

RIVINGTON PARK SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY (DRAFT)

JANUARY 2012

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ADMISSION OF PUPILS TO RIVINGTON PARK SCHOOL

GENERAL

1. This Annex may be amended in writing at any time by agreement between the Secretary of State and the Academy Trust.
2. The Academy Trust will act in accordance with, and will ensure that an Independent Appeal Panel is trained to act in accordance with, all relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education (“the Codes”) as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with equalities law and the law on admissions as they apply to maintained schools. For this purpose, reference in the Codes or legislation to “admission authorities” shall be deemed to be references to the governing body of the Academy Trust.
3. Notwithstanding the generality of paragraph 2 of this Annex, the Academy Trust will take part in any mandatory Admissions Forum set up by the local authority (“LA”) in which they are situated and have regard to its advice; **and will not participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by the LA for the first year of opening in the academic year 2013-2014 but will participate in such arrangements operated by the LA in subsequent years and the local Fair Access Protocol.**
4. Notwithstanding any provision in this Annex, the Secretary of State may:
 - (a) direct the Academy Trust to admit a named pupil to the Rivington Park School on application from a LA. This will include complying with a School Attendance Order
 1. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the Academy Trust.
 - (b) direct the Academy Trust to admit a named pupil to the Rivington Park School if the Academy Trust has failed to act in accordance with this Annex or has otherwise failed to comply with applicable admissions and equalities legislation or the provisions of the Codes.
 - (c) direct the Academy Trust to amend its admission arrangements where they fail to comply with the School Admissions Code or the Admission Appeals Code.
5. The Academy Trust shall ensure that parents and ‘relevant children²’ will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Academy
 - ¹ Local authorities are able to issue school attendance orders if a child is not attending school. These are legally binding upon parents. Such an order might, for instance, be appropriate where a child has a place at an Academy but his/her parents are refusing to send him/her to school. The order will require a parent to ensure his/her child attends a specified school.
 - ² relevant children’ means:
 - a) in the case of appeals for entry to a sixth form, the child, and;

b) in any other case, children who are above compulsory school age, or will be above compulsory school age by the time they start to receive education at the school. Trust. The Independent Appeal Panel will be independent of the Academy Trust. The arrangements for appeals will comply with the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.

Relevant Area

5. Subject to paragraph 7, the meaning of “Relevant Area” for the purposes of consultation requirements in relation to admission arrangements is that determined by the local authority for maintained schools in the area in accordance with the Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999.
7. If the Academy does not consider the relevant area determined by the local authority for the maintained schools in the area to be appropriate, it must apply to the Secretary of State by 1 August for a determination of the appropriate relevant area for the Academy, setting out the reasons for this view.

The Secretary of State will consult the Academy and the LA in which the Academy is situated in reaching a decision.

Requirement to admit pupils

8. Pupils on roll in any predecessor maintained or independent school will transfer automatically to the Academy on opening.
9. All children already offered a place at any predecessor school will be admitted.
10. The Academy will:
 - o subject to its right of appeal to the Secretary of State in relation to a named pupil, admit all pupils with a statement of special educational needs naming the Academy and for whom the school has agreed to be named in the statement;
 - o adopt admission oversubscription criteria that give highest priority to looked after children, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code.

Oversubscription criteria, admission number, consultation, determination and objections.

11. The Academy admission arrangements will include oversubscription criteria, and an admission number for each relevant age group³. The Academy will consult on its admission arrangements and determine them in line with the requirements within the School Admissions Code
12. The Young People’s Learning Agency (YPLA) or any successor to it may consider objections on the Secretary of State’s behalf. The Academy Trust should therefore make it clear, when determining the Academy’s admission arrangements, that objections should be submitted to the YPLA or any successor to it
13. A determination of an objection by the YPLA or any successor to it on behalf of the Secretary of State, or by the Secretary of State will be binding upon the Academy.
³ ‘Relevant age group’ means ‘normal point of admission to the school: for example, Year R, Year 7 or Year 12

PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING PUPILS TO RIVINGTON PARK SCHOOL

Admission Numbers:

The School has an agreed admission number of 14 pupils in reception. It will accordingly admit 14 pupils each year if sufficient applications are received.

Oversubscription criteria:

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number and after the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs where the School is named in the Statement and for whom the School has agreed to be named in the statement, applications for Reception will be considered against the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. Children who are looked after by a local authority. (children looked after by a local authority under section 22 of the Children Act 1989)
2. Children who, on the date of admission, will have a sibling in years R-11 of the School.
3. Children who attend the feeder Nursery Rivington Park Nursery

If the school is oversubscribed once this criterion is applied the following tie-breaks will apply to this criterion in order:

a. children of multiple births (twins, triplets etc) will have priority;
then if necessary:

b. random allocation (by drawing of lots by a person independent of the School) will decide who is admitted.

Note - The definition of a sibling includes step-brothers, step-sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same permanent address.

4. Places will then be allocated in the following order:

a. 70% of remaining places to pupils living within the defined inner catchment area that is within a 4 mile radius of the Main Gates to the School) by random allocation (drawing of lots by a person independent of the School); and

b. 30% of remaining places to pupils living within the defined outer catchment that is between 4 and 7 miles of the Main Gates of the school, by random allocation (drawing of lots by a person independent of the School).

Note - In the event of there being insufficient numbers to fill the percentage allocation of either catchment area, then the shortfall will be made up by offering an equivalent number of places to the other catchment area.

5. Any remaining places will be allocated to children on the basis of proximity to the School using a straight line measurement from the main entrance of the School to the main entrance of the child's home.

Operation of waiting lists

Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in the LA's co-ordinated admission scheme, the School will operate a waiting list. Where in any year the School receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the academic year.

The list will be maintained by the School and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in the paragraphs above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.'

Note - If false or misleading information is used to gain entry to the School, the application will be reconsidered and the correct level of priority given which may result in the offer of a place being withdrawn.

Any child refused admission has a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.