

School Admissions Policy Consultation

Consultation by Wardle Academy Trust for:-

Wardle Academy Admission Policy 2020/2021

Under the Admissions code, admitting authorities are required to consult on any proposed changes to the admissions code. Wardle Academy Trust is the admitting authority for Wardle Academy and is consulting on the option of the amendments described in this document for admission criteria for **Wardle Academy**. The issues are described in full, and it should not be assumed that they will be implemented.

Consultation will run from Monday 15th October 2018 until Friday 30th November 2018. The result of the consultation will be considered at the **Wardle Trust's Trustees Meeting to be held 6th December 2018.**

Papers will be public on 8th January 2019, and minutes available on 15th January 2019.

The draft policy and the co-ordinated arrangements will be published and available to **download from the Wardle Trust & Wardle Academy Websites.**

If you would like to comment on these any of the proposed changes you can email info@wardletrust.co.uk, or you can send them in writing to: Executive Assistant - Wardle Trust, Wardle Academy, Birch Road, Wardle, Rochdale, OL12 9RD.

The Academy intends to seek changes to its Admission Policy for 2020/21 in the following ways:-

Section 1 – Introduction

Change of nomenclature from Local Governing Body to Academy Committee.

Section 3 – Criteria for the allocation of places

Criteria 3 – Children with an older sibling attending Wardle Academy

A change to the definition of sibling to include half siblings, adopted siblings and the child of the parent/carer's partner. The full criteria now reads:

A sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, adopted brother or adopted sister, step-brother or step-sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner. In every case the sibling should be living at the same address as the child for whom application is being made and should be in attendance at the school at the start of the academic year for which admission is sought. Sibling priority will not be given where the sibling lives at a different address to the child for whom the application is being made. No sibling priority is given to cousins, regardless of their address.

You may only claim this priority if your child has an older sibling who will be in attendance at the school in September 2020.

Criteria 5 - Children from associate primary schools:

A new criteria will be added to acknowledge children from associate schools. The full criteria reads as follows:

Children eligible for admission under this priority will attend a Wardle Academy Trust primary school at the time of application. These are currently:

Kentmere Academy

St. Andrews' C.E. Primary School & Nursery, Dearnley

St. James' CofE Primary School, Wardle

The previous Criteria 5 **Children of staff at the school** will now become Criteria 6.

The previous criteria 6 **Proximity and ease of access – where you live** will become criteria 7 and be amended as follows, to match the local authority policy for admissions based on distance. The full criteria now reads:

Once places have been allocated using criteria 1-6, any remaining places are allocated on the basis of relative proximity and ease of access to the school but also other schools nearby.

Distance will be determined by measuring the shortest suitable walking distance to Wardle Academy and deducting the shortest suitable walking distance to the nearest or next nearest alternative school.

This figure will give the difference in distance that one child would have to travel compared to another, and so establish a priority ranking. This will mean that those living furthest from an alternative school will have priority for Wardle Academy.

The nearest/next nearest school will include all community, voluntary controlled, foundation and academy schools whether in Rochdale Borough or not.

In the event of a tie break situation, priority will be given to the child who has the longer journey to the nearest/next nearest school. If after this it is still not possible to decide on who should be offered the place then any final place will be decided by the drawing of lots.

It should be noted that in looking at ease of access bus routes are not used. Nationally, the suitable walking distance for children over 8 it is up to 3 miles, with the assumption that the journey can be undertaken on foot, accompanied as necessary.

Walking routes are deemed to be along recognised lit, paved routes which, in general, are overlooked by houses and as such are likely to be relatively safe to walk. Unlit, unmade-up shortcuts are not taken into account in calculating walking distances, even if they are public rights of way.

Walking distances are measured using a computerised mapping system, which uses the Ordnance Survey integrated network to measure from the centre point of the child's home to the main gate of Wardle Academy, and to the nearest/next nearest school. In the event of a tie-break within a block of flats, those living furthest from the communal entrance will be given priority.

The following notes have been added to Section 3 for clarification:

If applications for the school are in excess of the number of places available the admissions authority will apply the above criteria, to decide which children should be admitted/offered places. In the event of reaching the admissions number in mid category for criteria 1-6, criteria 7 will be used as a tie break to allocate the remaining places.

Shared parenting – Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of the week, the child's address will be determined as the address of the parent who normally has responsibility for the majority of school days in a week. This applies when making allocations under criteria 3 and criteria 7.

The Trustees will consider second (or fresh) applications if there is a change in circumstances.

The Trustees reserve the right to:

- Increase the number of places they are able to offer parents/carers.
- Accept direct applications from parents/carers for In-year admissions.
- Withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to sibling connections or place of residence.

Section 5 – Admission and Appeals Information

The notes in this section regarding oversubscription have been moved to Section 3.

The following notes have been added to Section 5 for clarification:

Year 7 Admissions Waiting List

If there are more applications than places available, a waiting list will be maintained. Waiting lists will be ranked according to the relevant admissions/oversubscription criteria. Parents/carers will be notified if a vacancy arises. The Year 7 admissions waiting list will not be maintained beyond the end of the Autumn term (31 December) of the admission year.

After consultation, the following statement will be added to the policy:

Please note that the 2020/21 policy reflects a change in Wardle Academy Admissions Policy. Consultation on these changes commenced on Monday 15th October 2018 until Friday 30th November 2018. Full copies of the proposals were on the school website with the contact information for responses.

Approval following consultation was given by the Admissions Authority.

The policy will be reviewed October 2019.