



The Barnsley Academy
The best in everyone

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Proposed changes to Barnsley Academy's Over Subscription Criteria.

Consultation Document Jan 2nd 2012

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10/6/2011



Full consultation

In order to ensure that Academy's Admission Arrangements continue to support fair access and best meet the needs of local children I would like your permissions to proposed the following change which would fall within the normal annual admissions consultation cycle;

To do this we must follow the procedure and time lines laid out below and to seek the Secretary of State's agreement to changing annex B to the funding agreement as no changes to an Academy's admission arrangements can be made without first seeking the Secretary of State's prior approval.

Proposal:

According to Barnsley Academy's Over Subscription Criteria, Section 7 Subsection (d) of Admission to Students Advice to Parents 2011-2012

Distance criteria are calculated as "(d) nearest walking distance to Barnsley Academy – children who live the nearest distance from the Barnsley Academy. The distance which determines how close the child lives to Barnsley Academy is the shortest walking distance along public highways and footpaths between the door to the child's permanent address and the nearest entrance to Barnsley Academy main building."

I propose we change this to:

"children living nearest the school; the distance to be measured by a straight line between the centre point of the child's permanent place of residence and the main student entrance to the school building"

Permanent' meaning "where he or she normally lives and sleeps and goes to school from".

Proof of residence can be requested at any time through the admissions process.

It may also be useful to add that permanent could also mean the address to which any benefits or tax concessions are registered.

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I would like to propose a change to these criteria for the following reasons:

1. All other schools in the Barnsley LEA use the following measure of distance “children living nearest the school; the distance to be measured by a straight line between the centre point of the child’s ordinary place of residence and the main entrance to the school building” In the interest of supporting fair access and best meet the needs of local children I would propose that Barnsley Academy bring it’s oversubscription criteria in line with all other Barnsley LEA schools in the following way :
2. **“children living nearest the school; the distance to be measured by a straight line between the centre point of the child’s permanent place of residence and the STUDENT entrance to the school building”** as all pupils enter by the student entrance.
Permanent’ meaning “where he or she normally lives and sleeps and goes to school from”. Permanent also means the address to which the parent to whom any benefits or tax concessions are paid.
3. At present Barnsley Academy is using the criteria which calculate the shortest walking distance along public highways and pathways, this could cause difficulties as pupils will use different and more obscure footpaths in summer which can be dangerous and inaccessible in winter.
4. Calculating the shortest walking route accurately to the nearest main entrance requires each address to be calculated 4 times. The academy has an entrance at either side of the school, one from Farm Road and one from Monk Springs. The distance from each address should be calculated to both of the main entrances from each of the site entrances and the shortest distance used.
5. Barnsley Academy is situated in an area of urban development where some clearance has taken place and new housing estates have been built. Because of this the information on foot paths is neither accurate nor up to date.
6. Taking into account the increase in birth rate which has led to a trend for increasing numbers of Y6 pupils from 2012 onwards, then add to this the increase in demand for Barnsley Academy places, Barnsley Academy will be over subscribe at some time in the near future.
7. By looking at the data, the addresses of pupils applying for the Academy in 2011 you can see that:
 - 13 of the pupils applying live over 10 km away and that the furthest distance a pupil who has accepted a place for next year is 9.6 km.
 - 15 pupils living over 5km away (numbers subject to change)

Consequently if we are oversubscribed it is more than likely the pupils who are offered a place based on distance would not be walking.

- At present the only way of getting an absolute accurate figure would be to use a trundle wheel which would be totally inappropriate as the pupil will be travelling over 5km and by road transport, however, if this was demanded from parents it would have to be met.

Permission was granted to apply for this change during the Governors’ meeting on Thursday 6th October 2011. Minutes evidence this.



Changes during normal admissions consultation cycle

On making changes during the normal 'consultation cycle' the following applies for the chosen cycle for Sept 2013 admission we must

1. Before November 1st 2011
 - a. the Trust (or if admissions are delegated to them by the Trust, the local governing body) agree, internally, the changes the Academy wants to make;
 - b. If advice is needed, speak to your DCSF Academy Liaison Officer or Project Lead to ascertain whether proposed changes are in line with the Admissions Code.
2. Between 1 Nov 2011 and 1 March 2012 Academy consults the following for 8 weeks on the full proposed admission arrangements:
 - a. Academy's home LA;
 - b. Admissions Forum for Academy's area;
 - c. Primary and secondary schools in the area;
 - d. Parents in the area;
 - e. Affected admission authorities in neighbouring LA areas;
 - f. Community groups;
 - g. Teaching unions (if admission numbers are rising); and
 - h. Any diocesan authority/faith sponsor for the Academy
3. 15 April 2012– Academy agrees its proposed final arrangements, taking into account views of the above
4. Within 14 days of the determination in '3' the Academy notifies all the bodies/ persons in '2' of the final arrangements it will be sending to the Secretary of State for approval.
5. At any point between 15 April and 30 June, the Academy sends its request to change its admissions annex to the Secretary of State via the Academy Liaison Officer or Project Lead for the Academy. It is recommended, however, that any request for change is made early. There are likely to be a number of requests at this time and, at the same time work will be going forward on agreeing the FAs of new Academies, and so the sooner work can begin on individual requests the less risk there is of slippage to the deadline for a decision in '8'. The request should:
 - a. Include the full determined arrangements with any proposed changes highlighted; and
 - b. Include any supporting evidence of the need for change, effects of it, and views of interested parties;
6. 'Objection period' runs until 30 June 2012. During this time anybody can object to the Secretary of State, setting out their/its arguments against the proposed changes.
7. 30 June – Secretary of State begins formal consideration of the proposed changes, taking account of both the Academy's argument for change and the arguments against change (or for alternative changes) advanced by objectors. He may request further information from the Academy and/or objectors if changes are controversial. He may also ask the Schools Adjudicator for advice if there are, for example, particular local issues raised in any objection.
8. 31 July Secretary of State agrees (rejects or agrees with modifications) changes. Academy publishes arrangements, notifies home LA of the arrangements (for inclusion in its composite admissions prospectus and on its website), and consultees.

As soon as any changes are made to arrangements, or proposed, the Academy must consult again the next determination year.



Present Criteria - Barnsley Academy

Barnsley Academy will consider all applications for places. Where fewer than 180 applications are received, Barnsley Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered for Year 7 against the criteria set out below.

After the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs where Barnsley Academy is named on the Statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- a. Admission of children in public care (looked after children).
- b. (Specific medical needs, social needs and special needs where the application is supported by written specific professional advice as to why admission to Barnsley Academy is necessary.

The definition as to what constitutes medical, social and special needs within the scope of this provision will be agreed by ULT and will be available in writing to parents in the prospectus as part of the admissions policy.

- c. (Siblings of pupils who will be attending Barnsley Academy on the date when the applicant would be admitted.

The term “sibling” means a full, step, half, adopted or fostered brother or sister, but not cousins. Barnsley Academy reserves the right to ask for proof of relationship.

- d. Nearest walking distance to Barnsley Academy - children who live the nearest distance from the Barnsley Academy.
The distance which determines how close the child lives to Barnsley Academy is the shortest walking distance along public highways and footpaths between the door to the child’s permanent address and the nearest entrance to Barnsley Academy main building.
The child’s permanent address is where he or she normally lives and sleeps and goes to school from.
Proof of residence can be requested at any time throughout the admissions process. If false or misleading information is used to gain entry to Barnsley Academy, the offer of a place will be withdrawn and the application cancelled.***



Proposed Criteria for Admission to Barnsley Academy from September 2013

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