



Admissions Policy

Whitehill Community Academy

Policy	Admissions Policy
Date of review	January 2024
Date of next review	January 2025
Lead professional	Jon Boyle
Status	Statutory

This document sets out the admission arrangements for Whitehill Community Academy and complies with Annex 1 to the Funding Agreement which is an agreement between the Academy and the Secretary of State. Any changes to the arrangements set out in the Funding Agreement must be approved in advance by the Secretary of State.

The academy will comply with all relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice (the School Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice) as they apply at any given time.

The academy is part of Trinity Multi-Academy Trust. The Executive Board of the trust is the Admissions Authority and therefore any reference in the codes to admission authorities shall be read as the trust’s Executive Board. In particular, the trust will take part in the [Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme](#) run by Calderdale Local Authority.

1. Application for Places

Parents are asked to apply for a place at Whitehill Community Academy using the common preference form supplied by the local authority, which must be returned as specified on the form. Alternatively, parents may apply direct to the local authority online.

2. Allocation of Places

There are 90 reception places available each year at Whitehill Community Academy and the allocation of places is made using the following criteria:

- 2.1. Where 90 or fewer applications are received, the school will offer a place to all those who have applied.
- 2.2. Children with an EHCP which names the academy/school will be allocated a place. This is a statutory entitlement under the S.324 of the Education Act 1996.
- 2.3. Where the number of applications for admissions exceeds 90, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below and in the priority order stated:
 - Children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted will be allocated a place.
 - Pupils who have a brother or sister (including step/half brothers and sisters) permanently resident in the same household and who will be at school at the start of the academic year.
 - Those children on roll at Whitehill Community Academy Nursery Provision in the previous academic year from 1st January and are still in attendance at the time of allocations.
 - Proximity of the pupil's home address to the school. Distance will be calculated using a straight line measurement from the pupil's permanent home to the closest designated school gate. Distance will be calculated using the Local Authority's GIS system (Geographical Information System). To ensure consistency applies, all measurements will be carried out by the Local Authority's GIS system and no other method of measuring distance will be considered. Each property has a coordinate take from Ordnance Survey ADDRESS-POINT data. This is the point which distance measurements will be taken from.

3. Notification of Places

In accordance with the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme run by Calderdale MBC, the local authority will make the formal offer of a place to parents or guardians on behalf of the academy trust. These letters will be sent via the academy, who will ask parents/carers to contact the academy by telephone or letter to either accept or reject the offer of a place. This will in no way affect parents' right of appeal for a place at another school but will allow the academy to reallocate a rejected offer to another child.

4. Fair Access Protocol

As part of the Co-ordinated Admissions arrangements with the local authority the academy may accept hard-to-place pupils onto the school roll from time to time in accordance with the Local Authority In-Year Fair Access agreement. These are special cases arranged outside the boundaries of this Admissions Policy.

5. Appeals Procedure

Parents who want to appeal against the decision not to offer their child a place at the school must appeal directly to the school. Appeals should be addressed to the Admissions Officer at the academy within 20 school days of receiving the decision letter/email from the local authority.

The appeals will be heard by an independent appeals panel set up by the academy to hear the case for the appellant. Parents will receive advanced notification of the date and time of their appeal hearing, to which they can go and make their case. If they wish, parents may be accompanied by an advisor or friend who can be a locally elected politician.

Following the appeal, the Clerk to the independent appeals panel will write to parents with the decision and full reasons for the decision. The decision of the independent appeals panel is binding and final.

6. Reallocation (Waiting) list

A reallocation list will be drawn up from parents who request their child's name to be added to the list, giving priority for places that become vacant, in accordance with Section 2. Any places which become available will be filled from the reallocation list. If a child has been placed on the reallocation list, parents will be informed and asked to confirm annually that they wish to leave their child's name on the list, which will be retained until the end of the autumn term.

7. In-Year Applications

The same criteria will apply for in-year applications as outlined in Section 2 and the appeals processes outlined in Section 5. In-year places will become available when the number in each class falls below 30. Parents wanting to apply for a place for their child should apply direct to the academy.

8. Consultation

The trust will consult with local groups and schools if changes to these arrangements have been proposed. They will consult on the full admission arrangements every seven years even if no changes are proposed. Admission information will be made available on the academy's website.