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Abbs Cross Academy Admission Policy

Admission Policy 2022 – 2023

1. Definitions

In this document the following words and expressions (unless the context requires otherwise) have the following meanings:

- 1.1 Admissions Authority
The body responsible for setting and applying a school’s admission arrangements. For academies this is the Academy Trust.

- 1.2 Abbs Cross Academy (part of the Loxford Trust)
It should be noted that Abbs Cross Academy is its own admission authority.

- 1.3 Local Authority (LA) may also be referred to as Havering
This is the LA that co-ordinate admissions for Abbs Cross Academy

- 1.4 Published Admissions Number (PAN)
As part of determining their admission arrangements, all admissions authorities must set an admission number for each ‘relevant age group’. This is the number of places that the admission authority must offer in each age group at which pupils will be normally admitted to the school from outside, Year 7.

- 1.5 Looked after Children / Previously Looked after Children and Children adopted from state care outside of England
Within the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools looked after, previously looked after children and children adopted from state care outside of England will receive the top priority for a place. Looked after, previously looked after children and children adopted from state care outside of England will be considered to be:
 - Children who are registered as being in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a), e.g. fostered or living in a children’s home, at the time an application for a school is made; and
 - Children who have previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a) and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangements order (in accordance with

Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section14A of the Children Act 1989)

- A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

1.6 Siblings

A brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), a half-brother or half-sister or a step-brother or step-sister or an adoptive or foster sibling, living as part of the same family unit at the same address, who is attending the school at the time of entry.

1.7 Distance of the home address from the Academy

The distance between the home address and the Academy is measured in kilometres and in a straight line, not by the shortest walking or bus route. The measurement is taken between the address point for the school and the address point of the child's normal place of residence.

Address points are located in the centre of the child's home, or in the centre of a block of flats, and for the school the address point is located in a predetermined point of the school.

In the event that two or more applicants, apply for a single place at the school live at addresses that are located at exactly the same distance from the School, or live in the same block of flats, the place will be offered on a random basis drawn by an officer of the Local Authority who is not involved in the admissions process.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Abbs Cross Academy is its own admissions authority. This policy will be administered fairly and impartially and is in accordance with The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty, The Human Rights Act 1998, School Standards Framework Act 1998 and the DfE Admissions Code December 2014 updated September 2015. The Admissions Policy for the school will be reviewed annually in line with requirements laid down in the Admissions Code and full consultation occurs at least every seven years.

3. The Application Process for Year 7

- 3.1 Applications for admission to Year 7 in September 2021 are co-ordinated by the London Borough of Havering (the Local Authority).
- 3.2 Parents/Carers residing in Havering must complete and submit the Local Authority's Common Application Form (CAF) by the 31st October 2021. Applications from out-of-borough residents must be made using the Common Application Form provided by their home local authority. Full details of the co-ordinated admissions process can be obtained from the Local Authority's website at www.havering.gov.uk/admissions or by reading a copy of the 'Transferring to a Havering Secondary School' brochure, published annually by the Local Authority.
- 3.3 The academy will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) / or Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) naming the school. They are admitted ahead of other applicants but will be included in the Published Admission Number (PAN).
- 3.4 Twins and Multiple Births
If, in the normal admission round, the last child to be offered a place is a twin, and their sibling cannot be offered a place, the School will ensure that both twins are offered a place. In the case of other multiple births, if the majority of children can be offered a place, the school will offer places to the remaining

children. For example, if two triplets can be offered a place, the remaining child will also receive an offer of a place.

3.5 Late Applications

Applications for places received after 31st October 2021 will not be considered until all of the applications received by that date have been dealt with unless there are exceptional circumstances. For further details please read the information provided within the 'Transferring to a Havering Secondary School' brochure, published annually by the Local Authority.

4. **Admissions Policy for Year 7**

4.1 The Published Admission Number (PAN) for Abbs Cross Academy is 180 pupils for entry into Year 7. The academy will accordingly admit at least 180 each year if sufficient applications are received.

4.2 Pupils will be admitted at age 11 without reference to aptitude or ability (except as in 4.3 c) below).

4.3 If the school is not oversubscribed all children will be offered a place. If the demand is more than the number of places available, all applications will be considered on an equal basis according to the following oversubscription criteria:

a. Looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order) and children adopted from state care outside of England

b. Where a sibling is attending the school at the time of entry.

c. Ten per cent of places (18) will be allocated to children who show particular aptitude in Performing Arts (Music, Drama, Dance)

d. Proximity of the child's home to the School, as measured in a straight line, with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority.

5. **Tie-breaks**

5.1 If, because of oversubscription in any of the criteria above (apart from the criteria applying to Looked After Children / Previously Looked After Children) it is necessary to distinguish between applicants, the distance of the applicant's home address from the School, as measured by a straight line from the School, will be used with those pupils living nearer the School being given higher priority.

5.2 Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between a child's home and the school is the same in any individual case.

6. **Definitions of Admissions Criteria**

6.1 For definitions of Looked After Children, Previously Looked After Children, Children adopted from state care outside of England, Siblings and the home address as well as further information on the coordinated Admissions Arrangements between Havering Schools and Academies please visit the Havering School Admissions website

7. **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

7.1 Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside of their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and

either agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows:

Immediately after submitting the application, parents should contact the school and request that the child is admitted to another year group (state which one), and the reasons for that request.

Parents will need to submit any evidence in support of their case with the request, for instance from a medical practitioner, head teacher etc. 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.

7.2 The school (who may consult with / seek advice from the Local Authority) will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests. The school in consultation with the Local Authority will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, and the reason for any refusal.

Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time. An application from a child who would 'normally' be a year 8 child for a year 7 place will be considered alongside applications for year 7.

8. Administrative Arrangements

8.1 The Local Authority will be making a single offer against our criteria and as such the statement of preference on the Common Application Form is critical, since no offer will be made to a lower preference if the higher preference criteria are met:

a. It is the policy of the school not to accept Performing Arts applications after the set closing date, which for admission in September 2022 is 30th September 2021.

b. No second applications for places will be considered within the same academic year.

c. All Performing Arts applications will be acknowledged in writing within ten days of receipt as proof of application. **Parents should contact the school without delay if no acknowledgement is received.**

9. Notes – Performing Arts

9.1 Where a pupil seeks admission to the School on the basis of their aptitude in Performing Arts, applicants will be invited to the School for an aptitude test on Thursday 7th October 2021. The aptitude test will comprise of tests in one of the disciplines of music, drama or dance. This is explained in more detail on the supplementary application form. Parents will be notified of the outcome of the aptitude test prior to the closing date for applications.

9.2 Six places will be allocated to each of the disciplines. Should these not be filled the remaining places will be allocated to the next best students from any of the three disciplines (taking the total to the allotted 10%)

- 9.3 When the pupils are in the School the courses open to them will be those open to all pupils of the School, though it is expected that such pupils will continue with their extra-curricular Arts studies throughout their period at the School.
- 9.4 If a pupil admitted under 4.3 c. leaves the school, the Arts place may be offered to an Arts applicant held on the waiting list in the relevant year group. Where there is no suitable applicant, the place will be offered in accordance with 4.3 a, b or d.

10. Admissions Appeals

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 For information on the timetable for the appeals process and to lodge an appeal online parents should visit www.haverling.gov.uk/admissions/appeal within 20 days of being notified that their application has been unsuccessful.
- 10.3 **Further Appeals**
The school can only consider one appeal application for each child during each Academic year. In normal circumstances, there is no right to a second appeal for the same School within the same School year. However, if there has been a significant and material change in the family's circumstances which they believe affects the level of priority under which the application was processed, for example, if the family had moved house, the school may consider a second application as long as a parent/carer can provide evidence of the changed circumstances. If the second application is accepted but a place is still not available at the school requested, parents/carers will be given the right to a second appeal hearing.

11. Waiting lists

- 11.1 The Local Authority School Admissions Team will operate a waiting list for each year group, 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 first academic term. This will be maintained by the Local Authority and the child's name will automatically be placed on the waiting list if the school is a higher preference than the school you have been offered. The waiting list will also 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.

A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the admissions criteria as set out above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the admissions criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the admissions criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves it. Priority cannot be given to children based on the date that their application was received or their name was added to the waiting list.

A child's position on the waiting list can move up as well as down.

- 11.2 **Remaining on a waiting list after the Autumn Term**
At the end of the Autumn Term, parents/carers wishing for their child's names to remain on the waiting list for the school, must complete the Local Authorities In-Year Common Application Form (ICAF). These forms are available to download from the Haverling website www.haverling.gov.uk/admissions/ICAF. The ICAF will only allow parents/carers to request 4 schools and parents will only be able to appeal for schools which they have not already appealed for within the same academic year.

12. In-Year Admissions

12.1 In Year admissions are admissions that take effect after **1 September 2022**.

The Local Authority will continue to administer and co-ordinate In-Year applications for all schools in Havering.

Parents/Carers including out of borough residents, requesting a school place should submit an application to the Local Authority School Admissions Team using the Havering online In-Year Common Application Form (ICAF) which is available to download from the Havering website www.havering.gov.uk/admissions/ICAF. Paper ICAF's are also available from the Public Advice & Service Centre (PASC) based in the Liberty Shopping Centre, Romford.

Further information regarding In Year admissions is available via the Havering website www.havering.gov.uk/admissions/inyear

The Local Authority will process the application and a place will be offered at the highest preferred School/ Academy with a vacancy. If there are no vacancies at any of the preferred Schools/ Academies and the parent has not requested that their child remain at their current school, the nearest school with a vacancy will be offered. Parents /carers will be advised of this information in writing and advised of their right of appeal against the decision not to offer their child a place at any of their preferred Schools/ Academy.

Abbs Cross Academy participate in the Local Authority In-Year Fair Access Protocol.

Home Address

The home address excludes any business, relative's or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence. Where the child is subject to a child arrangements order and that order stipulates that the child will live with one parent/carer more than the other, the address to be used will be the one where the child is expected to live for the majority of the time. For other children, the address to be used will be the address where the child lives the majority of the time. In other cases, where the child spends an equal time between their parents/carers, it will be up to the parent/carers to agree which address to use. Where a child spends their time equally between their parents/carers and they cannot agree on who should make the application, we will accept an application from the parent/carer who is registered for child benefit. If neither parent is registered for child benefit, we will accept the application from the parent/carer whose address is registered with the child's current school.

We will not generally accept a temporary address if the main carer of the child still possesses a property that has previously been used as a home address, nor will we accept a temporary address if we believe it has been used solely or mainly to obtain a school place when an alternative address is still available to that child.

The address to be used for the initial allocation of places will be the child's address at the closing date for application. Changes of address may be considered in accordance with Havering's coordinated scheme if there are exceptional reasons behind the change. Any offer of a place on the basis of address is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Applicants have a responsibility to notify the Havering School Admissions Team of any change of address and must provide verification of the new address immediately. This should be supported by evidence from a solicitor regarding the date of exchange of contracts if parents/carers are purchasing a new home or the signed tenancy agreement if they are renting a property. The length of a tenancy agreement from the letting agent should be sufficient to cover the date on which their child would start attending their preferred School.

If a parent/carer is found to have used a false address or deliberately provided misleading information to obtain a School place, the offer will be withdrawn (or if before the allocation of places, the application will be cancelled).

With regards to how the information provided by parents/carers is handled by the Local Authority, the following statement is detailed on their application form:

“Havering Council will handle information you have provided in line with the Data Protection Act (DPA) and will be used for school admission purposes. The information will be held in confidence with only the necessary people working within the combined children’s services able to access and handle it. The Council has a duty under the Children Act 2004 to work with partners to develop and improve services to children and young people in the area. As such, the Council may also use this information for other legitimate purposes and may share information (where necessary) with other Council departments and external bodies responsible for administering services to children and young people. For the purpose of validating proof of address the admissions team may refer to data held by Council Tax records. The Council also has a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end it may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud. Under the DPA you have the right to make a formal written request for access to personal data held about you or your child. For further information please contact the School Admissions Team”