

# Portland Spencer Academy

## Admissions Arrangements

### 2021-2022

The Local Governing Body of Portland Spencer Academy adopted this policy statement in February 2020.

It will be reviewed no later than February 2021.

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The published admission number for the intake year is 60 pupils.

All applications for places should be made on the applicant's home local authority online or paper application form. In the majority of cases, this will be Nottingham City Council's (the local authority) common application form which is available from the local authority. 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**

For entrance to the academy in September 2021 the closing date for applications under the coordinated admission scheme is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Offers of places will be made on the national offer date of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (for applicants who applied on line, an email will be sent on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021; letters will be sent to all applicants also on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 showing the outcome of their application).

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

Nottingham City Council and the Governing Body may be willing to accept applications which are received late, i.e. after the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021, but before 5.00 pm on 10<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 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.

All other late applications for places at the academy received by Nottingham City Council after 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Academy'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.

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. The academy will participate fully in Nottingham City Council's fair access protocol.

### Admission out of the normal age group

Parents/carers may request admission for their child outside their normal age group. In general, it is considered that children should be educated in their normal age group, with the curriculum differentiated as appropriate, and they should only be educated out of their normal age group in very limited circumstances. You can contact the Academy or your home local authority for advice on how to request admission for your child outside their normal age group.

### 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 Academy 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).

**Pupils who have a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan, where the Academy is named in the child's statement or plan will be admitted. In this event, the number of places that remain available for allocation will be reduced.**

1. Looked after children. The School Admissions Code 2021 states that all admission authorities must give highest priority to this group of children and provides the following definition: 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). Further references to previously looked after children means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children who



appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

- 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.
- Children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- 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).

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.
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 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 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 academy.

The LA will maintain in conjunction with own admission authorities, a waiting list for all city schools where the number of applications received during the normal admissions round for those schools has exceeded the number of available places in Foundation 2 (F2). The waiting list will operate on the offer day and will be maintained by the LA in conjunction with the relevant

admission authority up to **28 August 2021** after which the relevant admission authorities will operate their own waiting list in accordance with their own arrangements (see below).

### **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 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 reception year 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 academy constantly receives applications for admission throughout the year, the waiting list is continually being reordered. 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.

### **Independent appeals**

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 Academy's 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 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;
  - adopted or fostered children living in the same household under the terms of a Residence or Child Arrangements Order.
2. The academy does not consider these as siblings:
  - cousins or other family relationships not included in 1 above;
  - siblings who at 1 September 2021 will not be registered pupils at the relevant academy.

Where applications are received in respect of twins, triplets or children of other multiple births, the academy will endeavour to offer places to each of them, 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.

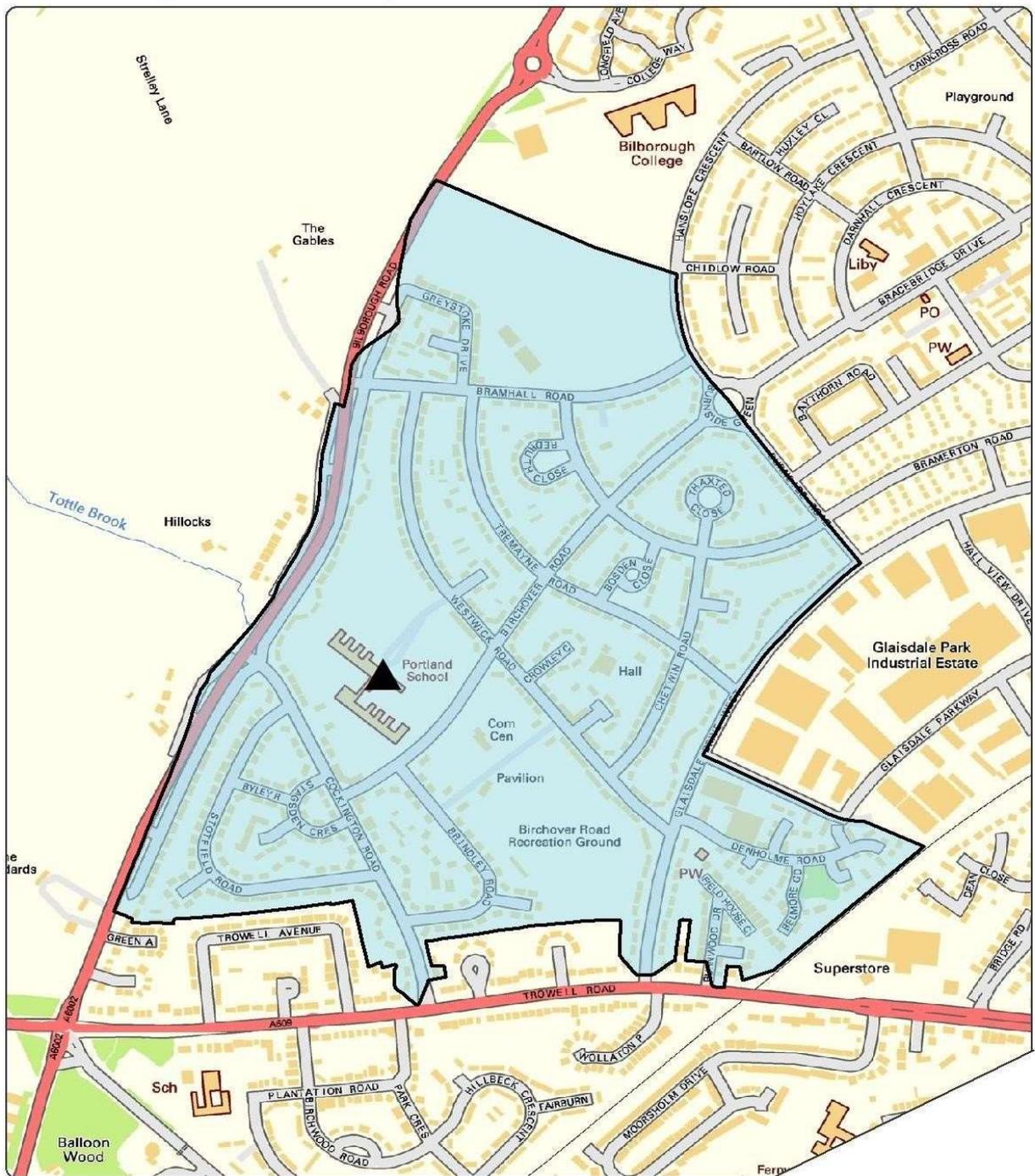
## Parent

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 in the map.

# Portland Spencer Academy Catchment for 2021-2022



Key

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## Legend

-  Portland Spencer Academy
-  Portland Spencer Academy Catchment

