

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

The admission arrangements reflect the wish of the Rodillian Multi-Academy Trust (RMAT) for the Academy to be an inclusive, all-ability school which serves the needs of parents and pupils in the local community.

The RMAT is committed to delivering a fair and transparent admissions process which fully meets the statutory requirements and guidance contained in the current Codes of Practice for Admissions and Appeals, as well as meeting its duties under the provisions of the Equalities Act 2010.

1 Admission arrangements to Year 7 from August 2021

The School is an Academy and the Rodillian Multi-Academy Trust is responsible for the admission arrangements.

The local authority has statutory responsibility for co-ordinating admissions to maintained schools and academies. Applications for admission to the Academy must therefore be made in accordance with the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme, as published in "Kirklees Secondary School Guide for Parents 2021/22".

Parents wishing to apply for a place should make the Academy one of the three preferences on the local authority website, complete an online application and submit by the published closing date. It is important that the form is submitted or returned by the closing date because forms received after this will be treated by the local authority as 'late' and not dealt with until all those received on time have been through the application process. Note: the Department for Education guidance states that: 'The government would agree that, in general, children should be educated in their normal age group, with the curriculum differentiated as appropriate and that they should only be educated out of their normal age group in very limited circumstances.' BBG will operate the same approach.

Parents residing outside Kirklees and who wish to apply for a place should complete and return a common application form to their own local education authority.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the year group is 210.

If the school is oversubscribed places will be allocated by applying the following admission criteria in order:

Priority 1

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement, or special guardianship order.

Priority 2

Children who have demonstrated an aptitude in our specialist subject area: either rugby or netball who live within the schools PAA, will be considered for 10% of the available places and will feed into our elite rugby union and netball programmes.

Priority 3

Children, foster children or step children of a parent/guardian in current employment within the Rodillian Multi Academy Trust (RMAT) working at the BBG Academy as their full-time place of work when the following applies:

- a) The member of staff has been employed for 2 years or more at time of application or
- b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the BBG Academy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Priority 4

Children who have an older brother or sister from the same address who will be on the roll of the Academy at the date of admission (the sibling rule).

Priority 5

Children living in the school's Priority Admission Area (PAA) covering East Bierley, Birkenshaw, Gomersal and Birstall, who reside nearest to the school based on the straight line distance from the home address to the Academy.

Priority 6

Children living outside the priority admission area who reside nearest to the school based on the straight line distance from the home address to the Academy.

Random allocation by drawing lots will be used as a tie-break in either category 4, 5, or 6 to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same. The process will be independently verified.

The formal offer of a place will come from the home local authority, who will notify parent/carers on National Offer Day, 1 March, which school has been allocated to their child. The order in which parent/carers name their preferred schools is important as their child will receive a single offer of a school place. If a child qualifies for a place at more than one of the parent's preferred schools, they will be offered a place at the highest preference

school they have qualified for a place at. Parent/carers should therefore name the school that they would most like their child to attend as their first preference. A higher preference does not give a higher priority for a place. Places at schools are allocated according to the admission criteria for the school'.

Parents have the right to make an appeal to an independent panel in the event that their child is refused a place (see admission appeals below)

2 Special Educational Needs/Educational Health Care Plans

Admission for children with special educational needs follows a different process to that outlined above. Children with an Educational Healthcare Plan (EHCP) which names the Academy will be guaranteed a place..

The process of agreeing a designated secondary school, which is named on the EHCP, involves consultation between parents, the local authority and the primary and secondary school. It is this consultation that determines where a child's particular needs will be most appropriately met.

The Academy will ensure that admissions procedures and arrangements are accessible to disabled applicants and do not treat vulnerable children any less favourably.

3 Waiting List

Where there are more applications than places available, the Academy Trust will maintain a waiting list with a rank order determined by application of the published admission criteria. Any in-year application to year group which is full will be allocated a ranking on the waiting list following the application of the admission criteria at the time of application. Waiting lists for a particular year group will be maintained until the end of the academic year, following which parents will be asked to confirm if they wish their child to remain on the list. Accepting a waiting list place does not affect the statutory right of appeal.

4 In year admissions

The Academy Trust will consider applications to year groups other than the normal year of entry. Parents seeking in-year admission should make application directly to the Academy Trust at the address below. If the year group is full the Trust will not admit the child unless they either meet priority 1 (looked after children) or if a relevant section of the Statutory Code of Practice such as the Fair Access protocol applies. If the year group has a vacancy and more applications are received than there are places available the published admission criteria will apply. Parents whose application is turned down have the right of appeal to an independent panel and may also apply to have their child's name added to a waiting list.

Process for the admission of children outside of their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group, for instance, where the child has the ability or potential to develop significantly ahead of their peers. Gifted learners are those with abilities in one or more academic subjects such as Maths or English or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting their schooling.

When such a request is made, a Panel of 2 members of the Local Review Board (“LRB”) will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interest of the child concerned, taking into account the view of the Principal and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. The process for requesting such an admission is as follows:

Parents should submit an email or letter to the Clerk to the BBG Academy LRB (E-mail: office@bbgacademy.com) and the reasons for their application. Enclosed with this should be any evidence in support of their case; 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.

It is for parents to decide the evidence they wish to submit in support of their application for admission outside of their normal age group. There is no expectation on parents to provide the professional evidence they do not already have.

The Academy LRB will make their decision based on the circumstances of each individual case, and in the best interests of the child concerned. The Clerk to the LRB will inform the parents whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed or the reason for any refusal.

Where the LRB refuses such a request, there is no right of appeal against a refusal to offer a place in the preferred age group. The right of appeal only applies against a refusal of a place at the Academy.

5 Appeals

Parents or guardians may appeal against a decision to refuse admission. This appeal will be directed to an Independent Appeal Panel appointed under the provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admissions (Appeal Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. The decision of the Independent Appeal Panel will be binding on the Academy Trust and on the parent or guardian. Parents wishing to exercise their right to appeal should contact admissions@bbgacademy.com for further information.

6 Admissions Timetable

September/October Open evenings for prospective Year 7 pupils

<i>31 October</i>	Closing date for submission of local authority common application form
<i>December</i>	Local authority provides Trust with details of applications. Trust applies admission criteria and returns a ranked list to the local authority
<i>January/February</i>	Local authority co-ordinates admission applications matching the places available to parental preferences. Parents will receive the offer of single place at the highest ranked school which offers them a place.
<i>1 March</i>	Local authority sends out formal offer of a place
<i>May- June</i>	Admission appeal hearings
<i>July</i>	Induction days for new pupils

7 Further Information

Further information regarding the admissions process may be obtained by sending an email to admissions@bbgacademy.com.

Notes and additional information

- 1) A 'looked after child' is a child who is (i) in the care of the Local Authority or (ii) being provided accommodation by the Local Authority in the exercise of their social services

functions or (iii) having ceased being 'looked after' because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order. A full definition can be found in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989. Children in priority 1 may be admitted above the Published Admission Number (PAN).

- 2) Parents will need to register and attend the sports trials, which will be held in September each year. Parents will be informed of the result of the test by 11th October **2020**. Details of the test are set out at the end of this policy. Children not demonstrating aptitude will be considered under other relevant criteria, if parents apply for a place on the Common Application Form by the deadline of 31st October.
- 3) In this context sibling means a full, step, half, adopted or fostered brother or sister, but not cousin, who will be living permanently with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the Academy; the Academy may require proof of relationship. Twin and multiple birth siblings will benefit from the sibling rule if required. The definition of a sibling is the same for priority 4.
- 4) The home address is where the child spends the majority of time and is living with the person who has parental responsibility and is the parent as defined in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 (we may require documentary evidence). If a child regularly lives at more than one address the Trust will have to reach a conclusion about which should be counted as the main address when allocating places. This will normally be the address where Child Benefit is paid. The latest date to submit evidence of a significant house move will be 1 December 2020.
- 5) A map of the priority admission area (PAA) is available in school and on the school website @ <http://www.bbgacademy.com/images/Files/PDF/PAA-Map2.pdf>.
- 6) In the event that there are more applicants from within the PAA than there are places left, (after higher criterias have been applied) the remaining places will be allocated based on who reside nearest to the school in a straight line distance from the home address to the Academy. Children residing in the PAA who do not receive a place in the first 200 will be allocated a ranked waiting list place according to their proximity to the school based on the straight line distance from the home address to the Academy. If the PAN OF 200 has then not been reached the remaining places will be allocated to criteria 6, students living outside the PAA. These will be allocated according to their proximity to the school based on the straight line distance from the home address to the Academy.

Rugby and netball trials: outline of trials

The rugby and netball trials comprise of a series of skill/drill type activities in which students, working in small groups and led by an experienced coach, aim to demonstrate some ability to develop a series of skills.

Students are then given the opportunity to play conditioned, small sided competitive games to apply those skills developed previously within a more structured, game specific format (although previous understanding of rugby union or netball are not required to excel within this conditioned game environment). This allows the coaches to not only assess the athletic ability of those students trialling, but to also assess students' ability to develop a quick understanding and knowledge of a game and attempt to explore the tactics and strategies which exist within a competitive environment.

The students' ability to focus and apply any technical or tactical coaching points given is also observed, relating to demonstrating positive habits and behaviours which lie at the heart of the culture of the sports academy programmes.

The small group sizes which are employed during both the skill/drill stage and the competitive game stage of the trial process allow the lead coach to gain a good understanding of both a student's current level and of their potential to thrive within our sports programmes. Several members of the coaching staff also observe students from 'outside' the coaching drill or game. This provides the coaching group with a very good perspective of every student who attends the sports trials and gives every student the best possible opportunity to demonstrate their athletic ability and sporting mindset.