



STRONGER TOGETHER



# Main School Admissions Policy

## Academic Year 2021/22

<b>Academy level contribution:</b>		
<b>CEO approval:</b>	Sean Kelly	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Education Group consultation</b> (where applicable):	CB, JB, MM, MW	<b>Date:</b>
<b>LGB Cluster consultation</b> (where applicable):		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Joint Negotiating Council (JNC) consultation</b> (where applicable):		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Board ratification:</b>	Raleigh Learning Trust Board	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	Spring 2020	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	Spring 2021	

## **Introduction**

The school policy for Admission for the academic year 2021/2022 has been written to reflect Nottingham City Local Authority guidance. The policy was reviewed and updated following the Nottingham City consultation period ending December 21 2018.

All references to 'academy' in this document refers to Ambleside Academy.

The published admission number for the intake year is: 90

All applications for places should be made to the applicant's home local authority. Parents/carers resident in Nottingham City are strongly encouraged to apply through the Council's website using the online admissions system. Alternatively, if parents/carers resident in Nottingham City wish to apply using a paper application form (School Common Application Form) this is available from and should be returned to the School Admissions Team, Access and Inclusion, LH Box 14, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG.

Although the Governing Body has responsibility for deciding on admissions, under law the local authority will co-ordinate all admissions in its area and will communicate all admission decisions to parents.

## **Applications for places in reception year in 2021/2022**

For entrance to the academy in September 2021, application packs will be distributed by the local authority to parents/carers resident in the Nottingham City by post or via city nursery schools by 16 November 2020. The closing date for applications under the co-ordinated admission scheme is 15 January 2021. Offers of places will be made on the national offer date of 16 April 2021 (or next working day after this date). In respect of applications for the 2021 autumn term, for parents/carer who apply for a place online an email will be sent on the 16 April 2021. If a paper application was submitted by the School Common Application Form decisions will be posted on the 16 April 2021 and should be received by parent/carers on the 18 or 20 April 2021.

Parents/carers should confirm to the local authority whether they wish to accept the place offered within 14 days of receipt of the offer. Failure to do so will result in the place being withdrawn.

## **Late applications for reception year in 2021/2022**

Nottingham City Council and the Governing Body of the academy may be willing to accept applications which are received late, i.e. after the closing date of 15 January 2021, but before 5.00 p.m. on 10 February 2021 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.

Any preferences received by Nottingham City Council up to 10 February 2021, with good reason for being late, and where appropriate, with the agreement of the Governing Body of the academy will be included in the first cycle of allocations and will be notified on the national offer day.

All other late applications for places at the academy received by Nottingham City Council after 10 February 2021 will be dealt with after the offer day.

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.

## **Applications outside the normal year of entry**

Details of how to apply for places in any year group, made during the school year from September 2021 onwards, will be made available on the school's website nearer the time. 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 Code 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 otherwise it may be withdrawn and offered to another pupil on the waiting list.

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.

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.

In respect of the need to make admission out of the normal age group, requests for admission outside of chronological age will be considered and can be made.

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 may be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available for other pupils.

## **Oversubscription criteria**

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).

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 12 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).

2. Places will then be allocated to pupils who, at the closing date for applications, live within 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 brother or sister attending the academy and who are expected to still be on roll at the proposed date of admission of the applicant sibling.
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.
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 brother or sister attending the relevant academy.

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.

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 relevant academy (e.g. where the academy has specialist provision)\*;
- children of travellers/refugees/asylum seekers, pupils with exceptional medical, mobility, or social grounds that can only be met at the relevant 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 academy.

### **Withdrawing an offer of a place**

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.

### **Waiting list**

If there is oversubscription within any year group, the academy will maintain a waiting list. Waiting lists will be maintained until the last day of the summer half term for year's reception to year 5. 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.

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.

Parents are welcome to ask what position their child currently holds on the list. However, because the academies constantly receive 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 or 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.

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 Protocol, will take precedence over those children on a waiting list.

### **Appeals**

Parents have the right to an independent appeals panel in the event that their child is declined admission to the academy, except where their child has been permanently excluded from two or more schools and where at least one of those exclusions took place after 1 September 1997. (This applies to a twice excluded pupil for a period of two years beginning with the date the last exclusion took place). 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 website.

## **Definitions of terms used in these arrangements:**

### **Residence**

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, the school/academy 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).

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

### **Brothers or sisters – sibling connection**

1. For admission purposes the academy considers the following as siblings:
  - 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 arrangement or special guardianship order.
2. 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.

### **Parent**

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.

### **Catchment area**

The defined catchment area for the academy is set out on the next page.

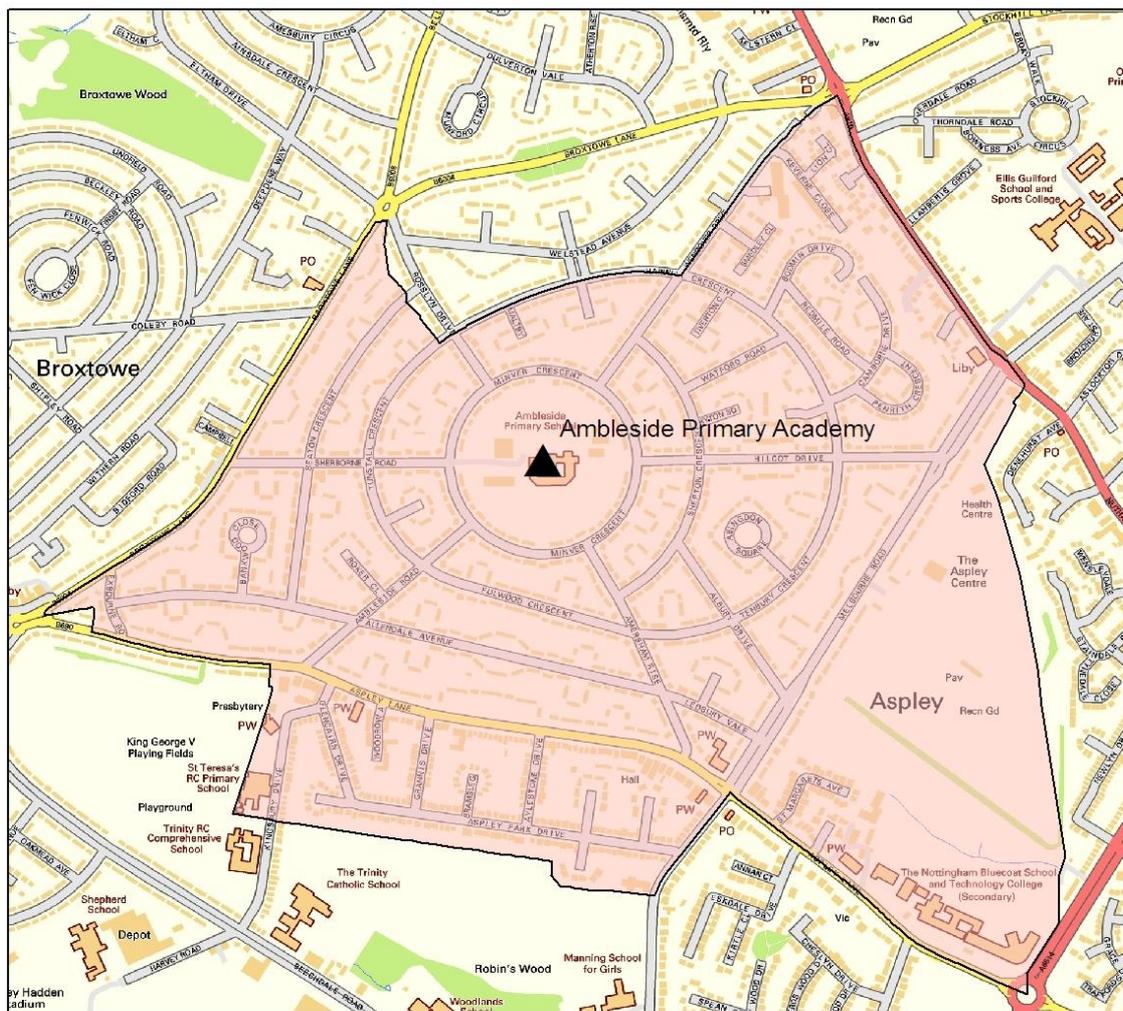
### **Racial & Equality Statement**

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, belief, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Ambleside Academy is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential. Policies are available on each of these that expand on this further.

### **Accessibility of policy documents**

Parents and carers are welcome to ask for further information about any policy matter. Copies of our policies are displayed on the School website [www.amblesideprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.amblesideprimaryschool.co.uk) and be requested via the School Office. The School will try to arrange for the translation or summary of a document when this is requested by a parent or carer whose first language is not English.

# Ambleside Academy Catchment Area 2021/2022



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles

Ambleside Catchment Area  
 Ambleside Primary Academy

 Nottingham City Council  
 Children & Families

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## ANNEX 1

### TIMETABLE FOR CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22 (ADMISSION TO INFANT, PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS)

#### **By 16 November 2020**

Information distributed by the local authority to Nottingham City parents and carers or via nursery schools where the child attends a nursery attached to a city infant or primary school.



#### **15 January 2021**

Closing date for receipt of School Common Application Form (SCAF).



#### **By 29 January 2021**

Nottingham City Council sends applications to other local authorities for schools in their area.



#### **By 10 February 2021**

Nottingham City Council sends applications for primary school places to schools which are their own admission authority (listed in Note 1 at bottom of page)



#### **By 26 February 2021**

Own admission authority schools listed in Note 1 to send to Nottingham City Council a list of children who can be offered a place and those who cannot (all applications to be ranked).



#### **By 12 March 2021**

Nottingham City Council to determine which provisional offers will be made at Nottingham City schools taking account of the ranking of the preferences on SCAFs and inform Nottinghamshire County Council, other local authorities and other admission authorities of those provisional offers which are to be accepted and of those which are not to be accepted.



#### **By 1 April 2021**

Inform Nottinghamshire County Council, other local authorities and other admission authorities of which offers are to be confirmed for places in their primary schools and those which are not.



#### **On 16 April 2021**

Offers posted to parents/carers resident in Nottingham City, including offers on behalf of academies, voluntary aided academies and Nottinghamshire County Council. Emails sent on 16 April 2020 to Nottingham City parents and carers who applied online.



#### **Within 14 days**

Parents/carers required to confirm acceptance of place offered.

Note 1 – own admission authority primary schools/academies in Nottingham City:

Ambleside, Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic, Blue Bell Hill, Bluecoat Primary, Brocklewood, Bulwell St Mary's CE, Burford, Djanogly Northgate, Djanogly Sherwood, Djanogly Strelley, Edale Rise, Edna G Olds, Firbeck, Glapton, Glenbrook, Highbank, Hogarth, Huntingdon, Jubilee L.E.A.D., Milford, Nottingham Academy, Old Basford, Our Lady and St. Edward Catholic, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic, Portland Spencer, Radford, Robert Shaw, Rosslyn Park, Scotholme, Sneinton St. Stephen's CofE, Southwark, South Wilford Endowed CofE, Springfield, St Ann's Well, St. Augustine's Catholic, St. Margaret Clitherow Catholic, St. Mary's Catholic, St. Patrick's Catholic, St. Teresa's Catholic, Stanstead, Sycamore, Victoria, Warren, Whitegate, Whitmoor, William Booth and Windmill L.E.A.D.