

ST GEORGE'S ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2019 – 2020

General:

- 1 This Policy may be amended in writing at any time by agreement between the Secretary of State and the St George's Academy Trust ("the Academy Trust").
- 2 The Academy Trust will act in accordance with, and will ensure that, the Independent Appeal Panel is trained to act in accordance with all relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families ("the Codes") as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with equalities law and the law on admissions as they apply to maintained schools. For this purpose, reference in the Codes or law to "admission authorities" shall be deemed to be references to the governing body of the Academy Trust.
- 3 Notwithstanding the generality of paragraph 2 of this Policy, the Academy Trust will take part in the Admissions Forum set up by the Local Authority (LA) and have regard to its advice; and will participate in the coordinated admission arrangements operated by the LA and the local in-year fair access protocol. Our Local Authority is Lincolnshire.
- 4 Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement, the Secretary of State may:
 - direct the Academy Trust to admit a named pupil to St George's Academy on application from a local authority. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the Academy Trust.
 - direct the Academy Trust to admit a named pupil to St George's Academy if the Academy Trust has failed to act in accordance with this Annex or has otherwise failed to comply with applicable admissions and equalities legislation or the provisions of the Codes.
- 5 The Academy Trust shall ensure that parents and 'relevant children' will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Academy Trust. The Independent Appeal Panel will be independent of the Academy Trust. The arrangements for appeals will comply with the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.

- 6 The Academy Trust shall prepare guidance for parents and relevant children about how the appeals process will work and provide them with a named contact who can answer any enquiries they may have about the process. The Academy Trust, if it chooses, may enter into an agreement with an LA or any other organisation for it to recruit, train and appoint appeal panel members, and to arrange for the process to be independently administered and clerked.
- 7 In paragraphs 5 and 6 above, 'relevant children' means:
- in the case of appeals for entry to a sixth form, the child, and;
 - in any other case, children who are above compulsory school age, or will be above compulsory school age by the time they start to receive education at the school.

Relevant area

- 8 Subject to paragraph 9, "relevant area for consultation" means the "Relevant Area" determined by the Local Authority for maintained schools in the area, which in this case is the whole of Lincolnshire (in accordance with the meaning of "Relevant Area" within the School Admissions Code).
- 9 If the Academy does not consider this meaning to be appropriate, it must apply to the Secretary of State by 1 August for a determination, setting out the reasons for this view.
- 10 The Secretary of State will consider the Academy's application and will by 30 September either:
- determine the area for consultation; or
 - determine that the meaning within paragraph 8 should apply.
- 11 The Secretary of State may consult the local authority before making such a determination.
- 12 Within 14 days of the Secretary of State's determination, the Academy will notify the consultees listed in paragraph 14 below of the determination.
- 13 In the event of a paragraph 10a determination, a map of the relevant area (or a list of post-codes) will be attached as an appendix to this Policy.

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2019/20

PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING PUPILS TO THE ACADEMY

Admission number(s)

14 The Academy will admit up to 380 students across the two Campuses.

Admission number for secondary provision (age 11 – Year 7)

15 St George's Academy has an agreed admission number for each school year, stated in paragraph 14, for pupils in Year 7. St George's Academy will accordingly admit a maximum of this number of pupils in the relevant age group in the relevant year if sufficient applications are received.

16 The admission number for secondary places includes pupils at both of the two Campuses on which secondary education is provided by St George's Academy for students in Year 7. After offers of places at the Academy have been made, the Academy will take account of parents' preference for which Campus they would like their child to attend. If either of the Campuses receives more preferences than its capacity, students living nearest to that Campus will have priority.

Admission number for sixth form provision (age 16 – Year 12)

17 St George's Academy has an agreed admission number of 50 students in addition to those students already in the Academy wishing to stay on in the sixth form.

18 St George's Academy has capacity for 450 pupils in the sixth form. Of these places, 50 will be offered to external applicants to Year 12 (the 'admission number'). If fewer students transfer from Year 11 and the size of the sixth form does not reach capacity, additional places will be offered to external applicants up to a maximum of 450 sixth form students overall.

Variations to admission numbers

19 In any specific year, the Academy Trust may set a higher admission number than St George's Academy's agreed admission number for an applicable year group. Before setting an admission number higher than its agreed admission number, the Academy Trust will consult those listed at paragraph 1. Pupils will not be admitted in any year group above the published admission number for that year group unless exceptional circumstances apply and such circumstances shall be reported to the Secretary of State.

- 20 If the Academy admits a total of 26 pupils in excess of its admission number in any three-year period it will determine a higher admission number, after consulting with the relevant bodies.

Process of application

- 21 Arrangements for applications for places at St George's Academy will be made in accordance with the Lincolnshire LA's coordinated admission arrangements; parents in Lincolnshire can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or by phoning 01522 782030. Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority.
- 22 The Academy Trust will use the Lincolnshire LA's timetable for applications to St George's Academy each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year). This will fit in with the timetable for the co-ordination of admission arrangements within Lincolnshire LA as agreed by the Admissions Forum, Lincolnshire LA, local schools and Academies.
- 23 There is a national closing date of 31 October for applications to secondary schools. The Academy will ensure its application processes enable parents to apply before this deadline.
- 24 As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example a false address, which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

Consideration of applications

- 25 The Academy Trust will consider all applications for places at St George's Academy. Where fewer than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year groups are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at St George's Academy to all those who have applied.
- 26 We follow the authority's Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children who live in the home local authority, especially vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible.
- 27 For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning to live in the area from overseas, the Governors will:

- Allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address to use when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child.

Procedures where St George's Academy is oversubscribed

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number in any age group, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below.

Admission to Year 7 – oversubscription criteria

- 28 The Academy Trust will first accept all pupils with a statutory right to a place at the Academy through a statement of special educational needs naming St George's Academy. After the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs (Education Act 1996) or Education, Health and Care Plan (Children and Families Act 2014) criteria will be applied for the remaining places in the order in which they are set out below.
- 29 For this age group after the admission of children with statements of special educational need which name the Academy on the statement the criteria are, in order:
- Looked after and all previously looked after children (see definition at the end of the document)
 - A child with a sibling currently attending the Academy and who will continue to do so after the date of admission. In the event of oversubscription using this criterion, priority will be given to those living nearest to the Academy, as defined below. (The term 'sibling' is defined at the end of this document.) Where there are more applications than places after application of the above criterion, distance from school to home will be taken into account. When the year group is oversubscribed students will be placed at the relevant Campus using our distance from home criteria defined at the end of this document.
 - Once the above criteria have been applied to other applicants and offers have been made subsequent to the offer date for secondary admissions, the Academy may offer places to the children of newly appointed teachers where there is a demonstrable skills shortage for the vacant post in question. This is in accordance with paragraph 1.39 of the School Admissions Code.

Campus Transfers

The Trustees of the Academy will meet to discuss and approve Campus transfers as and when required.

The following criteria will be used to assess an application for a Campus transfer with St George's Academy:

a) Year 7 – New intake

All parents must complete the campus preference form when applying for a place. This will be sent out to parents once a place has been given. Our aim is to place students according to this. Transfer requests for the Year 7 new intake will be considered following the criteria as laid down in the Admission Policy.

b) Mid-year Campus transfer requests

Governors will request a formal recommendation from the relevant Campus, which will be considered alongside the submitted written request for a Campus transfer.

There is no statutory right of appeal against a decision by St George's Academy to place a pupil on one or other site of the Academy. However, the appeals committee of the Academy's Governing Body will consider any written representation in the event of dissatisfaction with placement on one or other of the two sites, should parents wish to express this or draw the committee's attention to any additional information

Admission to Years 12 and 13 (Sixth Form)

- 30 This admissions policy applies to students seeking admission to Year 12 and also covers admission into Year 13 for those wishing to complete their studies at the school.
- 31 The majority of our students in Year 11 continue with their studies into our school Sixth Form. The school has 50 places available for external students who wish to join Year 12.

Admission to Year 12

- 32 All offers of a place in Year 12 will be made on condition of students meeting the school entry requirements for their individual course of study. Due to the many variations in Key Stage 5 Curriculum at level 2 and level 3, specific entry criteria for the current curriculum offer can be found in the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form Prospectus, available via the Academy website and in paper format on request.

- 33 St George's Academy is part of the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form with The Robert Carre's Trust which includes Carre's Grammar School and Kesteven and Sleaford High School.
- 34 Students will only be admitted to the Sixth Form if their courses can be efficiently and effectively provided.
- 35 The Academy Trust will first accept all pupils with a statutory right to a place at the Academy through a statement of special educational needs naming St George's Academy.
- 36 Where students applying to the Sixth Form at St George's Academy do not have GCSE or qualifications, it will be necessary to consider applications on a case-by-case basis. Student qualifications will be considered along with other information provided by the student's current school, in an attempt to make fair assessment of the application. This process is entirely at the discretion of the Governing Body.

The over-subscription criteria

- Children in Local Authority Care
- Current Family Association – a brother or sister in the same school at the time of entry. In this context brother or sister means children who live as brother or sister in the same house, natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrother or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.
- Descending rank order of their average GCSE points score across eight subjects.

Tie Break

In the event of a tie, we will give priority to:

- Those living nearest to the school. Straight line distance as calculated by Lincolnshire County Council school admissions team from the Post Office Address Point of the home to the Post Office Address Point of the school.
- If two or more children are tied for the last place a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the school or working in Children's Service Directorate at the local authority.
- In allocating a campus, consideration is taken of access to transport, if a child cannot access a particular campus by train or bus from their home.

Admissions Process Year 12

- 37 Students applying for a place in Year 12 will be invited to attend the Sixth Form Open Evening, an annual event at the school held at a specified date in the autumn term.
- 38 Applications for Year 12 must be completed using the school application form, by the date specified by the school (check website for details). Applications received after this deadline will be placed on a waiting list.
- 39 Students holding conditional offers will have their place confirmed following receipt of the GCSE results in the summer.
- 40 Guidance will be given to students who wish to consider a change of subject following receipt of the GCSE results.

Operation of reserve list

- 41 Subject to any provisions regarding reserve lists in the LA's co-ordinated admission scheme, St George's Academy will operate a reserve list. Where in any year the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a reserve list will operate for unsuccessful applicants to Year 7 and Year 12. Reserve lists will also be maintained for other year groups (except Year 13) when these year groups are full.

Arrangements for admitting pupils to other year groups, including to replace any pupils who have left St George's Academy

- 42 Local Authorities now co-ordinate admissions for mid-year applications and for applications for year groups other than the normal point(s) of entry. This will not affect the Academy's right to determine which applicants have priority for admission.
- 43 Subject to any provisions in the LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the Academy Trust will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child unless one of the permitted reliefs apply.
- 44 If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria in paragraphs 26 (for pupils in Years 7–11) and 36 (for pupils in Years 12 and 13) shall apply. Parents whose application is turned down shall be entitled to appeal.

Right of appeal

- 45 There is a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for unsuccessful applicants relating to school admissions at age 5 (statutory school age) or above.
- 46 There is no statutory right of appeal against a decision by St George's Academy to place a pupil on one or other Campus of the Academy. However, the appeals committee of the Academy's Governing Body will consider any written representation in the event of dissatisfaction with placement on one or other of the two Campuses, should parents wish to express this or draw the committee's attention to any additional information.

Definitions

47 Looked after children and all previously looked after children.

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).

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's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.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).

48 Definition of siblings and the position of twins

A sibling is defined as:

- a brother or sister who share one or both parents, whether or not resident in the same household;
- a half-brother or half-sister who share one common parent
- a step-brother or step-sister where two children are related by a parent's marriage
- an adopted or fostered child living in the same household under the terms of a residence order
- another child normally in residence for the majority of term time in the household for whom the adult in the household has parental responsibility and also has parental responsibility for the child currently attending the Academy.

In the case of twins or other children from multiple births (or two or more siblings in one-year group) and where there is only one place available, the application will be considered together as one application and, as a consequence the admission number may be exceeded.

49 Definition of home address

By 'home' we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of term time with a parent, as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996 who has parental responsibility for the child as defined in the Children Act 1989.

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of term time. If a parent can show that their child spends an equal amount of time at both addresses during school term time, they can choose which address to use on the application. If a parent has more than one home, we will take as the home address the address where the parent and child normally live for the majority of the school term time.

50 Definition of the driving distance to an intending pupil's home

Straight-line distance as calculated electronically to three figures after the decimal point (eg 1.543 miles) by Lincolnshire County Council school admissions team. It is defined as the distance from the post office address point of the child's home to the post office address point of the Academy's nearest Campus.

In allocating a campus, consideration is taken of access to transport, if a child cannot access a particular campus by train or bus from their home.

ST GEORGE'S ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS SUPPORTING INFORMATION SHEET

St George's Academy has two Campuses: one at Sleaford and one at Ruskington. Parents may select their preferred Campus by completing this form.

Governors will try and place students at the Campus of their preference.

My Campus Choice is:

No preferred campus

Sleaford, St George's Academy

Ruskington, St George's Academy

If this form is completed when applying for a place, our aim is to place you at your preferred campus. When the year group is oversubscribed students will be placed at a Campus using the relevant admissions criteria.

This will also apply to non-returned forms.

If parents are not happy with the allocated Campus they may write to the Governors of the Academy and request a Campus transfer. Parents can only apply to the Governors once they have accepted their Campus offer. A request to the Governors can only be done by writing to the Clerk to the Governors at the school address and only after you have received and accepted your formal offer of a place. Appeals do not take place until the end of the summer term in July due to movement of places throughout the year.

There is no statutory right of appeal against a decision by St George's Academy to place a student on one or other campus of the Academy. However, the appeals committee of the Academy's Governing Body will consider any written representation in the event of dissatisfaction with placement on one or other of the two Campuses, should parents wish to express this or draw the committee's attention to any additional information.

Please send your campus choice by post or preferably via email below:

campus.choice@st-georges-academy.org

St George's Academy, Admissions, Westholme, Sleaford, NG34 7PP