



## **THE ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY 2020/21**

### **GENERAL**

- 1] This annex may be amended in writing at any time by agreement between the Secretary of State and Garstang Community Academy.
- 2] Garstang Community Academy 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 Education (“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 Garstang Community Academy.
- 3] Notwithstanding the generality of paragraph 2 of this Annex B, Garstang Community Academy will participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by the LA and the local in-year fair access protocol.
- 4] Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement, the Secretary of State may direct Garstang Community Academy to admit a named student to Garstang Community Academy, hereafter referred to as Garstang Community Academy, on application from a local authority. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult Garstang Community Academy.
- 5] Garstang Community Academy shall ensure that parents will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of Garstang Community Academy. The Independent Appeal Panel will be independent of Garstang Community Academy. The arrangements for appeals will comply with the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.
- 6] Garstang Community Academy shall prepare guidance for parents about how the appeals process will work and provide parents with a named contact who can answer any enquiries parents may have about the process. Garstang Community Academy may, if it chooses, enter into an agreement with the 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.

## **ANNUAL PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Consultation**

- 7] Garstang Community Academy shall consult the following parties on Garstang Community Academy's proposed admission arrangements every 7 years, unless there are policy changes:
- a) The LA.
  - b) Any other admission authorities for primary and secondary schools located within the relevant area for consultation set by the LA.

Such consultation shall be in line with the requirements of the Codes and relevant admissions legislation, which at the date of this Agreement is section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended, and Regulations under that section.

### **Academy Trust Determination of Admission Arrangements**

- 8] Garstang Community Academy will consider comments made by those consulted in accordance with paragraph 7, including any requests to amend the proposed admissions number, before determining the admissions arrangements for Garstang Community Academy.
- 9] Garstang Community Academy will determine Garstang Community Academy's admission arrangements by 16 April of the Determination Year and notify those consulted in accordance with paragraph 7 what has been determined within 14 days of that decision being made.

### **Representations about admission arrangements**

- 10] Where Garstang Community Academy has determined Garstang Community Academy's admission arrangements and notified all those bodies that it has consulted in accordance with paragraph 9, if any of those bodies object to Garstang Community Academy's admission arrangements, including the proposed admissions number, they can make representations to the Secretary of State. Any representations must be made by 30 June in the Determination year.

### **Secretary of State's Consent for Changes to Admissions Arrangements**

- 11] Where the admissions arrangements determined in a Determination Year in accordance with paragraph 9 are different to the admissions arrangements currently in existence for Garstang Community Academy, Garstang Community Academy shall by 30 June in the Determination Year apply to the Secretary of State for him to consent to such amended admissions arrangements.

### **Secretary of State's Power to Accept, Modify or Reject Admissions Arrangements**

- 12] Where the Secretary of State has received any representations made in accordance with paragraph 10, the Secretary of State must consult Garstang Community Academy on such representations. Following such consultation, by 31 July in the Determination Year the Secretary of State may direct that Garstang Community Academy amends the proposed admissions arrangements for Garstang Community Academy. Garstang Community Academy shall comply with any such direction.
- 13] Where the Secretary of State has received an application made in accordance with paragraph 11 to consent to any amended admissions arrangements, the Secretary of State must by 31 July in the Determination Year either approve the amended admissions

arrangements or direct that the amended admissions arrangements are not implemented or must be modified. Garstang Community Academy must comply with any such direction.

#### **Publication of Admission Arrangements**

- 14] Garstang Community Academy shall each Determination Year publish Garstang Community Academy's agreed admission arrangements by:
- a) copies being sent to the persons consulted in paragraph 7;
  - b) copies being made available without charge on request from Garstang Community Academy;
- 15] The published admissions arrangements will set out:
- a) the name and address of Garstang Community Academy and contact details;
  - b) a summary of the admissions policy, including oversubscription criteria;
  - c) numbers of places and applications for those places in the previous year; and
  - d) arrangements for hearing appeals.

#### **Proposed Changes to Admission Arrangements by Garstang Community Academy After Arrangements Have Been Published**

- 16] Subject to paragraph 17, once Garstang Community Academy's admission arrangements have been determined for a particular year and published, Garstang Community Academy will not make any change to such arrangements unless there is a major change of circumstances and the following procedures have been followed:
- a) Garstang Community Academy has consulted those who were consulted under paragraph 7 above on the proposed variation;
  - b) following such consultation, Garstang Community Academy has applied to the Secretary of State to approve the change setting out:
    - i) the proposed change;
    - ii) reasons for wishing to make such change;
    - iii) any comments or objections to the proposal from those consulted; and
  - c) following such application, the Secretary of State has provided his consent to the proposed variation.
- 17] Garstang Community Academy shall following the prior written agreement or direction of the Secretary of State vary Garstang Community Academy's admissions arrangements where such changes are necessary to ensure compliance with the relevant provisions of admissions law or the Codes as they apply to maintained schools. Such changes may be made at any time.
- 18] Any changes to Garstang Community Academy's admission arrangements brought about through the variation processes in paragraphs 16 or 17 above must be published within Garstang Community Academy's prospectus and website (if it has one) and be communicated within 7 days to those persons who must be consulted under paragraph 7.

- 19] Garstang Community Academy must make arrangements for a parent of a child who has attained the age of two but is not above compulsory school age and who has been, is or will be eligible to apply to be admitted to Garstang Community Academy to make representations to the Secretary of State that any aspect of Garstang Community Academy's admission arrangements does not comply with the relevant provisions of admissions law or the Codes as they apply to maintained schools.
- 20] Where a representation is made in accordance with paragraph 19, the Secretary of State may, after consulting Garstang Community Academy, direct that Garstang Community Academy modifies its arrangements for the admission of students to Garstang Community Academy so that they comply with the relevant provisions of admissions law and the Codes as they apply to maintained schools. Garstang Community Academy must comply with any such direction.
- 21] Records of applications and admissions to Garstang Community Academy shall be kept by Garstang Community Academy for a minimum period of ten years and shall be open for inspection by the Secretary of State.

## **PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING STUDENTS TO GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY**

### **Admissions Number**

- 22] Garstang Community Academy has agreed an admissions number of 168 students to Year 7 for Garstang Community Academy for the year 2020 and, subject to any changes approved or required by the Secretary of State, for subsequent years.
- 23] In any specific year, Garstang Community Academy may set a higher admission number than the Academy's agreed admission number for an applicable year group. Before setting an admission number higher than its agreed admission number, Garstang Community Academy will consult those listed at paragraph 7. Students will not be admitted in any year group above the published admissions number for that year group unless exceptional circumstances apply and such circumstances shall be reported to the Secretary of State.

### **Process of Application**

- 24] Arrangements for applications for places at Garstang Community Academy will be made in accordance with the LA's coordinated admission arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form provided and administered by the relevant local authority.
- 25] Garstang Community Academy will use the following timetable for applications to the Garstang Community Academy each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year) which, whenever possible, will fit in with the common timetable agreed by the LA.
- a) By September - Garstang Community Academy will publish on Garstang Community Academy's website information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (e.g. in September 2020 for admission in September 2021). Garstang Community Academy will also provide information in relation to the Garstang Community Academy to the LA for inclusion in the composite prospectus, as required;
  - b) Throughout the year, Garstang Community Academy will provide opportunities for parents to visit Garstang Community Academy;
  - c) October – Common Application Form to be completed and returned to the

LA to administer;

- d) LA sends Garstang Community Academy applications to Garstang Community Academy; (from 2011/12 the Academy has contracted with the LA to manage the process on behalf of the Academy)
- e) February - Lancashire County Council LA applies agreed scheme for own schools, informing other LA's of offers to be made to their residents.
- f) 1<sup>st</sup> March offers made to parents.

### **Consideration of Applications**

- 26] Garstang Community Academy will consider all applications for places at Garstang Community Academy. Where fewer than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year groups are received, Garstang Community Academy will offer places at Garstang Community Academy to all those who have applied.

### **Procedures where Garstang Community Academy is oversubscribed**

- 27] Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of students with statements of Special Educational Needs, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- a) children in public care and adopted children who were previously in care;
- b) children for whom, in the opinion of professional experts, there are exceptionally strong medical, social or welfare reasons for admission associated with the child and/or family which are directly relevant to Garstang Community Academy. This may include some non-statemented students who have special educational needs.
- c) children who will have a sibling in attendance at Garstang Community Academy at the time of transfer.

The term "sibling" includes stepchildren, half brothers and sisters and adopted and foster children who are living with the same family at the same address.

- d) Other students with priority given to those that live nearest to Garstang Community Academy, **in accordance with local Geographical Priority arrangements**. The measurement will be taken in a straight line from the centre point of the residence to the centre point of the Academy, using the Lancashire Local Authority's geographical information system (GIS).

The Geographical Priority area for Garstang Community Academy includes Abbeystead, Barton, Bilsborrow, Bleasdale, Cabus, Calder Vale, Catterall, Churchtown, Cloughton-on-Brock, Cockerham, Dolphinholme, Forton, Galgate, Garstang, Glasson Dock, Goosnargh, Great Eccleston, Hambleton, Inglewhite, Inskip, Nateby, Over Wyresdale, Preesall, Pilling, Quernmore, Out Rawcliffe, Scorton, St Michaels-on-Wyre, Thurnham, Whitechapel, Winmarleigh.

- 28] There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for internal students refused transfer and external applicants refused admission. Parents have 20 days to compile and lodge hearings.

### **Operation of waiting lists**

- 29] Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in the LA's coordinated admission scheme, Garstang Community Academy will operate a waiting list [for each year group]. In instances where in any year the Garstang Community Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available.
- 30] Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in paragraph 27, or for post-16 paragraph 28 above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

### 31] **Address of pupil**

The address used on the school's admission form must be the current one at the time of application, ie the family's main residence. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the school. **Where the parents live at different addresses, and there is shared parenting, the address used will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings.** If there is any doubt about this, then the address of the Child Benefit recipient will be used. Parents may be asked to show evidence of the claim that is being made for the address, e.g. identity cards of various sorts showing the child's address as the one claimed. Where there is dispute about the correct address to use, the governors reserve the right to make enquiries of any relevant third parties, e.g. the child's GP, Council Tax Office, Electoral Registration Officer, utilities provider. For children of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the area proof of the posting is all that is required.

### 32] **Late applications for Admission**

Where there are extenuating circumstances, accepted by Garstang Community Academy for an application being received after the last date for applications, and it is before Garstang Community Academy has established the list of pupils to be admitted, then it will be considered alongside all the others.

Otherwise, applications which are received after the last date will be considered after all the others, and placed on the waiting list in order according to the criteria.

### 33] **Non-routine admissions**

It sometimes happens that a child needs to change school other than at the "normal" time; such admissions are known as non-routine admissions.

- 34] Subject to any provisions in the LA's coordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, Garstang Community Academy will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child, subject to any exceptional provisions in Regulations or the School Admission Code. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 27 shall apply. Parents whose application is turned down shall be entitled to appeal under the terms of the Right of Appeal criteria.

Appeals for children moving into the area will not be considered until there is evidence of a

permanent address, e.g. exchange of contracts or tenancy agreement with rent book. Applicants cannot re-apply for a place at a school within the same school year unless there has been relevant, significant and material change in the family circumstances.

**Arrangements For Admitting Students To Other Year Groups. Including To Replace Any Students Who Have Left Garstang Community Academy**

- 35] There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel for unsuccessful applicants. Parents have 20 days to compile and lodge hearings and are entitled to 10 days' notice of an appeal hearing.