



# Pendle Education Trust



## Policy/Procedure/Guideline Review

<b>Policy/Procedure/Guideline:</b>	WCHS Admissions Arrangements for 2027-2028
<b>Last Consultation:</b>	October – December 2025
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# Contents

1. Aims .....	2
2. Legislation and statutory requirements .....	2
3. Definitions .....	2
4. How to apply .....	3
5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group .....	3
6. Allocation of places .....	3
GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITY AREA .....	4
GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITY AREA .....	5
TRANSPORT .....	5
7. In-year admissions .....	7
8. Appeals .....	7
9. Monitoring arrangements .....	7

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## 1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain how to apply for a place at the school
- Set out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply
- Explain how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place

## 2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [School Admissions Code 2021](#)
- [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## 3. Definitions

The **normal admissions round** is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

**Looked-after children**, as defined in section 22 of the Children Act 1989, are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

**Previously looked-after children** are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:



- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order (defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014), or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order (defined in section 14A of the Children Act 1989)

This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

A child reaches **compulsory school age** on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday (or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

A **parent** is any individual who holds parental responsibility, as defined under the Children Act 1989, or any person who has care of a child, where the child lives with them either full or part time and they look after that child.

## 4. How to apply

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by your home local authority (regardless of which local authority the schools are in). You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order.

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from your local authority.

## 5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

- Parents' views
- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- Where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- The headteacher's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

## 6. Allocation of places



## 6.1 Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of 120 pupils for entry in year 7.

## 6.2 Oversubscription criteria

All children whose education, health and care plans name the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated.

If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be offered a place.

In the event that the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet any of the criteria set out below, in order until all places are filled.

1. Highest priority will be given to looked after children and all previously looked after children who apply for a place at the school. Looked after children or a child who was previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement order, or special guardianship order or those children who appear to the school to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Priority will next be given to children on the basis of psychological, social or medical need. For whom the trust accepts where professional evidence indicates that there are particular psychological, medical or social needs of the applicant should explain why the school is the most suitable or the only school capable of meeting all of their needs and the difficulties that would arise were the child to have to attend a different school. This evidence must be substantiated by at least two relevant qualified professionals who are currently providing direct care/support/treatment to the child on an ongoing basis in their professional capacity, according to the stated medical, psychological or social need e.g. a child or educational psychologist, a child psychiatrist, a general practitioner, an orthopaedic consultant or social worker. Evidence from non-specialist teachers or professionals not qualified in the relevant area would not normally be deemed admissible without compelling supplementary documentation. Supporting evidence to substantiate that the child has an exceptional medical, psychological or social need must be less than six months old and be provided at the time of application in a written format.
3. Priority will next be given to children of staff employed by the school, in either of the following circumstances:
  - a) The member of staff has been employed by the school for 2 or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or
  - b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

The above criteria applies to both teaching and support staff.

4. Children living within the school's geographical priority area with older brothers or sisters attending the school when the younger child will start or have younger siblings attending Primary school within the trust (see note iii below), then
5. Children living within the school's geographical priority area, then
6. Children living outside the school's geographical priority area with older brothers or sisters still attending the school when the younger child will start (See note (iii) below), then
7. Children living outside the school's geographical priority area (see note (iv) below).

## GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITY AREA

This area includes Barnoldswick, Earby and Kelbrook.



## **GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITY AREA**

The perimeter of the priority area to the west, north and east is the border with Ribbles Valley and North Yorkshire.

From the east border the perimeter follows the centre of Gisburn Road down to Blacko and turns east over the Post Office and Burnt House Farm to the east side of Barnoldswick Road. It heads north and follows the underside of Standing Stone Lane then turns north over the reservoir. It heads east under White House Farm then north staying on the west side of the lane leading to Mill Hill Bridge. It crosses the Leeds and Liverpool Canal between Mill Hill Bridge and Hatters Bridge continuing eastwards to the A56, Colne Road over Great Hague.

The perimeter turns briefly south then east towards Kelbrook Wood then south briefly again and finally north east towards the North Yorkshire border over the lanes leading to North Yorkshire.

## **TRANSPORT**

Pupils living may be entitled to travelling expenses to this school provided they reside three miles or more from the school, measured by the shortest walking route. Parents in any doubt over the distance between home and school for the provision of transport are asked to check with the Area Education Office. This may be particularly relevant if you live close to a county border.

### **Notes**

- (i) The medical, social and welfare criterion will consider issues relevant to the child and/or the family. This category may include children without a statement who have special needs.
- (ii) All children whose Education Health Care plan names the School must be admitted.
- (iii) Brothers and sisters includes step children, half brothers and sisters, fostered and adopted children living with the same family at the same address (consideration may be given to applying this criterion to full brothers and sisters who reside at different addresses).
- (iv) The distance criterion which will be used as the tie breaker if there is oversubscription within any of the admission criteria is a straight line (radial) measure. If the Trust are unable to distinguish between applicants using the published criteria (eg twins or same block of flats) places will be offered via a random draw. The distance measure is a straight line measurement (radial) between the applicant's home address points and the address point of the school (co-ordinates provided by Ordnance Survey data).
- (v) A child's permanent address is the one where he/she normally lives and sleeps and goes to school from. Proof of residence may be requested at any time throughout the admission process, (including after a child has accessed a school place).
- (vi) Our Waiting List is compiled in accordance with our Admissions Criteria. Parents of children who are not admitted can request to have their names placed on the waiting list. Late applications for the school will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. This waiting list will operate for the whole of the autumn term and will cease on the 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- (vii) Applications for school places which are received late will not necessarily be dealt with at the same time as those received by the set deadline. The reasons for a late application may be requested and where these are not exceptional the relevant admission criteria will be initially applied to all others received on time. The late application will be dealt with after this process.
- (viii) Where a child lives with one parent for part of the week and another for the rest of the week only one address will be accepted for a school admission application. This will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of school days (Monday to



Friday). Proof of residence may be requested at any time throughout the admissions process.

- (ix) If children of multiple births (e.g. twins and triplets) require admission in the same year group and there is only a single place left within the published admission number, the school will offer places above the published admission number.
- (x) the highest priority must be given to looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). Further references to previously looked after children in the Code means children who were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.

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. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society (see Section 23ZZA(8) of the Children's Act 1989 (inserted by Section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017). 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). Child arrangement orders are defined Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangement orders replace residence orders and any residence orders in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. 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).

### 6.3 Tie break

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. The distance measure is a straight line measurement (radial) between the applicant's home address points and the address point of the school (co-ordinates provided by ordnance survey data). A child's home address will be considered to be where he/she is resident for the majority of nights in a normal school week.

Where the distance between 2 children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them. This process will be independently verified.

### 6.4 Challenging behaviour

We will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8) apply, i.e. where section 87 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 is engaged.

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked after children, previously looked after children and children with EDUCATION HEALTH CARE plans listing the school.

### 6.5 Fair Access Protocol



We participate in Lancashire's Fair Access Protocol. This helps ensure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

## 7. In-year admissions

In-year admission is the process of applying for a school place during the school year. Any applications for the intake made after the start of the autumn term will be treated as an in-year application.

Parents can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the normal admissions round. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose Education Health Care plans name the school will be admitted.

Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child will be offered a place.

If there are no spaces available at the time of your application, your child's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available, it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.2 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

The in-year admission process is managed by the school. Parents are required to complete the in-year application form, which is available from the school website.

[Admissions | West Craven High School](#)

Applications for in-year admissions should be sent to the following address:

[office@westcraven.co.uk](mailto:office@westcraven.co.uk)

Parents will be notified of the outcome of your in-year application in writing within 15 school days.

## 8. Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. Lancashire County Council administers the appeals process on behalf of the school. Parents can complete the school's [Appeal for a school place - Lancashire County Council](#) on Lancashire County Council's website.

You can find details of the school's appeals timetable on the following webpage:

<https://www.westcraven.co.uk/appeals/1316.html>

## 9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the local academy council and approved by the academy trust every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the academy trust will publicly consult on these changes. If nothing changes, it will publicly consult on the school's admission arrangements at least once every 7 years.

