



Admissions Policy 2021/22

Batley Multi Academy Trust

Approved by: Board of Trustees

Ratified: August 2021*

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Reviewed by: CEO, Vice CEO and Headteachers

**Reviewed and ratified as per the Schools Admissions Code (effective September 2021)*

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Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain how to apply for a place at a school that is part of Batley Multi Academy Trust.
- Set out the arrangements for allocating places to the students who apply.
- Explain how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place.

Legislation and Statutory Requirements

This policy is based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- School Admissions Code 2021
- School Admission Appeals Code

In addition to:

- The Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998

We are required by our funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This policy complies with our Funding Agreement and Articles of Association.

Definitions

The normal admissions round is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at a school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order

This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.

A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their 5th birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

How to Apply

Batley Multi Academy Trust (BMAT) uses Kirklees Council for admission arrangements, the details of which can be found here: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools-and-education.aspx#>.

For the purpose of this policy, our Trust schools are those listed below. Schools that joined the Trust from 1 September 2019 are not included.

Batley Girls' High School

The initial number of year 7 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 233.
The initial number of year 8 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 233.
The initial number of year 9 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 233.
The initial number of year 10 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 211.
The initial number of year 11 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 211.

Upper Batley High School

The initial number of year 7 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 150.
The initial number of year 8 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 150.
The initial number of year 9 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 160.
The initial number of year 10 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 150.
The initial number of year 11 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 150.

Healey Junior, Infant and Nursery School

The initial number of nursery places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 52.
The initial number of reception places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 55.
The initial number of year 1 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 55.
The initial number of year 2 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 55.
The initial number of year 3 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 55.
The initial number of year 4 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 55.
The initial number of year 5 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 55.
The initial number of year 6 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 55.

Field Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

The initial number of nursery places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 30.
The initial number of reception places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 30.*
The initial number of year 1 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 30.
The initial number of year 2 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 30.
The initial number of year 3 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 30.
The initial number of year 4 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 30.
The initial number of year 5 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 30.
The initial number of year 6 places available for the 2021/22 school year will be 30.

*15 admitted to a morning session, 15 admitted to an afternoon session.

Applications for September 2021 entry should be made via the Kirklees coordinated admissions scheme using the online Parent Portal on the Kirklees website. The application period will run from the week beginning 1 September 2020. The closing date for applications will be 31 October 2020.

Admissions Criteria

If there are fewer applicants than there are places available, everyone who applies will be offered a place. When there are more applicants than there are places available there has to be a way of deciding which children are offered places. This is done by an admission criteria also known as oversubscription criteria. The Trust's oversubscription criteria are as follows;

Priority 1	Children in public care (looked after children), or a child who was previously looked after.
Priority 2	Children who live in the school's Priority Admission Area (PAA) who have a sister, step sister or half sister (for Batley Girls' High School) and a brother, step brother or half brother (for Upper Batley High School) and children who have a sister, brother, step sister/brother or half sister/brother at one of our primaries attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule).
Priority 3	Children who live in the PAA and attend a Trust primary school will get a priority place at a Trust secondary school.
Priority 4	Children who live in the school's PAA.
Priority 5	Children who live outside the school's PAA who have a sister, step sister or half sister (for Batley Girls' High School) and a brother, step brother or half brother (for Upper Batley High School) and children who have a sister, brother, step sister/brother or half sister/brother at one of our primaries attending from the same address at the date of admission (the sibling rule).
Priority 6	Children who live outside the school's PAA.

Children with special educational needs who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the School will be allocated a place at the School. This is a statutory entitlement under the S.324 of the Education Act 1996.

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date will be regarded as late unless there have been significant and exceptional reasons for the lateness. Proof of special circumstances will be required.

Late applications are not considered until all on-time applications have been allocated places. Applications submitted after the closing date due to a significant house move will be regarded as on-time provided that documentary evidence to confirm the move is provided by 4 January 2021.

Tie Break

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, we will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school.

Distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the school's front gates. A child's home address will be considered to be where they are resident for the majority of nights in a normal school week.

Where the distance between 2 or more children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them. This process will be independently verified. Random allocation means the child's name would be assigned to a number and then an electronic randomiser would be used to draw a number.

Challenging Behaviour

We will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8) apply, i.e. where section 87 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 is engaged.

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked after children, previously looked after children and children with EHC plans listing one of our schools.

Fair Access Protocol

We participate in our Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol. This helps make sure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

In Year Applications

Parents wishing to apply for a place during the academic year, must submit an application via an In-Year Common Application Form (ICAF) which can be found on www.kirklees.gov.uk.

If the application is successful your child will be admitted to school. If we are unable to process your application, your child will be placed on a waiting list and the oversubscription criteria above will be applied. Your child will remain on the waiting list until the end of the academic year unless a parent requests their child to be removed from it. A new ICAF must be completed every academic year if your child remains on the waiting list.

All ICAF applications will be discussed at NKBC (North Kirklees Behaviour and Attendance Collaborative) prior to places being offered.

Parents will be notified of the outcome of your in-year application in writing within 15 school days.

Summer Birthdays

The Trust does not normally consider placing students in year groups which are not in chronological age group. However, the school is aware of parental right to request this as per the [School Admissions Code](#). These requests will be considered on an individual basis whilst considering the specific needs of each child.

National Offer Day

National Offer Day for primary admissions is 16 April 2021. On National Offer Day, Local Authorities will send out notification to parents/carers offering a place at a single primary school.

National Offer Day for secondary admissions is 1 March 2021. On National Offer Day, Local Authorities will send out notification to parents/carers offering a place at a single secondary school.

Appeals Procedure

Often schools within the Trust are fully subscribed. Parents who want to appeal against the decision not to offer their child a place at the school can appeal using the online form on the Kirklees website, found at <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/admissions/about-admission-appeals.aspx>

The appeal will be heard by an independent appeals panel. Parents will receive written notification of the date and time of their appeal hearing, which they can attend to explain their case. If they wish, parents may be accompanied by an adviser or friend. Following the appeal, the Clerk to the appeals panel will write to parents with the decision.

Waiting Lists

Unsuccessful applicants will automatically be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be held giving priority in accordance with the admission criteria order. Any places which become available will be filled from the waiting list. Criteria for updating and applying the waiting list will be those as outlined by the Local Authority and the Local Authority will hold the waiting list.

For further information, please visit: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools-and-education.aspx>

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees every year.

Whenever changes to the admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the PAN), the Board of Trustees will publicly consult on these changes.

The Board of Trustees will consult on the admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.