

Whitemoor admissions arrangements 2020/2021



This policy will be reviewed autumn 2019 for arrangements for 2021/2022

1. Determined admission policy (2020/2021)

1.1 All references to 'academy' in this document refer to Whitemoor Academy (Primary and Nursery) – their **published admission number** for the intake year is **60**.

1.2 All applications for places should be made on the applicant's home local authority online or paper application form. For residents living in Nottingham City this will be Nottingham City Council's (the local authority's) common application form which is available from their website <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/education-and-schools/school-admissions/> or from Schools Admissions, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham NG2 3NG

Tel: 0115 841 5568. Although the SHINE Board of Trustees and its nominated Local Governing Body (Governing Body) have responsibility for deciding on admissions, under law Nottingham City, as the local authority, will co-ordinate all admissions in its area and will communicate all admission decisions to parents.

2. Applications for places in reception

2.1 For entrance to the academy in September 2020 the closing date for applications under the coordinated admission scheme is 15 January 2020. Offers of places will be made on the national offer date of 16 April 2020.

2.2 Parents of summer born children can choose to defer their child's admission until later in the school year. A child must be in school at the start of the new term after they have turned 5, which is compulsory school age. A child born after the start of the summer term and into the holiday period must attend school in the final term of the academic year. Or if parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age. The admissions authority will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each individual case. Parents wishing to defer admissions should still apply by 15 January 2020.

3. Late applications for reception

3.1 Nottingham City Council and the Governing Body of the relevant academy may be willing to accept applications which are received late, i.e. after the closing date of 15 January 2020, but before 5 pm on 10 February 2020 for good reason. For example:

- A family returning from abroad
- A lone parent who has been ill for some time
- A family moving into Nottingham from another area
- Other exceptional circumstances

Each case will be treated on its merits.

3.2 Any preferences received by Nottingham City Council before 5 pm on 10 February 2020, with good reason for being late, and where appropriate, with the agreement of the Governing Body of the relevant academy will be included in the first cycle of allocations and will be notified on the national offer day.

3.3 All other late applications for places at the academy received by Nottingham City Council after 5 pm on 10 February 2020 will be dealt with after the offer day.

3.4 Other local authorities might have different policies when dealing with late applications. Applicants are advised to contact their home local authority to find out what their policy is.

4. Applications outside the normal year of entry

4.1 Details of how to apply for places in any year group, made during the school year from September 2020 onwards, will be made available on the academy's website. If the respective year group total is below the published admission number for that year group, the child will be offered a place unless paragraphs 2.15 and 3.8 of the School Admissions Code¹ are applicable. If the respective year group total is full, the child will be only offered a place if there are very exceptional circumstances and if the governors decide that the education of pupils in that year group will not be detrimentally affected by the admission of an extra pupil. Parents will have 14 days to accept the offer of a school place.

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf

4.2 If a child is not allocated a place, parents have a statutory right to appeal (see 'Appeals' below). Appeals should be lodged within 20 school days of the date of the decision letter.

5. Admissions outside of chronological age can be made

5.1 Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, who live in the home local authority area, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admission number to schools that are already full.

5.2 Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if their child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health, effectively in the year group below or above their chronological age group.

5.3 Such requests will involve the Headteacher completing an educational assessment to determine whether or not it is appropriate for the individual child to delay or accelerate their entry into school and be taught outside of their chronological age group. Any admission outside normal age group will be subject to application for that year using the same criteria as above (4.2). The admissions authority cannot guarantee that, although a child may be offered a place in their normal year of entry, this place will be available in another year of entry as this application will be subject to the application of the admissions priority criteria.

6. Oversubscription criteria

6.1 In the event of oversubscription within any of the criteria listed below, preference will be given to applicants who live closest to the academy, as measured in a straight line (by a computerised geographical information system) from a point on the school site to a point at the pupil's home, i.e. as the crow flies, both identified by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer. Where two or more pupils are equal in all respects and it is therefore not possible to differentiate between them, a method of random allocation by drawing lots will be used to allocate places (supervised by someone independent of the academy).

6.2 Pupils who have a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan, where the academy is named in the child's statement or plan will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available for other pupils.

Criterion 1. Places will first be allocated to a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is (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 in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to a school. An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. 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).

Criterion 2. Places will then be allocated to pupils who, at the closing date for applications, live within the catchment area² of the academy, whose parents have requested a place at the academy and who have a sibling already attending the school whom is expected still to be on roll at the proposed date of admission of the applicant sibling.

Criterion 3. Places will then be allocated to other pupils who, at the closing date for applications, live within the catchment area of the academy and whose parents have requested a place at the academy.

Criterion 4. Places will then be allocated to pupils who live outside the catchment area of the academy, whose parents have requested a place at the academy and who, at the time of admission, will have a sibling attending the academy.

Criterion 5. Places will then be allocated to other pupils who live outside the catchment area of the academy whose parents have requested a place at the academy.

² This relates to those pupils living in the catchment area for the academy set for the 2020/2021 academic year.

The above criteria (2-5) may be overridden and priority given to an applicant who can establish any of the following:

- Pupils with special educational needs that can only be met at the academy (e.g. where the academy has specialist provision)*;
- Children of travellers, pupils with exceptional medical, mobility, or social grounds that can only be met at the academy*.

*Applications in these categories must be supported by a statement in writing from a doctor, social worker or other relevant professional. This is necessary because you will be asking the academy to assess your child as having a stronger case than other children. Each case will be considered on its merits by the Governing Body of the relevant academy.

Note: Parent/carers should be aware that no preference will be given to children attending the Nursery provision of Whitemoor Academy – only the criteria above will be applied.

7. Accepting or Withdrawing an offer of a place

7.1 In the normal admissions round (i.e. when offers are made for first-time admissions national offer date 16 April), all admissions decisions will be communicated to parents by Nottingham City Council. Parents are requested to confirm to Nottingham City Council whether or not they wish to take up any place that is offered. Once the academic year begins the school place should be taken up within 20 school days. Mid-term applications (outside the normal round) should be made via Nottingham City Council who will co-ordinate admissions on behalf of the Academy³.

7.2 Any offers of a place found to be made on the basis of inaccurate information can be withdrawn. Such examples would include fraudulent or intentionally misleading applications (e.g. a false claim to residence in the catchment area of the relevant academy). Failure to accept a place offered at the academy within the 14 days previously specified may also lead to the withdrawal of that offer.

³ The School Admissions Code does not allow an admission authority (in this case the Academy) to withdraw an offer unless it has been offered in error, a parent has not responded within a reasonable period of time, or it is established that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application. (see 2.12 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf).

8. Waiting list

8.1 If there is oversubscription within any year group the academy will maintain a waiting list. Waiting lists for reception year and years 1 to 5 will be maintained all-year round from the date of refusal of a place up until the summer half term. Waiting lists will not be maintained for year 6. Inclusion in a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

8.2 Where the number of students in a particular year group falls below the admission number and where it will not result in a breach of the infant class size legislation, the person whose name appears at the top of that particular year group's waiting list will be offered a place. A child's position on this waiting list will be determined by the application of the academy's published oversubscription criteria.

8.3 Parents are welcome to ask what position their child currently holds on the list. However, because the academy constantly receives applications for admission throughout the year, the waiting lists are continually being re-ordered. Parents need to be aware that their position on the list may rise and fall over time and therefore a higher position on the list is not necessarily a good indicator of the likelihood of a place being offered. Length of time on the waiting list will not be a factor in offering a place.

8.4 Children who are the subject of a direction by a Local Authority to admit or who are allocated a place at the academy in accordance with the In-Year Fair Access Protocol⁴, will take precedence over those children on a waiting list.

9. Independent appeals

9.1 Parents have the right to an independent appeals panel in the event that their child is declined admission to the academy. Repeat applications in the same academic year will not be considered unless there is a significant and material change in circumstances. Parents wishing to appeal should submit their appeal form within 20 school days of the date of the letter advising that child has not been given a place. Details of where an appeal should be sent will be provided on the decision letter or made available on the school's website.

⁴ published on our website <http://www.shine-mat.com/admissions/>

10. Definitions of terms used in these arrangements

10.1 Residence

10.1.1 This is defined as the child's permanent place of residence which is deemed to be the residential property that is their only or main home on the closing date for applications and which their parent, carer or guardian owns, leases or rents under a lease or written rental agreement. If more than one person has parental responsibility for the child and those people live in separate homes, we will consider the child's home address to be the property at which they live for most of the week (this includes weekends as well as weekdays).

Note: Parent/carers should be aware the academy may request proof of residency.

10.1.2 If the child lives at two separate homes for an equal length of time, the child's permanent place of residence will be taken as the address shown on the child benefit letter.

10.2 Brothers or sisters – sibling connection

10.2.1 For admission purposes the academy considers a sibling connection to relate to any of the following:

- A brother or sister who share the same parents;
- A half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent;
- A step brother or step sister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage or civil partnership;
- Adopted or fostered children living in the same household under the terms of a Child Arrangements or Special Guardianship Order.

10.2.2 The academy does not consider these as siblings:

- Cousins or other family relationships not included in 1 above;
- Siblings who at 1 September 2020 will not be registered pupils at the relevant academy.

10.2.3 Where applications are received in respect of twins, triplets or children of other multiple births, the academy will endeavour to offer places in the same school, admitting above the planned admission number where necessary. If this is not possible, the parent/carers will be asked which child (ren) should take up the place(s). The parent/carers will still have a right of appeal against a refusal of a place.

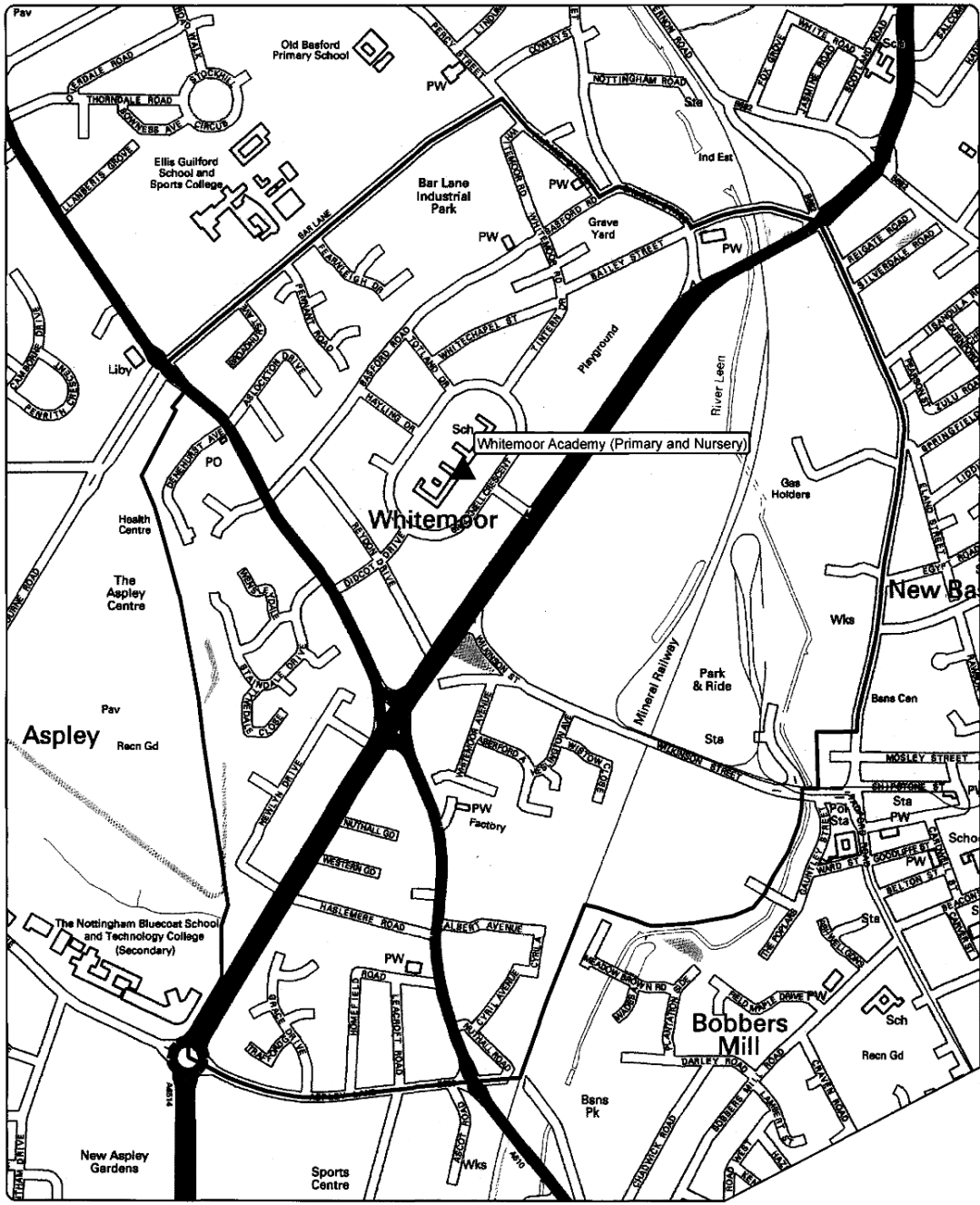
10.3 Parent

10.3.1 Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' to include; all-natural parents, whether they are married or not; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or a young person. Having parental responsibility means assuming all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority that a parent of a child has by law. People other than a child's natural parent can acquire parental responsibility.

11. Catchment area

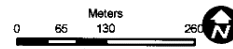
11.1 The defined catchment area for the academy is set out via the following link <http://geoserver.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/primarycatchment/> and on the map on the next the page.



Map Showing Whitemoor Academy (Primary & Nursery) Catchment Area



Key

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-  Whitemoor Academy (Primary & Nursery)
-  Whitemoor Academy Catchment Area



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