



# The Federation of Mowden Schools (Academy Trust)

## Admissions policy

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Approving body	Personnel and General Purposes Committee

Approved by Chair of Committee:

Signature J. Saint Dated 11.01.2019

Name Jacqueline Saint

Approved by Chair of Governors:

Signature T. Lloyd Pugh Dated 11.01.19

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## **Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements**

Darlington has operated a co-ordinated admission arrangement since 2005. Co-ordinated schemes are intended to simplify the admission process for parents whilst reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Co-ordination establishes a mechanism that ensures that, as far as is practical, every child living in a local authority area who has applied in the normal admissions round receives only one offer of a school place on the same day. The Federation of Mowden Schools admission criteria complies with this arrangement.

## **Admissions Oversubscription Criteria**

After the admission of children with special educational needs where Mowden Infant or Mowden Junior School is named on the statement, and where the number of applicants is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below, in the following order:

### **1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children**

A 'looked after' child is a pupil who is in the care of a LA or provided with accommodation by that authority (For more in depth definitions see Section 22(1), Section 8, Section 14A of the Children's Act 1989 and Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002). A previously 'looked after' child is a pupil who was looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).

### **2. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children, from outside of England**

Children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

### **3. Medical Reasons**

Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to placement at Mowden Infant or Mowden Junior School. Applications under this criterion should be supported by written evidence from a doctor.

### **4. Family Links**

- a. Either (a) Children who have a brother or sister already attending The Federation of Mowden Schools (Academy Trust) and who are expected to be on the roll at the time of admission.

Or (b) In the case of associated schools a family link would exist if a brother or sister would be expected to be on roll of either Mowden Infant School or Mowden Junior School at the time of admission.

### **5. Associated Schools**

Children who are transferring from Mowden Infant School to Mowden Junior School will be given priority over pupils from other schools.

## **1. Rural\***

### **Area D on Map**

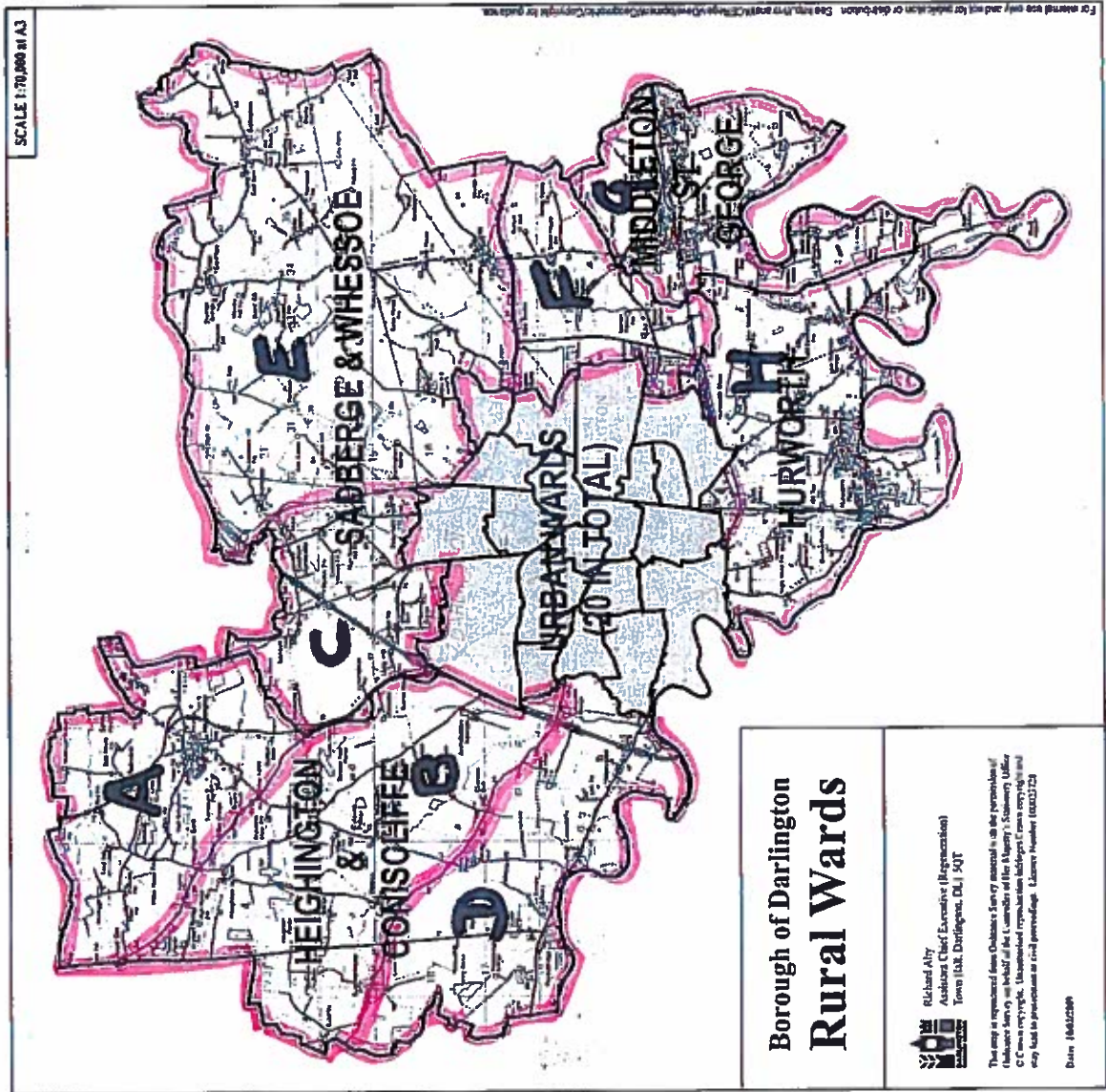
For children living in the area to the south of the B6279 road AND within the Ward of Heighington and Coniscliffe in the Borough of Darlington who have been unsuccessful in obtaining a place at one of their preferred schools AND for whom the nearest alternative school would otherwise be more than two miles from their home the alternative school is Mowden Infant School or Mowden Junior School.

## **2. Distance**

Urban Wards of Darlington Borough Council - Children who live nearest the preferred school measured from the front door of the home address (including flats) to the main school gate, by the shortest walking route. This will be based on the home address of the child. To remain consistent the Authority uses a Geographical Information System to measure all distances. The Authority's priority when measuring a route is to identify the shortest route judged to be safe (safe is lit at regular intervals, paved/tarmaced).

\*In the rural wards, the Council is aware that the shortest route may not be a safe route to walk. Therefore, if a child living in a rural ward, is successful in gaining a place at a school; where the route taken when measured by the Local Authority, is paved/tarmaced but not also lit at regular intervals, then the Local Authority will provide assistance with transport, even if it is less than the statutory duty for a child of the appropriate age.

# Darlington Rural Wards



### Tie Break

In the event of a tie-break in any oversubscription criteria, distance will be the deciding factor, which may involve an officer walking the route using a pedometer.

### Multiple Births

For multiple births where only 1 place remains at KS2, through consultation with the parent/carers the place will be offered to the chosen child.

For multiple births where only 1 place remains, infant classes will be allowed to exceed the statutory limit where the 31<sup>st</sup> child is a twin or from multiple births. The 'excepted pupil' will be allowed for the time in Key Stage 1 or until the class numbers fall back to current class size limit.

### Medical Criterion

If a parent states a preference for Mowden Infant School or Mowden Junior School and indicates their reason for doing so is 'medical', then they will be required to send a supporting letter from a professional practitioner. The supporting evidence should set out the particular reasons why the school is the most suitable school and the difficulties it would cause if their child had to travel to another school. The Authority reserves the right to make contact with the District Medical Officer for independent information regarding the child's condition.

The Authority may also seek advice from other qualified professionals, e.g. Psychologists or other specialists where necessary.

### Family Links

Children have a family link if:

- They are half or full brother or sister;
- They are adoptive brother or sister;
- They are a foster brother or sister;
- Their carers are married/co-habiting and children live together in the same household;
- They are children of the same household (e.g. carers have Special Guardianship/Residency Order)

Children living in the area to the south of the B6279 road AND within the Ward of Heighington and Coniscliffe in the Borough of Darlington the alternative school is The Federation of Mowden Schools (Mowden Infant School and Mowden Junior School).

### Admission of children outside their normal age group and deferred entry

We admit children into Reception in the September following their 4th birthday. This is in line with all schools in Darlington, following national guidance. We do not admit children prior to this age. However if a parent feels there are exceptional reasons for delaying entry for a year, then an application for a delayed place may be granted:

- The child must be 'summer born', that is born between April 1st and August 31st.
- The parent must be able to demonstrate, with external verification where possible, that the child will benefit by starting Reception a year later, for example, for academic, social



and emotional reasons. The Department for Education lists a child born prematurely as one possible reason.

- The child will remain with their younger age class throughout his/her whole time at Mowden Infant School. This is because Mowden is a well subscribed school and if a delayed entry place is accepted, the place in their normal year group will be offered to another child.
- Associated with the previous point, if a delayed place is accepted, the child will complete all Key Stage 1 national assessments at the same time as the younger age group, that is, a year after children of his/her same age. This applies to the Year 1 phonics assessment and the Year 2 English, maths and science assessments.
- A delayed entry place in Mowden Infant School does not automatically guarantee a similar delayed place in Mowden Junior School, or subsequently at secondary school. The arrangement for the junior school will be reviewed and agreed by the headteacher. Regarding KS2 assessments at the end of Year 6, just as with KS1, the provision for a child to take these tests a year after his/her age groups does exist. So if the delayed entry has been continued right through junior school, the child will take the tests alongside his/her younger age group.

If a parent seeks a place in a year group outside their normal age group, they should complete an application form and attach a covering letter along with any accompanying documentation that details the circumstances behind their request. This should be forwarded to the School Admissions Manager, Children, Families & Learning, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT who will then contact the headteacher of the school/s concerned and ask for their views. Once a decision has been made the LA will write to the parent informing them of the decision and setting out reasons for such.

The final permission for such requests lies with the Headteacher. Each case will be considered on its individual circumstances and any decision will not constitute a precedent. A request may be declined based on the business interests of the school even when the case for the child may be persuasive; whilst evidence shows that, statistically speaking, summer born children tend to perform less well in school tests, this does not mean that all children born in the summer term will struggle at school. Teachers are skilled at differentiating the curriculum to meet a diverse range of needs.

Parents of summer born children who wish to apply for a delayed place must apply using the same timescales as if applying for a normal age place and apply for a normal age place at the same time. This avoids the child missing out on a preferred school placement in their normal age group, if their delayed entry application is unsuccessful. Information on Darlington Borough Council's coordinated admissions arrangements can be found online.

#### Admission of children below compulsory school age

Schools within Darlington Local Authority have a single point of entry in September each year for pupils starting school in Reception. However children may attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age and parents can defer the date their child is admitted until later in the school year.