

# Admission Policy for Blackpool Skills Academy C.I.C.

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## 1. Introduction

Blackpool Skills Academy C.I.C. is committed to providing a nurturing and inclusive learning environment that equips students with essential academic, vocational, and life skills. As an independent school, we welcome applications from students who demonstrate a willingness to engage in our curriculum and embrace the ethos of the Academy.

This admission policy outlines the process and criteria for student enrolment, ensuring fairness, transparency, and compliance with all legal and safeguarding requirements.

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## 2. Aims of the Admission Policy

- To provide equal opportunities for all applicants regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or background.
  - To ensure a fair and consistent admissions process.
  - To match prospective students with the Academy's curriculum, ethos, and available resources.
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## 3. Admission Criteria

Blackpool Skills Academy considers applications based on the following criteria:

### 1. Age Range

- The Academy accepts students in the Key Stage 3 (KS3) and Key Stage 4 (KS4) age groups, typically between 11 and 16 years old.

### 2. Curriculum Suitability

- Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and suitability for the Academy's academic and vocational curriculum, which includes:
  - Core subjects: Mathematics, English, PSHE, Art, Cooking, and Physical Education.
  - Vocational training in Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, and Construction trades.

### 3. Special Educational Needs (SEN)

- The Academy is committed to supporting students with special educational needs, provided the necessary resources and expertise are available to meet their needs effectively.

### 4. Behaviour and Attitude

- The Academy seeks students who exhibit a positive attitude towards learning and demonstrate a willingness to follow the school's behaviour and attendance policies.
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## **4. Application Process**

### **1. Enquiry and Initial Contact**

- Schools, parents, carers, guardians, or Local Authorities can contact the school directly to arrange a visit.
- Our website details the Academy's curriculum, ethos, and policies will be provided.

### **2. Applications (from Schools and Local Authorities)**

- Schools and Local Authorities wishing to consider the options for any child attending Blackpool Skills Academy on a day, or multiple-day basis should contact the Headteacher: [david.hodge@blackpoolskillsacademy.co.uk](mailto:david.hodge@blackpoolskillsacademy.co.uk)

### **3. Applications (from parents, carers, or guardians)**

- Applications must be made using the Common Application Form, which will be made available by your Local Authority's (LA) School Admissions Team.
- Local Authorities provide online tools to do this. For Blackpool Council, applications can be made on their website: [www.blackpool.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/schooladmissions) or paper copies can be requested from the LA's School Admissions Team from 1st September 2024.

### **4. In-year Applications (from parents, carers, or guardians)**

- If parents, carers, or guardians wish to consider Blackpool Skills Academy as an alternative to their existing provider (or home schooling) they must contact the Admissions team at their Local Authority.

### **5. Assessment and Interview**

- Applicants may be required to attend an informal interview or meeting with the Headteacher or designated staff member. This is an opportunity to:
  - Discuss the student's interests, needs, and aspirations.
  - Assess the student's ability to engage with the Academy's curriculum.

### **6. References**

- A reference from the applicant's current or previous school may be requested to provide additional information about academic performance, behaviour, and attendance.

### **7. Offer of Place**

- Successful applicants will receive a formal offer letter outlining the terms of admission.
  - Parents/carers must confirm acceptance of the place within the specified timeframe.
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## **5. Admissions for Students with SEN**

Blackpool Skills Academy welcomes students with SEN and will:

- Work with parents/carers to assess whether the Academy can meet the student's specific needs.
- Make reasonable adjustments to ensure the student can access the curriculum and participate fully in school life.
- Ensure that students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are supported in line with statutory requirements.

If the Academy cannot meet the student's needs due to resource limitations, we will provide guidance on alternative educational settings.

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## **6. Oversubscription Criteria**

If applications exceed the number of available places, priority will be given based on:

1. Students with siblings already attending the Academy.
2. Students residing in the local community or nearby areas.
3. Students with special educational needs or other vulnerabilities, subject to the school's ability to provide appropriate support.

In cases of oversubscription, a waiting list will be maintained, and parents/carers will be informed of their child's position on the list.

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## **7. Appeals**

Parents/carers have the right to appeal if their child's application is unsuccessful.

- Appeals must be submitted in writing within 14 days of receiving the decision.
  - The appeal will be reviewed by an independent panel, and the decision will be communicated in writing.
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## **8. Fees and Financial Assistance**

- As a Community Interest Company, Blackpool Skills Academy may charge fees for certain services or vocational courses.

- Information about fees and any available financial assistance or bursaries will be provided during the application process.
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## **9. Withdrawal of Admission**

The Academy reserves the right to withdraw an offer of admission in the following circumstances:

- False or misleading information has been provided during the application process.
  - The student fails to meet the terms outlined in the offer letter.
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## **10. Monitoring and Review**

This admission policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with legal requirements and alignment with the Academy's mission and values.

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## **Contact Information**

For further enquiries about the admissions process, please contact:

### **Blackpool Skills Academy C.I.C.**

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This policy reflects Blackpool Skills Academy's commitment to providing a welcoming and supportive environment for all students, ensuring equal access to quality education and vocational training opportunities.