

Admissions Policy and Arrangements

South Shore Academy

Approved by: Neil Kay

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Admissions Policy and Arrangements

The School Admissions Code

The School Admissions Code imposes mandatory requirements on all admission authorities, including Academy Trusts. Academies are required by their funding agreements to comply with the Code. As a Multi Academy Trust, the Cidari Trust Board is the overarching Admissions Authority for all of our academies. The Trust Board delegates the oversight of admissions to the Executive Team. All Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) must ensure their school-specific Admissions Policy abides by the Admissions Code and any other locally agreed protocols. The responsibility for determining admissions arrangements is with the Local Governing Bodies, although final approval rests with the Board of Trustees.

1. COMPLIANCE

- 1.1 This Admissions Policy and Arrangements has been drafted with regard to the following provisions codes and guidance:

1. Statutory Codes and Guidance

These codes contain the detailed mandatory requirements that Admission Authorities (including Local Authorities and Academy Trusts) **must** follow.

- **School Admissions Code (September 2021)**
 - **Description:** This is the core statutory guidance covering the entire admissions process, including setting admission arrangements,

determining Published Admission Numbers (PAN), establishing oversubscription criteria, and coordinating the admissions process.

- **Link:**

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60ebfeb08fa8f50c76838685/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf

- **School Admission Appeals Code (October 2022)**

- **Description:** Statutory guidance detailing the legal requirements and procedures for setting up and running independent appeal panels for parents who have been refused a place at a preferred school.

- **Link:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code>

2. ABOUT THIS POLICY

2.1 South Shore Academy educates students from Year 7 to Year 11.

At our academy every student truly matters. The happiness and well-being of each student is of paramount importance to us. We endeavour to provide the best possible foundations on which to build future learning and ensure each student has the best start in life. We value parents as true partners in learning and encourage them to take an active role in their child's learning journey.

2.2 This policy sets out how admissions will be dealt within the Academy and our determined admissions arrangements ("Admission Arrangements").

2.3 The admission authority for the Academy is Cidari ("Admission

Authority”).

- 2.4 The Academy’s Admission Arrangements will be reviewed annually by the Admission Authority. The Admissions Authority has delegated the authority to review and determine the Admissions Arrangements, along with any other admissions matters to Local Governing Body.
- 2.5 Any proposed changes to the Academy’s Admission Arrangements will follow the statutory consultation procedure outlined within the School Admissions Code (as amended from time to time).

3. **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 **The Admissions Authority** has overall responsibility for the admissions arrangements for the Academy but recognises the key role Local Governors play in reflecting the local circumstances of the Academy in admissions arrangements. The Admissions Authority will be supported by members of the academy trust central team to ensure compliance and consistency across all its schools and academies.
- 3.2 **The Local Governing Body** is delegated the power to monitor the effectiveness of admissions, to determine admission arrangements annually and to ensure statutory consultation is undertaken within the prescribed window in the determination year. Governors will work with the Head of School to ensure that admission arrangements meet the need of

the Academy. The content of this policy will also be monitored and approved by Governors with advice taken from the Admissions Authority.

- 3.3 **The Head of School** will advise and keep the Governors informed of the operational matters arising from the Academy's admissions arrangements and will support Governors in ensuring that the arrangements are effective and any changes that are required are brought to them promptly to ensure that statutory consultation (as may be required) can be undertaken in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

4. **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS (YEAR 7)**

- 4.1 The Admission Authority, through delegation to the LGB, will determine the Admission Arrangements annually to include the PAN and oversubscription criteria. The year that the Admission Authority makes its determination is known as the determination year ("Determination Year").
- 4.2 The Admission Arrangements must be determined by the Admission Authority by 28 February in each Determination Year.
- 4.3 In the event that the Admissions Authority has determined a change is to be made, or it has been 7 years since we last consulted on our unchanged arrangements, a statutory consultation will be carried out in line with the School Admission Code.

4.4 The Admissions Authority will provide details of the Admission Arrangements to the appropriate bodies (as specified within the School Admissions Code), along with the governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools in the local area.

Reasonable endeavours will be made to ensure the consultation reaches relevant stakeholders so they can express their view.

4.5 The Academy will participate in Blackpool Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements.

4.6 Admission Authority will publish the determined Admissions Arrangements by Blackpool Local Authority's on its website and within its composite prospectus (which will be available online or in hard copy) by 15 March in each Determination Year.

4.7 If there are any objections to the Academy's Admission Arrangements, these must be made to the Schools Adjudicator. The objections must reach the School Adjudicator by 15 May of the Determination Year. If the objections do not reach the Schools Adjudicator by the specified date, there will be no obligation to consider them.

4.8 All applicants are required to complete their home local authority's Common Application form by **31st October**. Parents will be advised of the outcome of their application on **1st March**.

5. **ADMISSION NUMBER (YEAR 7)**

- 5.1 The Academy has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of **150** for entry into year 7. This includes children with Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the Academy.
- 5.2 Where fewer applicants than the PAN for the relevant year are received, all those who have applied will be offered places at the Academy.

6. **OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR YEARS 7 – 11**

- 6.1 When the Academy is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plan naming the Academy, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below;
- 6.1.1 looked after children;
 - 6.1.2 previously looked after children;
 - 6.1.3 children who appear (to the Admission Authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
- 6.2 After any children have been admitted in accordance with paragraph 5, the Admissions Authority will apply the following oversubscription criteria [*grammar schools only*: **to those who meet the entry requirements as published within paragraph** Error! Reference source not found. **of this admissions policy**];
- 6.2.1 a sibling who is/was a pupil at the Academy;¹

- 6.2.2 catchment area;²
- 6.2.3 social and medical need;³
- 6.2.4 children eligible for pupil premium/early years premium/ service premium;

7. TIE-BREAKER

If DISTANCE is used: “If the number of applicants within any of the above oversubscription criteria exceeds the number of places available at the Academy and a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the Academy will be given priority for admission. Random allocation undertaken by Blackpool Local Authority will be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between a child’s home and the Academy is equidistant in any two or more cases. Where random allocation is used to determine admission in these circumstances, it will be supervised by someone independent of the Academy. Distance from home to the Academy will be measured in a straight line from the applicant’s home to the school, using the Council’s Geographic Information System. If a child lives at two addresses with parents

¹ For the purposes of the Admissions Arrangements, sibling here shall mean; a full sibling, a step sibling, foster siblings, adopted siblings or children who live permanent at the same address.

² The catchment area shall be students for whom the academy is the nearest.

³ For the purposes of the arrangements, social and medical need shall mean that associated with the child or their family that makes attendance at the Academy appropriate as determined by evidence from a doctor or social worker that has been presented to Blackpool Admissions Team.

with shared parental responsibility the distance shall be calculated in the same way using the parent/carers preferred address.

If RANDOM ALLOCATION is used: "If the number of applicants within any of the above oversubscription criteria exceeds the number of places available at the Academy and a tie- break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, random allocation undertaken by the Local Authority will be used as a tie-break to decide who will be admitted. Where random allocation is used to determine admission in these circumstances, it will be supervised by someone independent of the Academy.

8. **MULTIPLE BIRTHS**

- 8.1 If children of multiple births (twins or triplets) require admission into the same year group and there is only a single place left within the Academy's Published Admission Criteria, the Admission Authority will allocate above the PAN in order to accommodate each child.

9. **LATE APPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 All applications received by the Admissions Authority after the deadline for submitting an application will be considered as a late application.
- 9.2 Late applications will be considered after those received on-time and in accordance with the Academy's oversubscription criteria. If, following consideration of all on-time applications the Academy is oversubscribed

the child will be placed on the Academy's waiting list.

- 9.3 Applications received after the start of the Autumn Term in any Academy year will be treated as an in-year application and not a late application. In these circumstances, parent(s) / carer(s) must complete the in-year application form which will be considered by the Admissions Authority.
- 9.4 An application will be considered late if it is submitted after 31 October.
- 9.5 If no offer of a place is made the applicant will have a right of appeal before an independent panel.

10. **WAITING LIST**

- 10.1 The Academy will operate a waiting list in Year 7 until 31 December in the year of admission. This will be maintained by the Academy. You may request that your child is not placed on the waiting list.
- 10.2 A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the Academy's oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, subject to looked after children, previously looked after children and those allocated a place at the Academy in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol who will take precedence over those children on the waiting list. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.
- 10.3 After 31 December the waiting list will no longer be maintained and

parents will not be notified of any vacancies.

11. ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

11.1 Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. If a Parent wishes to make such an application, they must contact the Academy with a written request including the following information:

- 11.1.1 the normal age group that the pupil would be admitted to and the year group which they are requesting the child be admitted to;
- 11.1.2 the reason(s) for the request;
- 11.1.3 the parent's views on why the admission outside of the normal year group should be made;
- 11.1.4 information and evidence about the child's academic, social and emotional development as supported by professionals;
- 11.1.5 confirmation as to whether the child has been educated outside of the normal age group previously; and
- 11.1.6 if relevant to the request, a medical history and the views of medical professionals about the request for being educated outside of the normal age group.

11.2 The Head of School will be given the opportunity to consider the information and, along with your application, submit the information to the Local Governing Body to make a determination. A sub-committee of

the Governors will meet to make the determination.

- 11.3 If the application is made during the normal admissions round, and Governors agree that an admission outside of the normal age group is acceptable, then the application will be processed and will still be subject to our oversubscription criteria. A grant of the application does not receive any priority under our oversubscription criteria. If the application is refused and a place is offered in the normal age group, there will be no right of appeal. If no place is offered in the requested or normal age group, then there will be a right of appeal but only against the refusal to offer a place in the normal age group.
- 11.4 If the request for admission outside the normal age group is made in-year and is refused by the Governors, whereby you are not offered a place for your child even in the normal age group, then there will be a right to appeal the decision. If a place is offered in the normal age group there is no right of appeal.

12. **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORMS**

- 12.1 Where the Admissions Authority has determined that in order to process applications they require additional information which has a direct bearing on decisions about oversubscription criteria. Parents/carers must supply this information using a supplementary information form available from the Admissions Authority.

- 12.2 An application will not be given additional priority solely on the basis of having completed a supplementary information form.

13. **APPEALS**

- 13.1 Parents have the right to appeal the Admission Authority's refusal to offer a place at the Academy.
- 13.2 The letter confirming refusal will include the reason why admission was refused, information about the right to appeal, the deadline for lodging an appeal and provide the contact details of where an appeal should be sent.
- 13.3 Parent(s) / carer(s) must make their appeals in writing and set out the grounds for making the appeal.
- 13.4 The Admission Authority will appoint an independent clerk to the appeal panel.
- 13.5 The Admission Authority (or the clerk acting on its behalf) must appoint an Independent Appeal Panel comprised of a chair and at least two other panel members. There must be one lay member and one member who has experience in education or is a parent of a registered pupil at the Academy.
- 13.6 The Independent Appeal Panel will conduct itself in compliance with School Admission Appeals Code (as amended from time to time), in

particular:-

13.6.1 Section 2 – Appeal Hearings, and

13.6.2 Section 3 – Reaching Decisions on Appeals.

13.7 The determination of the Independent Appeal Panel is binding on all parties.

13.8 Parent(s) / carer(s) will not have the right to a further appeal in respect of a place at the Academy for the same academic year unless there are exceptional circumstances whereby the Admission Authority has accepted a second application because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent(s) / carer(s), child or Academy but admission was still refused.

14. **IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS**

14.1 In-year admissions should be made via Blackpool Council. The academy follows the Fair Access Protocol for placing children swiftly and fairly. Applications received from within the Blackpool district will be admitted the following term if a place is officially offered.

15. FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL

15.1 The Academy works with Blackpool Council to ensure vulnerable or unplaced children are given priority for a suitable school place.

16. DATA PROTECTION

16.1 All admissions data is processed in accordance with UK GDPR and the Data

Protection Act 2018.

Contact Details

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