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy.

The offer/refusal letter will be issued by the home LA on behalf of another admission authority. The letter will give the following information:

- a. the name of the school at which a place is provisionally being offered whether it be an offer by the LA or on behalf of another admission authority;
- b. details pertaining to a date and time for an appointment at the school;
- c. the reasons why the child is not being offered a place at each of the other schools nominated on the IYAF;
- d. information about their statutory right of appeal against the decision to refuse places at the other nominated schools;
- e. contact details for the school and LA (and those nominated VA or Academy schools where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the governing body);
- f. what to do if the place offered is in another LA area;
- g. what to do if an offer was not made at the preferred school which was within another LA and who to contact.

Parents will have 7 working days to respond to the offer letter to accept the school place offered. The LA will then look to withdraw the offer.

The LA operates a waiting list for community & voluntary controlled schools for the academic year that the child has applied for only. Schools which are their own admission authority may also hold a waiting list which they have asked for the LA to maintain, however parents should contact the school direct in the first instance. No offers will be made off a waiting list by a school.

## **PART I – IN-YEAR TRANSFERS**

If a child already attends a Darlington mainstream school and wishes to transfer to another, they must in the first instance, discuss the transfer with the current school that the pupil attends. If they then still wish for the transfer to proceed, PART B of an in-year application form should be completed by the school and issued to the parent who will then forward to the LA. Should there be a vacancy in an alternative school requested by the parent, an appointment will be arranged at the school the child wishes to transfer to and the with the transfer request form will be forwarded and a start date will be agreed.

Should the school determine that the request for a transfer fall under the Fair Access Protocol then the request will be considered by the primary or secondary behavior panel.

Should the school that the child wishes to transfer to have reached or exceeded its admission limit, then the parent has the right to appeal against the decision to refuse a place at the school. All in-year application forms must be sent to the LA including those for children wishing to transfer to an oversubscribed VA or Academy school.

The LA will write to parents informing them of their right to appeal and if parents wish to proceed; appeal papers will be issued by the relevant admission authority.

The Education Act 1996 permits admission authorities to defer admission of a child to the start of a school term if there is no need for an immediate move, in order to minimise disruption to their own child and other children's education.

## SCHEDULE 2

### Timetable of Secondary co-ordinated scheme

Consultation (if applicable) and determination of admissions policy 2016/17	1st November to 1st March 2015 (for at least 8 weeks)
Co-ordinated Scheme to be formulated and published on council website	By 1st January 2015
GB's to consult with other admission authorities and neighbouring LA's if necessary	By 1st March 2015
Send scheme to DofE	By 15th April 2015
Secondary Applications available	w/c 7th September 2015
Parent open days/evenings for Secondary Schools	14th Sept 2015 to 25th Sept 2015
SSA's to be returned to the LA by	By 31st October 2015
Exchange of forms to other LA's	By 13th November 2015
Inform Academy schools of all applications made and forward supplementary forms	By 4th December 2015
Darlington admission authority schools to send LA their ranked list of offers	By 8th January 2016
Other LA's to send their lists to D'ton LA	By 5th February 2016
Negotiation with other LA's to finalise offer of places	By 8th February 2016
Inform schools of the final offer list including children offered places residing other LA's	By 15th February 2016
Offer Letters sent out on behalf of admission authority schools in Darlington and other LA's	1st March 2016
Admission Appeals (if necessary)	May/June 2016



### Timetable of Primary Co-ordinated Scheme

Consultation (if applicable) and determination of admissions policy 2015/16	1st November to 1st March 2015 (for at least 8 weeks)
Co-ordinated Scheme to be formulated and published on council website	By 1st January 2015
GB's to consult with other admission authorities and neighbouring LA's if necessary	By 1st March 2015
Send scheme to DofE	By 15th April 2015
Primary Applications available	w/c 7th September 2015
PSA's to be returned to the LA by	15th January 2016
Exchange of forms to other LA's	By 29th January 2016
Inform schools of all applications made and forward supplementary forms	By 5th February 2016
Darlington admission authority schools to send LA their ranked list of offers	By 4th March 2016
Other LA's to send their lists to D'Ton LA	By 11th March 2016
Negotiation with other LA's to finalise offer of places	By 14th March 2016
Inform schools of the final offer list including children offered places residing other LA's	By 21st March 2016
Offer Letters sent out on behalf of admission authority schools in Darlington and other LA's	18th April 2016
Admission Appeals (if necessary)	June/July 2016

**SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2016/17**

School	Age Range	Current Admission Number	Consulted Admission Number
Carmel College	11-16	180	180
Darlington School of Mathematics & Science	11-16	180	140
Houghton Academy	11-16	180	180
Hummersknott Academy Trust	11-16	240	240
Hurworth School	11-16	127	127
Longfield Academy of Sport	11-16	180	180
St Aidan's Church of England Academy	11-16	140	140

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2016/7**

School	Age Range	Current Admission Number	Consulted Admission Number
Abbey Infant*	4-7	90	90
Abbey Junior*	7-11	90	90
Bishopton Redmarshall CE Primary	4-11	15	15
Cockerton CE VA Primary	4-11	30	30
Corporation Road Primary	4-11	45	45
Firth Moor Academy	4-11	45	45
Gurney Pease Academy	4-11	30	30
Harrowgate Hill Primary	4-11	90	90
Heathfield Academy	4-11	60	60
Heighington CE Primary	4-11	38	38
High Coniscliffe CE Primary	4-11	15	15
Holy Family RC VA Primary	4-11	30	30
Hurworth Academy	4-11	30	30
Mount Pleasant Primary	4-11	30	30
Mowden Infants*	4-7	90	90
Mowden Junior*	7-11	60	60
Northwood Primary	4-11	60	60
Red Hall Primary	4-11	30	30
Reid Street Academy	4-11	60	60
Skerne Park Academy	4-11	60	60
Springfield Academy	4-11	30	30
St Augustines' RC VA Primary	4-11	30	30
St Bede's RC Primary	4-11	45	45
St George's CoE Academy	4-11	45	45
St John's CoE Academy	4-11	30	30
St Teresa's RC VA Primary	4-11	45	45
The Rydal Academy	4-11	75	75
West Park Academy	4-11	60	60
Whinfield Primary	4-11	90	90

\*Associated school

## Appendix 1

The Governing Bodies, which are Admission Authorities for the purposes of this scheme, are:

### Primary

Federation of Abbey Schools (Infants)  
 Federation of Abbey Schools (Juniors)  
 Bishopton/Redmarshall CE Primary  
 Cockerton CofE Primary  
 Firthmoor Academy  
 Gurney Pease Academy  
 Heathfield Academy  
 Heighington CE Primary  
 Holy Family RC Primary  
 Hurworth Primary  
 Federation of Mowden Schools (Infants)  
 Federation of Mowden Schools (Juniors)  
 Reid Street Academy  
 Skerne Park Academy  
 Springfield Academy  
 St Augustine's RC Primary  
 St Bede's RC Primary  
 St George's CE Primary  
 St John's CE Primary  
 St Teresa's RC Primary  
 The Rydal Academy  
 West Park Academy

### Secondary

Carmel College  
 Darlington School of Mathematics & Science  
 Haughton Academy  
 Hummersknott Academy Trust  
 Hurworth School  
 Longfield Academy of Sport  
 St Aidan's Church of England Academy