



Tauheedul  
Education Trust

The arrangements are in line with the Mission Statement of the Trust

***To create outstanding organisations that promote educational excellence, character development and service to communities.***

## **DETERMINED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2018/19**



## **Determined Admission Arrangements for Highfield Leadership Academy for 2018/19**

Highfield Leadership Academy is part of the Tauheedul Education Trust. The Tauheedul Education Trust has devolved operational responsibility for managing admissions to the Local Governing Body of Highfield Leadership Academy.

As an 11-16 progressive and inclusive community school, the Governing Body will consider all applications equally.

### **Year 7 Admissions for Highfield Leadership Academy**

The admissions process is part of the Blackpool Council's determined scheme for co-ordinated admissions to secondary schools.

All applicants are required to complete their home Local Authority's common application form by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

Parent(s) / carer(s) will be advised of the outcome of their application on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

The published admission number for the Year 7 intake in 2018 is 240.

All applicants will be admitted if 240 or fewer apply.

If the school is oversubscribed, the school will admit children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria below, once all children with a statement of special educational needs or education, health and care plan, naming the school, have been admitted.

## **Oversubscription criteria**

1. Looked after children 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 (see note 1).
2. Children with a sibling who is a pupil already attending Highfield Leadership Academy at the time of both application and admission (see note 2).
3. Children of staff employed at Highfield Leadership Academy for 2 or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made, and / or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage (see note 3).
4. Children for whom the Governing Body accepts that they have proven, exceptionally strong special, medical or social circumstances, which are directly relevant to attendance at Highfield Leadership Academy.

Professional supporting evidence must be provided by the parent(s) / carer(s) from e.g. a consultant, doctor, psychologist, social worker or from another professional. A place will only be offered, if the Governing Body accepts the view of the professional, which confirms that the existing medical or social difficulties will be exacerbated if admission is not offered at Highfield Leadership Academy (see note 4).

5. All other children who live nearest from home to Highfield Leadership Academy.

## **Tie-breaker**

If any criteria are oversubscribed, then priority will be given to those children who live nearest from home to school. The distance will be measured in a straight line using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address point of the applicant's home address and of the school. The LLPG is a point within the boundary of the property and is usually located at its centre. Distances are measured by Blackpool Council using the Geographic Information System.

If the distance between the children's' homes and the school is the same, which includes the same geographical property reference (such as a block of flats), then random allocation will be used as a tie-breaker. The random allocation process will be undertaken by Blackpool Council's School Admissions Team at the Council Offices in the presence of a school representative.

## **Address**

The address given must be where the child and parent(s) / carer(s) live permanently. It must not be the child minder's, grandparent's or other relative's address. If parent(s) / carer(s) share custody of a child, then the Governing Body may request to see the court order, child tax credit letter, child benefit letter, medical card or other evidence to establish where the child is resident for the majority of the time during the weekdays. If there is joint custody for the child, then the address of the parent(s) / carer(s) receiving the child benefit will be used.

**Notes:**

1. 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. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Under the provisions of s14 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amend section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangement orders. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).
2. Siblings refers to full, half, adopted, step, foster children or the child of the parent(s) / carer(s) partner, and, in every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address.
3. A child will be eligible for consideration when the parent(s) / carer(s) confirm on the home Local Authority's common application form that they are employed at Highfield Leadership Academy for 2 or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made, and / or they have been recruited to fill a post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
4. It is important that you state on the application form and if required, attach a letter, clearly setting out your reasons for requesting admission under the medical or social criteria. You must also provide written supporting evidence from a professional with the application form. The letter from the professional must confirm that the existing medical or social difficulties will be exacerbated if admission is not offered at Highfield Leadership Academy.

The supporting evidence from the professional must be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. If the evidence from the professional is received after 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, then the Governing Body will accept this as long as it is received by 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017, at the very latest.

**Multiple births**

If children of multiple births (twins and triplets) and siblings require admission in the same year group and there is only a single place left within the published admission number, the Governing Body will offer places above the published admission number.

**Late applications**

Unless there are exceptional reasons for the late submission of the common application form, late applications will not be considered at the same time as applications that were received by the closing date.

When determining whether exceptional circumstances apply, the Governing Body may consider the following information:

- Parent(s) / carer(s) moving into the area after the closing date.
- Parent(s) / carer(s) were abroad for the whole period between the publication of the Local Authority's composite prospectus and the closing date of the application form.
- Parental / child illness which required hospitalisation for a significant period between the publication of the Local Authority's composite prospectus and the closing date of the application form.

No late applications will be considered after 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017. These late applications will be considered after all the others that were received on time and placed on the waiting list in order, according to the oversubscription criteria. Applications made after the start of the autumn term 2018 will be treated as an in-year application.

### **Waiting list**

Parent(s) / carer(s) of children who are refused admission for Highfield Leadership Academy's year 7 group each September, will automatically be included on the waiting list for the school, where Highfield Leadership Academy is a higher preference than the school where your child was allocated a place. Parent(s) / carer(s) who wish their child's details to be included on the waiting list for Highfield Leadership Academy, even though a place has been allocated at a higher preference school, should contact Blackpool Council's School Admissions Team.

The position on the waiting list will be determined by the priority order of the admission policy and nothing else. When the number of children admitted to the school drops below the published admission number, a place will be offered to the child who is at the top of the waiting list.

The position on the waiting list may change. They may move up or down each time a child is added or removed, or when the change in circumstances of the child requires them to be considered against a different priority order of the school's oversubscription criteria. Looked after children, previously looked after children, and those allocated a place at the school in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol must take precedence over those on the waiting list.

The waiting list will be maintained by the school, in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria, until 31<sup>st</sup> December in the academic year of Year 7 admission. Parent(s) / carer(s) are advised to contact the school, if they want their child's details to be kept on the waiting list, from the spring term onwards.

The in-year admission waiting list will be maintained by the school, in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria.

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

The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw an offer of a place if:

- It was made in error.
- Parent(s) / carer(s) fails to respond to the offer of a place within a reasonable period of time.
- It is established that the offer of a place was obtained through a fraudulent or misleading application.

Where parent(s) / carer(s) fail to respond to the offer of a place, the Governing Body will give the parent(s) / carer(s) a further opportunity to respond and explain to them that the offer of a place will be withdrawn unless they respond by the specified date. Where an offer of a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information, the Governing Body will consider the application afresh, and will offer a right of appeal if admission cannot be offered.

The Governing Body will not withdraw the offer of a place once the child has started at the school, except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether or not to withdraw the offer of a place, account will be taken of the length of time the child has been at the school. Where the child has been at the school for less than a term, the Governing Body may consider it to be appropriate to withdraw the place.

## **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parent(s) / carer(s) may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if a child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Parent(s) / carer(s) of children who are already of secondary school age must submit their written request for admission out of the normal age group to the Governing Body. If their request is agreed and a place is available in the requested year group, the child will be admitted.

Parent(s) / carer(s) of children who wish to seek admission to Year 7 outside their normal age group (i.e. who are currently placed in a lower year group) will need to submit a normal common application form to the Local Authority (in writing or online) for admission into the normal age group at the same time as they submit a written request to the Governing Body for their child to be admitted out of the normal age group.

Please note the Governing Body will not honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group. Parent(s) / carer(s), therefore, should consider whether to request admission out of the normal year group at all their preference schools, rather than just their first preference schools.

The Governing Body will make a decision on the request before the Secondary national offer date if at all possible.

If the request is agreed, the parent(s) / carer(s) must make a new application for the next main admission round the following year, and their current application for the normal age group should be withdrawn before a place is offered.

If their request for admission outside the normal age group is refused, parent(s) / carer(s) must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group that they receive from the Local Authority, or to refuse it and make a further in-year application to the Governing Body for their child to be admitted outside their normal age group when they leave the current primary school.

Parent(s) / carer(s) seeking admission of their child outside their normal age group must send their written request to the Governing Body. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) / carer(s) to provide the Governing Body with all relevant information relating to this request which is outlined below:-

- Evidence to show that the child is currently or has previously been educated outside the normal age group and / or they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- Letter from the Headteacher at the current school outlining the level of work undertaken, the progress being made and evidence that the child will learn more from being in a group that is outside their normal age group
- Letter from the Headteacher at the current school regarding the child's social and emotional development and the likely impact of the admission
- Existing professional assessment reports either from the LA's educational psychologist or an independent educational psychologist
- Medical history of the child along with a letter from the Consultant / GP outlining the benefits of admission outside their normal age group

The Governing Body is required to take into account the views of the Headteacher on the application as well as the information from the parent(s) / carer(s).

The Governing Body will make their decision on the basis of the circumstances of each individual case, and in the best interests of the child concerned. The Governing Body will then inform the parent(s) / carer(s) of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to and will provide the reasons for their decision.

Parent(s) / carer(s) have a statutory right to appeal to an independent appeal panel against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. As the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular school, the right of appeal **does not apply** if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred year group. However, they may make a complaint about the Governing Body's decision not to admit their child outside their normal age group.

### **In - year admission**

In - year admission is the process of applying for admission into an existing year group within a school. It does not refer to Year 6 to Year 7 transfer into secondary school in September. Applications made after the start of the autumn term 2018 will be treated as an in-year application.

The in - year admission process is managed by Blackpool Council. Parent(s) / carer(s) are required to complete the in- year application form, which is available from and returnable to Blackpool Council.

For some children, it may not be possible to secure admission under the in - year admission process. Where this is the case, Blackpool Council will apply the Fair Access Protocol to secure the most appropriate educational provision for these children.

For children who have a statement of special educational needs or education, health and care plan, the in - year admission process will not apply. Their request for admission will be dealt with by the home Local Authority's Special Educational Needs Team.

### **Appeals**

Parent(s) / carer(s) have a legal right of appeal to an independent appeal panel against the decision not to offer admission at Highfield Leadership Academy. The appeals process will be administered by Blackpool Council, on behalf of the school. Parent(s) / carer(s) who wish to appeal will be advised in writing to contact the school for an appeal form.

Parent(s) / carer(s) will be given at least 20 school days to prepare and submit their written case to the independent appeal panel. They will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing, if they wish to attend, in order to present the case in person.

The decision letter from the independent appeal panel, which will include the reasons for the decision will be communicated to all parties as soon as possible, but no later than 5 school days, after the hearing.

### **Re-appeals**

Parent(s) / carer(s) do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same year group, unless in exceptional circumstances, the Governing Body has accepted a 2<sup>nd</sup> application from the parent(s) / carer(s) because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent(s) / carer(s), child or school but were still refused admission.