



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Multi Academy Trust

DECEMBER 2014

Paper 10 – School organisation & admissions

Legal basis

1. As publicly-funded schools, academies must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than available places.
2. Admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities. Academies, as their own admission authorities, must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective. Academies are required to undertake periodic consultation on their admission arrangements, regularly publish their admission arrangements, and conduct the admission process as part of a wider local authority process.
3. Academies are required to comply with the Admissions and Admission Appeals Codes of Practice as if they were maintained schools. They are also required to participate in local authority co-ordination of admissions processes and the local authority's Fair Access Protocol. The Trust must set up an Independent Appeals Panel.
4. Academies are required to comply with any Direction from the Secretary of State to admit a pupil to the academy, or to amend their admission arrangements if they fail to comply with the Admissions Code.

Key principles

1. Each academy's local governing body will be responsible for developing its admissions policy with advice from the diocese and directors. Former VC and community schools will have the same policy as the LA. Former VA schools will, in the first instance, maintain the policy they had prior to conversion. Academies will work directly with the local authority regarding allocation of places and the co-ordination of admissions.
2. The Trust can carry out consultation on behalf of local governing bodies and will sign admission policies off.
3. The Trust will develop an overarching policy for admissions recognising each individual policy.
4. The Trust will be responsible for managing appeals procedures on behalf of local governing bodies, who will provide appropriate information and evidence.
5. The Trust will develop a school organisation plan with

5. Academies retain the admission arrangements they had as maintained schools when they become academies. They can only change their admission arrangements following the procedures set out in the Admissions Code. For former Voluntary Controlled Schools and Community Schools the admission policies must reflect the previous status, i.e. a community school may not have any faith criteria within its admissions policy. Academies are required to provide education for pupils of different abilities (i.e. they may not select pupils by ability). Academies are required to provide education for pupils wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the academy is situated. Academies are not allowed to charge for admission.
6. Local Authorities retain an overarching responsibility to ensure sufficient high quality school places and that can include providing funding for academy expansion.
7. Generally speaking academies require permission from the Secretary of State to make changes and are currently required to submit a business case for expansion through the Trust.
8. Where local governing bodies or the Trust propose to expand the age range of the school, for example, permission must be sought from the site trustees, usually the Board of Finance.
9. There is a presumption against the closure of rural schools.

school leaders based on our Christian ethos so that all discussions about school organisation changes are planned well in advance and conducted with transparency and openness to gain as much consensus as possible.

6. The Trust will work together closely with the local authority and the diocese on school organisation matters.
7. The future of any academy cannot be guaranteed but closure of an academy will always be the last resort. The flexible structures of the Trust makes academies more sustainable.
8. A robust consultation process will take place with regard to any proposals.
9. School organisation proposals from individual local governing bodies will need to be approved by the directors, however, such proposals or principles would be established in the Trust School Organisation Plan.