



Mill Chase Academy

Ambition, Courage, Excellence

Lead Governor: Chair of Governors

Senior Leadership Team Link: Steph Moral

Previous Review: March 2016

Next Review Due: March 2017

Ratified by Governors: 24th March 2016

Mill Chase Academy

Admission Policy for 2017/18

This policy will apply to all admissions from 1 September 2017, including in-year admissions. The academy will participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by the Hampshire County Council and the local Fair Access Protocol which will be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups. It will be used during 2016/17 for allocating places for September 2017 as part of the main admission round for Year 7.

The guiding principles of the Admissions Policy are to be clear, fair and objective and compliant with all relevant legislation; that the academy will work with Hampshire County Council to ensure places are offered in accordance with the published arrangements; that the academy will serve its local community; that siblings as far as possible can attend school together; and that children can benefit from continuity between schools serving the same community.

Admission Criteria

The University of Chichester Academy Trust is the admission authority for all of its schools. The admission arrangements are determined by the Trust, after statutory consultations. The published admission number (PAN) for Mill Chase Academy is 150.

Hampshire County Council will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of midnight on 31st October 2016. Notifications to parents offering a secondary school place for Mill Chase Academy will be sent by the County Council on 18th April 2017.

Applications made after midnight 31 October 2016 will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all on time preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the academy is oversubscribed, places will be offered up to the published admission number (PAN) in the following priority order. Places for applications received after the deadline will be allocated using the same criteria:

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after (*see (i) in Definitions*).
2. Children or families who have a serious medical, physical or psychological condition which makes it essential that the child attends Mill Chase Academy rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence must be provided in support.)
3. Children living in the catchment area of Mill Chase Academy (*see (ii) in Definitions*) who at the time of application have a sibling (*see (iii) in Definitions*) on the roll of Mill Chase Academy who will still be on roll at the time of the sibling's admission. (See 6 for additional children who may be considered under this criterion.)
4. Other children living in the catchment area of Mill Chase Academy.
5. Children living out of the catchment area of the academy who at the time of the application have a sibling (*see (iii) in Definitions*) on the roll of Mill Chase Academy who will still be on roll at the time of the sibling's admission. [Where a sibling was allocated a place at the school in the normal admission round in a previous year because the child was displaced (*see (iv) in Definitions*) from the catchment school for their address, the application will be considered under 3, above, subject to the siblings still living in the catchment area. In future normal admissions rounds a younger sibling will be considered to have been displaced where they were allocated a place at the school under this criterion as a consequence of their elder sibling's displacement and they remain living in the catchment area].
6. Children living **out** of the catchment area of the academy who are on the roll of a linked primary or junior school: St Matthew's Church Of England (Aided) Primary School Blackmoor, Bordon Junior School, Woodlea Primary School, The Holme Church Of England (Controlled) Primary School, Weyford Junior School.
7. Other children living **out** of the catchment area of the academy.

Definitions

(i) Looked after children are defined as those who are (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). Previously looked children are those who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption order, child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

(ii) The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week, and should be used for the application. The permanent address of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time.

(iii) 'Sibling' refers to brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, foster brother or sister, step brother or step sister living as one family unit at the same address. It will also be applied to situations where a full, half or adopted brother or sister are living at separate

addresses. Categories 3 and 6 include children who at the time of application have a sibling for whom the offer of a place at the preferred school has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending.

(iv) 'Displaced' refers to a child who was refused a place at the catchment school in the normal admissions round having named it in the application and was not offered a higher named preference school.

Permanent Residence

The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week, and should be used for the application. The permanent address of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time.

Tie-breaker

If the academy is oversubscribed from within any of the above categories, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the school have priority. Distances will be measured from the Ordnance Survey home address point to the academy reception using Hampshire County Council's Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Distances to multiple dwellings will give priority to the ground floor over the first floor and so on. On individual floors, distances will be measured to the stairs leading to the communal entrance. Where two or more applicants are equidistant, random allocation will be used to allocate the place. An explanation of the random allocation procedure is available on the County website.

Additional Information

1. Pupils with a statement of special educational needs

The governing body will admit any pupil whose final statement of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) names the academy. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

2. Multiple births

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a school under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the academy's PAN.

3. In-Year Fair Access placements by the local authority

The local authority must ensure that all pupils are placed in schools as quickly as possible. It may therefore sometimes be necessary for a pupil to be placed by the local authority, or a local placement panel acting on behalf of the authority, in a particular school even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements will be made in accordance with the provisions of the local authority's In-Year Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

4. School Closures

In the event of a school closure, pupils from the closing school may be given priority for admission to any school nominated as the receiving school. Specific arrangements will be determined by the Local Authority in accordance with the School Admissions Code and will be published at the time for the specific schools affected.

5. Waiting lists

When all available places have been allocated, waiting lists will be operated by schools on behalf of the local authority. Any places that become available will be allocated according to the criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part of the main admission round. Fair Access admissions and school closure arrangements will take priority over the waiting list.

The waiting list will be reviewed and revised –

- each time a child is added to, or removed from, the waiting list;
- when a child's changed circumstances affect their priority;

At the time of receiving an application decision from the County Council or a school, parents will be advised of the process for adding their child's name to a school's waiting list. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools as they wish.

The waiting list will be maintained until 31 August 2018, at which point all names will be removed. Should parents wish their child to be considered for a place at the academy in the following school year, they should complete and submit a fresh in-year application in the August preceding the new school year. Schools will send a decision letter within the first 10 days of the new term.

6. Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents can seek places outside their normal age group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case; parents may be offered a place in another year group at the academy.

7. Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appellants in the normal admissions round should contact the University of Chichester Academy Trust by 22 May 2017¹ In-year applicants can contact the University of Chichester Academy Trust at any time having received a refusal letter from the school. Information on how to appeal and the timetable for the appeals process is on the Trust website at www.unicat.org.uk

8. Legislation

This policy takes account of all Equalities legislation, together with all relevant regulations and the School Admissions Code (DfE 2014).

For information on Hampshire County Councils Admissions please see www.hants.gov.uk.
Contact details: admissions.team@hants.gov.uk
Tel: 03005551377

¹ Parents must be given at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to lodge an appeal

RATIFICATION DATE AND CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

Ratified/Signature:

Print Name:

Date: