



Whitburn Church of England Academy

Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2021

Preface - Vision and values

'But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete eagerness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving' (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Our vision is rooted in this biblical teaching and is expressed through our school motto of 'Excellence for All'. At Whitburn C of E Academy we embrace Jesus' promise of *'life in all its fullness'* (**John 10:10**) and believe in this vision of human flourishing for all, permeated by key elements of wisdom, hope, community and dignity.

As Christians believe we are 'created in the image of God' (**Genesis 1:26f**), Whitburn C of E Academy, as an Anglican school, is unequivocal in our view that a good education must educate the **whole** person; we strive to ensure that all young people and adults in our community develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally, morally and socially.

We act in accordance with the belief that God wants us to excel both in our individual character and in our actions. This means seeking to be the very best we can be in all aspects of our lives, grounded in Whitburn's Christian 'Be Values' that are integral to our school community.

Light, a universal and powerful spiritual and divine symbol, is one that we embrace at Whitburn C of E Academy and, in harmony with our vision and values, we encourage all to *'let your light shine before others'*. (**Matthew 5:16**)

This policy and its associated procedures are based on these key principles and values.

1. Decisions concerning the admissions of students to Academies and the attendant administrative procedures are the responsibility of the Governing Body.
2. Section 89 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, required that school Governors should consult the Local Authority (LA) on an annual basis, concerning the arrangements for the admissions.
3. The general admission arrangements of the LA for all schools, including academies, are set out in the booklet 'Information for Parents School Education'.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan naming the school will always be offered places. If there is then greater demand for admission than there are places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below:

The academy provides A Level courses of study and some vocational courses, some of which are delivered in conjunction with carefully selected partners (see Prospectus for details) for sixth form students, the entry requirements are laid out below:

For a programme of study consisting of A Levels only:

- Applicants must achieve at least eight GCSE grades at 9-1 or Level 2 Technical Award at distinction or merit.
- Applicants must achieve at least five GCSE passes at grades 9-5 or Level 2 Technical Award at distinction or merit, including English and Mathematics, and at least a grade 5 in each subject to be taken at A Level (see detailed course entry requirements listed in the Sixth Form prospectus as some subjects differ from this due to the level of academic demand they require).
- Students who do not achieve Level 4 in English and/or Maths *may* be offered a place if they meet the requirements to study other courses, but they would have to re-take English and/or Maths GCSE.
- In the event of oversubscription in individual subjects, or to the year group, GCSE average point score will be considered. Those who applied by the deadline and met the criteria above and who achieve the highest Average Point Scores for GCSE will be given priority when filling classes.

For a programme of study consisting of A Levels *and* vocational courses:

- Applicants must achieve at least eight GCSE grades at 9-1 or Level 2 Technical Award at distinction or merit.
- Applicants must achieve at least four GCSE passes at grades 9-4 or Level 2 Technical Award at distinction or merit, including English and Mathematics, and at least a grade 5 in any subject to be taken at A Level (see detailed course entry requirements listed in the Sixth Form prospectus as some subjects differ from this due to the level of academic demand they require).
- Students who do not achieve Level 4 in English and/or Maths *may* be offered a place if they meet the requirements to study other courses, but they would have to re-take English and/or Maths GCSE.
- In the event of oversubscription in individual subjects, or to the year group, GCSE average point score will be considered. Those who applied by the deadline and met the criteria above and who achieve the highest Average Point Scores for GCSE will be given priority when filling classes.

Details of the entry requirements and courses offered are available in the Sixth Form Prospectus which may be obtained directly from the website.

It should be noted that the availability of the courses is dependent upon the number of applicants and the financial sustainability of the course.

The Academy has a Sixth Form capacity of 300 students. The maximum number of Year 12 students admitted for any given year is determined by the number of Year 13 students in that academic year.

Continuation Requirements

It is envisaged that all students admitted to Year 12 will continue until the end of Year 13. Students intending to leave after Year 12 should talk to the Head of Sixth Form at the earliest opportunity to discuss possible AS entry.

The following criteria must be met in order to secure progression to Year 13:

- Students must achieve at least a D grade in any subject in which they wish to progress to Year 2 in the internal mock exams which take place at the end of Year 12. This is to ensure students have a reasonable chance of success in the full A level exam.
- Students must make a concerted effort to develop skills of independence such that they are seen to be managing independent study periods effectively.
- Students must demonstrate their commitment by maintaining a minimum 90% attendance.
- Students must meet our high expectations, uphold the ethos of the Academy and adhere to the terms of the learner agreement.
- Students will be treated as individuals and all circumstances will be considered when decisions are taken about continuation in Sixth Form.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of oversubscription priority will be given to applicants in the following ranked order:

1. “Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because, immediately after being looked after, they became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. (see Note 1) including children previously in state care outside of England who have ceased to be in that state care as a result of being adopted (See Note 2) and who satisfy the academy’s entry requirements for the courses available.
2. Students who have attended the academy in the previous academic year (Year 11) and who satisfy the academy’s entry requirements for the courses available.
3. All other students of relevant age who satisfy the academy’s entry requirements for the courses available, if there are any remaining places after the allocation of places using oversubscription criteria 1, and 2 above.

When the number of applications meeting each oversubscription criteria above exceeds the available places, the academy will give priority to applicants in the following ranked order:

- a. Students who have a sibling link and are residing at the same address (brother or sister including adoptive siblings, half siblings, step siblings, and long term fostered children) attending the academy during the academic year of intended admission to Sixth Form (*see note 3*)
- b. Other children who live the shortest distance measured as a straight line, from the Ordnance Survey coordinates for the parental home residence (including flats) to the main academy entrance, using South Tyneside Council's Geographic Information System (GIS), with those living closer to the Academy receiving higher priority (*See note 4*).

The above distance measurement will also be used as a 'tiebreaker' within each criterion if necessary. Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular criterion, distance from the shortest distance measured as a straight line, from the Ordnance Survey coordinates for the parental home residence (including flats) to the main academy entrance, using South Tyneside Council's Geographic Information System (GIS), with those living closer to the Academy receiving higher priority will be used. The Academy will seek proof of residency.

Final tiebreaker

Where two or more applicants meet the same admission criteria and the measured distance between home and school is the same to 3 decimal places, the tiebreaker will be a random allocation and will be by the drawing of lots to determine the rank order for each child. In order to ensure fairness the School Admissions Team will administer the random allocation system overseen by an independent adjudicator in accordance with the random allocation procedure.

In determining admissions, priority would be given to those applications where the application form is received by the published deadline date.

Once a place at the Academy has been offered, the Academy require proof of identity to support the application. Where documents may not be available for students arriving from overseas, the Border Agency may be contacted to verify your details.

Note 1:

By a "looked-after child" we mean one in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services function. An adoption order is one made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46). A 'child arrangements order is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14). A 'special guardianship order' is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian/s (Children Act 1989, Section 14A). Applications under this criterion must be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (e.g. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order).

Note 2

Children previously in state care outside of England means children who have been looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious organisation or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The care may have been provided in orphanages or other settings. In the case of children adopted from state care overseas, the admissions authority will require evidence that a child is eligible by asking the child's parents or carers for appropriate evidence of their previously looked-after status.

If it becomes necessary to decide between applicants within the same criterion, the distance tiebreaker described above will be used.

Where two or more applicants meet the same admission criteria and the measured distance between home and school is the same to 3 decimal places, the tiebreaker will be a random allocation and will be by the drawing of lots to determine the rank order for each child. In order to ensure fairness the School Admissions Team will administer the random allocation system overseen by an independent adjudicator in accordance with the random allocation procedure.

Note 3:

If the student has a brother or sister residing at the same address (including adoptive siblings, half siblings, step siblings, and long term fostered children) attending Whitburn Church of England Academy during the academic year of intended admission to Sixth Form, the Governing Body will consider this as a sibling link.

Note 4:

The above distance measurement will also be used as a 'tiebreaker' within each criterion if necessary.

Withdrawing Offers of a School Place

When considering your application, only the address of the parent/carer with whom the student normally resides will be taken into account (a parent/carer means any person who holds parental responsibility, **and** with whom the child normally resides). We reserve the right to seek proof of your address and it should be noted that an offer of a place may be withdrawn if information supplied by you on your application is intentionally misleading or fraudulent (for example, a false claim to residence). Where a place is withdrawn, your application will be considered afresh, and the right to appeal offered if a place is refused.

Parental Responsibility

Who is a 'parent' in relation to education legislation? Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines the term 'parent' as:

- All natural parents married or not
- Any person who has got 'parental' responsibility (we will require documentary evidence)
- Any person without being a natural parent or having 'parental responsibility' who has care of the student (we will require documentary evidence)

Shared Parental Responsibility

When considering the application the Governing Body will use the address of the parent where the student resides for the majority of the school week. This will apply even where parents have shared responsibility for the student for equal parts of the week. Documentary evidence will be required e.g. copy of child benefit annual statement which shows your address.

How and When to Apply

Applications must be made via the online application form which goes live on the website early in the Autumn term; a copy of the Sixth Form prospectus can be found on the website. Application forms must be fully completed **by 12 noon on Friday 22nd January 2021**. Any applications received after this will be treated as late applications and will be dealt with after those received on time.

Offer Date

A provisional offer of a place will be made and this will be subject to confirmation that the required academic entry requirements have been met.