

Admissions Policy for the School Year 2021-22

1. Introduction

1.1 This document sets out the admission arrangements for Charles Darwin Primary (“the academy”) for the academic year 2021/22.

1.2 The Inspiration Trust is the Admission Authority for Charles Darwin Primary.

2. Admission Numbers

2.1 The academy has an agreed published admission number (PAN) of 60 pupils in each year group, from reception upwards.

3. Consideration of applications

3.1 In subsequent years, application for places at the academy will be made in accordance with the Local Authority’s (LA) co-ordinated admission arrangements and will be made on the common application form provided and administered by the LA. Applications can also be made online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/admissions, which is recommended. The timetable for applications is in line with that of the LA.

3.2 The academy will consider all applications for places that meet the criteria set by the LA’s co-ordinated admission arrangements. Where fewer applications for places than the PAN for the relevant age group are received, the academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

3.3 Late applications will still be considered. If the school is undersubscribed, then even late applicants will be offered a place. If the school is oversubscribed, then late applicants will be placed on a waiting list. A child’s position on the waiting list will be determined solely using our over-subscription criteria.

3.4 Children with an EHCP which names the academy will be admitted before other applications are considered.

4. Procedures where the academy is oversubscribed

4.1 If there are more applications for places than there are places available, the Trust will admit children in the following order of priority:

4.1.1 Looked after children (previously known as children in the care of the Local Authority) and all previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order).

4.1.2 Children who have a sibling on roll at the academy at the time of the proposed admission. Siblings are “brothers or sisters living at the same address including adopted children, step-brothers, step-sisters and children in foster care within a family unit. NB: This does not include children on the roll of Charles Darwin Nursery.

4.1.3 Children of staff at the academy

a) where the member of staff has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made;

and/or

b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;

4.1.4 Children living nearest the academy, by straight line distance (“as the crow flies”).

4.2 Where the admission of children from multiple births would lead to exceeding the PAN, those siblings will be admitted over PAN.

4.3 Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child’s residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which is the residential address for the purpose of admission to the academy. If the residence is not split equally between both parents, then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the academy week.

4.4 If all children within any of the above oversubscription rules cannot be offered a place, the highest priority will be given to children living nearest to the academy within that rule. To determine who lives nearest, distance will be measured on a straight line “crow fly” basis using Ordnance Survey data. If the academy is unable to distinguish between applicants using the published criteria, places will be offered via a random draw which will be supervised by an individual who is independent of the academy.

5. Admission of children outside their normal age group

5.1 Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and either agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

5.2 The process for requesting such an admission is as follows: With the application, parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group (state which one), and the reasons for that request. Parents will submit any evidence in support of their case

with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, head teacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include:

- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

5.3 The academy will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, and the reason for any refusal.

5.4 Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time.

6. Waiting lists

6.1 In line with the provisions regarding waiting lists in the LA's co-ordinated admission scheme, the academy will operate a waiting list managed by the LA until the 31st December.

6.2 Where places become available they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

7. Appeals

7.1 All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel Admissions Policy constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

7.2 Information on how to appeal and the timetable of the appeals process is on our website at www.inspirationtrust.org.

8. In year applications (applications for admission to the academy outside the normal admissions round)

8.1 Subject to any provisions in the LA's published and agreed guidance for in-year school transfers and for applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the academy will consider all such applications and, if the year group applied for has a space available, admit the child unless one of the permitted reliefs apply. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria shall apply.

9. Deferred entry for infants

9.1 Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

9.2 Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

10. Additional information

10.1 If false or misleading information is used to gain entry to the academy, the offer of a place may be withdrawn.

10.2 Following an offer of a place proof of the child's date of birth will need to be provided and a copy will be retained by the academy.