



KING JAMES I ACADEMY

Admission Policy

September 2021

Date adopted by Governors: September 2020

Date of Next Review: August 2022

2020/21 Co-ordinated Admission Scheme - Secondary

This scheme is made by Durham County Council (Durham LA) under The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and the Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2014.

A separate scheme exists in relation to primary schools.

Interpretation

1. In this scheme:

“The LA” means Durham County Council acting in its capacity as local education authority.

“The LA area” means the area in respect of which the LA are the local education authority.

“School” means a Community, Voluntary Controlled, Foundation, or Voluntary Aided school, or an Academy.

“Admission Authority” means the LA in respect of any of the schools which is a Community or Voluntary Controlled school, the Governing Body of the school in respect of a Voluntary Aided school or a Foundation School and the relevant Trust for an Academy.

“Parent” means any person who holds parental responsibility for a child and with whom the child normally lives.

“Suitable school” means the nearest available school which offers an efficient full-time programme of education appropriate to the individual child’s age, ability and any special educational needs, in the view of the Authority.

2. The scheme shall be determined and processed in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 1 and the timetable set out in Schedule 2.
3. The Scheme will apply for the admission arrangements for the school year commencing September 2021.
4. The Scheme will apply to every secondary school in the LA area (except special schools).

Part 1 - The Scheme

1. There will be a common application form supplied by the LA for the purpose of enabling parents living in County Durham to express up to three preferences for their child to be admitted to a secondary school in County Durham or to a school or schools in another LA area for the academic year 2021/2022.
2. The common application form must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of Section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by parents resident in the LA area wishing to express a preference for their child:
 - (a) to be admitted to a maintained secondary school , or Academy within the LA area (including Voluntary Aided schools and Foundation schools);
 - (b) to be admitted to a maintained secondary school, or an acadmey located in another LA's area (including Voluntary Aided schools and Foundation schools).
3. The common application form will invite the parent to express up to three preferences including where relevant any schools outside the LA's area, in the rank order in which they wish their child to receive an offer of a place, and invite parents to give their reasons for each preference.
4. The common application form will explain that the parent will receive no more than one offer of a school place. Furthermore, that places at any oversubscribed school will be offered on the basis of equal preference rank order and that where an offer is made it would be for the highest ranked school at which the LA as the admission authority, or on behalf of the admission authority of a Voluntary Aided school, Foundation school, or an Academy , was able to offer a place. Annex 1 lists those Governing Bodies/Trusts which are the Admission Authority for schools/Academies to which this Scheme applies.
5. The common application form will explain that where the LA could not offer a place at any of the preferred schools, the offer of a place will be made at the nearest school to the child's home that has a place available.
6. The common application form will specify a closing date and where it must be returned. Governing Bodies of Aided or Foundation Schools and relevant Trust for Academies, as the Admission Authority, must notify the relevant LA of any application made direct to them in error whether or not the parent lives in County Durham.
7. The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that a common application form is available on request from the LA and on its website. The facility to apply online will also be made available via the LA's website.
8. The common application form will include a supplementary section to be completed by parents who express a preference for a Voluntary Aided School to enable them to provide relevant additional information.

Processing of Application Forms

9. Completed applications should be made to the LA by 31 October 2020.
10. Applications which are received for very good reason after the closing date will be accepted and treated as an on time application provided they are received before 25 January 2021, the date the allocation procedures begin. Examples of very good reason include: when a single parent has been ill for some time, or has been dealing with the death of a relative; a family has just move into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a County Durham property as the main property will be required in these cases). Other circumstances will be considered and each case decided on its own merits. Parents must, however, provide clear evidence for the LA to consider as to why they could not submit an application during the preference period. The determination of the LA will be final.

Determining offers in response to the application form

11. The LA will make the offer of a school place to the parent of every child living in County Durham transferring to secondary education in September 2021 who applies for a place at a maintained school/Academy.
12. The LA will determine the potential offer of a place for Community and Voluntary Controlled secondary schools in County Durham in its capacity as the Admission Authority **having no regard to order of preferences**. For Voluntary Aided Schools, Foundation schools or Academies or schools in another Local Authority area, the relevant Admission Authority will inform the LA of the potential offer of a place*. Durham LA will then be responsible for making the offer of a place in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 15 of this Scheme.
13. By 20 November 2020, the LA will share the applications with the Admission Authority for each of the schools indicated on the applications.
14. By 22 January 2021, the Admission Authority for each school will provide the LA with the ranking of applications, in accordance with their admission criteria, of all pupils who applied for a place at the school, indicating those who can be offered a place and those (if any) who cannot*. The LA will then match this ranked list against the ranked lists of the other schools nominated.
15. By 26 January 2021, the LA will match the provisional offers of places against each parent's ranking and proceed as follows:
 - Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at that school will be offered to the child.
 - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the preferred schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school is the highest ranked.
 - Where none of the preferences can be met, the child will be offered a place at the nearest suitable school with a place available.
16. No later than 29 January 2021 the LA will inform other LAs of places in County Durham Schools/Academies to be offered to their residents and on 15 April 2021 the LA will inform its secondary/Academies schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools/Academies.

17. On 1 March 2021, the LA will write to all parents in County Durham to whom the offer of a place can be made, notifying them of the offer of a place at:
 - (a) one of the preferences on the common application form; or
 - (b) the nearest suitable school with places available
18. The LA's communication will ask parents to confirm their acceptance of the place and inform them that if they are not satisfied with the offer of a place they have the right of appeal if they so wish. The communication will include contact details for the LA and those nominated Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools and Academies where they could not be offered a place, so that they can if they wish lodge an appeal with the Governing Body or Academy Trust*. The communication will also give parents the opportunity of having their child's name placed on the waiting list for a place at the preferred school(s). The communication will also state, where relevant, why a place could not be offered at a higher ranked school.
19. Parents will be sent a reminder communication 2 weeks after the offer date (1 March 2021) allowing a further 7 days to respond to the request that they confirm their acceptance of the place.
20. On 22 March 2021 the LA will reallocate any places that may have become available since 2 March 2021 strictly in accordance with the relevant published oversubscription criteria.
21. From 23 March 2021, children's names will be placed on a waiting list for an oversubscribed school to be offered places if they become available. The waiting lists for all schools/Academies will be maintained by the relevant admission authority* and any places which become available will be offered strictly in accordance with the published admission criteria of the appropriate admission authority. Waiting lists will be maintained for the school year. If parents want their child to remain on a waiting list for subsequent years, they must inform the LA in writing or via email.

Part 2 - Late Applications

22. Applications received after the closing date of 31 October 2020 and prior to 25 January 2021, will be considered and, as far as possible, will be offered a school place on 1 March 2021. Applications received by the closing date take priority over late applications, however applications which are received for very good reason after the closing date because of very exceptional circumstances will be accepted and treated as on time applications provided they are received before 25 January 2021, the date the allocation procedures begin (see paragraph 10).
23. For applications received between 26 January 2021 and 21 March 2021 the LA will, on 22 March 2021, offer a place in accordance with parental preference, where possible, and if not possible, at the nearest school with places available. These will be considered equally along with all other applicants that are on the waiting lists for a higher preferred school because they did not receive their first, or in some cases their second and third preferences on 1 March 2021.
24. For applications received between 22 March 2021 (the reallocation day) and 31 August 2021 inclusive, offer/refusal communications will be sent out within 14 days of the LA receiving the application form and a reminder issued after 7 days. Any parent directly approaching a school must be referred to the LA. The LA will offer a place at the school highest in the parent's order of rank that has a place available, or if this is

not possible, at the nearest suitable school that has a place available. For those who do not receive a higher preferred school the waiting lists will continue to operate.

Part 3 - In-Year Admissions

25. Applications received after 1 September 2021 will be treated as in-year admissions.
26. For the first two weeks of the academic year 2020/21, transfers from one school to another of pupils who were offered a school place in the normal admissions round will be processed upon receipt of a request to transfer, without reference to the procedures outlined in paragraphs 27, 28, 29, 30 of this Scheme. Specifically, the LA will, upon request, provide information about the places still available in all maintained schools within the area. All relevant admission authorities will consider any request that is made (making reference to any waiting lists that are in operation) and then notify the LA, if appropriate, of the outcome*. Parents whose applications are refused will be offered a right of appeal.
27. The common in-year application form will request details from the current school and parent including reason for transfer and will specify where it must be returned. Governing Bodies of Aided and Foundation Schools and Academies/UTC, as the Admissions Authority, must notify the relevant LA of any application made to them in error whether or not the parent lives in County Durham.
28. For parents of children who live in another Local Authority area who have applied for an in-year place in a County Durham School – the Home Authority (LA) must contact the Maintaining Authority (Durham) to ascertain the availability of a place. The Home Authority (LA) would then confirm the offer of a place to the parent, with a copy of the offer to the Maintaining Authority (Durham).
29. The LA will make an offer of a place in respect of completed in-year application forms for children living in County Durham. For parents of children who have applied for an in-year school place in another LA area – the Home Authority (Durham) must contact the Maintaining Authority (Other LA) to confirm the availability of a place. The Home Authority (Durham) would then confirm the offer of a place to the parent, with a copy of the offer to the Maintaining Authority (Other LA).
30. Secondary in-year Admissions will be administered by the Council who will send out in-year application forms and confirm an offer of a place to parents, school and, if appropriate, other Local Authority.
31. The LA will inform parents who have not been offered a place into the school of their choice that they have the right to appeal if they so wish. The letter will include contact details for the LA and those Voluntary Aided or Foundation schools or Academies, where they could not be offered a place, so they can if they wish lodge an appeal. Appeals for Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools or Academies (where appropriate) must be submitted to the relevant Governing Body/Trust.
32. Parents may ask for their child's name to be kept on a waiting list, to be offered places if they become available at any school to which they have expressed a preference on the in-year Application Form. The waiting lists – unless Aided/Trust/Academy/UTC choose to maintain the waiting lists themselves – will be maintained by the LA and any places which become available will be offered strictly in accordance with the published admission criteria of the appropriate admission authority. Waiting lists will be maintained for the school year. Any offer of a school

place will always be made by the Local Authority. If parents want their child to remain on a waiting list for subsequent years, they must inform the LA in writing or via email.

Part 4 – Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

33. Where a child has been educated out of their normal age group, the parent may again request admission out of the normal age group when they transfer to secondary school. It will be for the admission authority of that school to decide whether to admit the child out of their normal age group. The admission authority will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the child's best interests, and will bear in mind the age group the child has been educated in up to that point.

Schedule 2

Timetable for Admissions to Secondary Schools/Academies September 2020

14 September 2020	Parents' Guide to School Admissions and Common Application Form and on-line portal are made available to parents
31 October 2020	Closing date for return of forms to the LA
20 November 2020	LA shares applications with neighbouring LAs. Own admission authority schools are able to view applications on line
22 January 2021	The relevant Admission Authority for neighbouring LA schools* provides the LA with ranking list of applicants. Own admissions authority school rank view application on line
29 January 2021	LA allocates places in accordance with relevant admission/oversubscription criteria and informs other LAs of places in County Durham to be offered to their residents.
1 March 2021	LA makes offer to parents and schools can view on-line the pupils to be offered places at their schools. Those parents not receiving a higher or any preferred school will have their child's name placed on those waiting list/s.
15 March 2021	Deadline for parents to accept the offer of a school place
22 March 2021	Any places that become available since 2 March are reallocated to parents.
23 March 2021	Waiting lists are established and begin to operate

*Unless a local agreement exists for the LA to undertake this function on behalf of an own admission authority

ANNEX 1

The Governing Bodies of the Voluntary Aided Schools listed below are Admission Authorities to which this scheme applies:

- St Bede's RCVA Comprehensive, Peterlee

The Governing Bodies of the Foundation Schools listed below are the Admissions Authorities to which this scheme applies:

- Greenfield School Community College, A Specialist Arts and Science School

The Trusts of the Academies listed below are the Admissions Authorities to which this scheme applies:

- Consett Academy
- Easington Academy
- Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College
- Framwellgate School, Durham
- King James I Academy
- North Durham Academy
- Park View School
- Parkside Academy
- St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre, Lanchester
- St John's Catholic School and Sixth Form College, a Catholic Academy
- St Leonard's RC Academy
- Staindrop School, an Academy
- Teesdale School
- The Academy at Shotton Hall
- The Hermitage Academy
- UTC South Durham
- Whitworth Park Academy
- Woodham Academy
- Dene Academy

2020/21 Oversubscription Criteria for King James I Academy

When there are more requests for places than those available, the following criteria will be used to allocate places strictly in order of priority:

- 1. Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence/child arrangement, or special guardianship order*.**

A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (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).

- 2. Children who appear to the Admissions Authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted**

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.

- 3. Medical Reasons**

Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.

- 4. Sibling Links**

Children who have sibling** already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.

- 5. Applicants to their nearest school**

Those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address measured by the shortest walking route***

- 6. All other applicants**

Tie-breaker

Where the school is oversubscribed within any of the above categories the following tiebreakers will be applied:

- a) For those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address (category 4), priority will be given to those who would otherwise have to travel the furthest distance to the next nearest school¹
- b) For those children (category 5), priority will be given to those children who live nearest to the school applied for. Otherwise if only one final place can be offered and two applicants live equidistant from the school, the LA's system of random allocation will apply.

In the unlikely event of the school being oversubscribed within categories 1, 2 or 3 tiebreaker (b) will apply.

7. Admission Appeals

The Academy and Local Authority must adhere to the School Admission Code set by the Department for Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code>

Footnote¹: 'School' means any maintained secondary school or a DFE maintained Academy in County Durham. Distance will be measured by the shortest walking route. Those parents who live in County Durham and have children in year 6 in primary schools maintained by Durham County Council will be provided with information for them to find out which school is nearest to their home address according to the official measuring system. The same information will be provided for any other applicant on request.

*An adoption order is an order under section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976 or section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. 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).

**Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, step brothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner. Some schools give priority to siblings of pupils attending another community and voluntary controlled school with which they have close links (for example, schools on the same site). Where this is the case, details will be published in the Local Authority's Admission Brochure.

In assessing home to school distance the LA uses a Geographic information System (GIS) to identify and measure the shortest route utilising only the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network (ITN) and Urban Paths Network (UPN) which are national recognised datasets. The LA will not include any other routes or any other method of measurement. Routes are measured from the centre point* of the child's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point**** of the building, to the nearest school site entrance. In all cases the GIS identifies the route to be measured by connecting in a straight line the centre point**** of the child's house to the closest point on the nearest route on the ITN/UPN.

****In accordance with the co-ordinates of the Basic Land and Property Unit on the National Land and Property Gazetteer.

2020/21 Admission to King James I Academy Sixth Form

Applications for Year 12

The majority of the sixth form students transfer from Year 11, but places are available for external students.

The entry requirements is largely dependent on the course of study that a student wishes to access. They are the same for internal and external students. Details of specific entry requirements and courses available can be obtained from the Academy. The availability of courses is dependent upon the number of applicants and the financial sustainability of the course and the Governing Body of the school determines this.

Entry requirements and oversubscription criteria:

- Students who have attended the school in the previous academic year (during Year 11) and who satisfy the school's entry requirements* for the course available and then,
- All other students of the relevant age who satisfy the school's entry requirements* for the course available.

Where the school is oversubscribed within either category (1) the following will be applied, strictly in order of priority:

- a) **Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence/child arrangement, or special guardianship order**.**
A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, in the care of a local authority in England, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
- b) **Children who appear to the Admission's Authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted**
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.
- c) Students who will have a sibling*** at the secondary school during the coming academic year.
- d) All other students.
- e) Distance from home to school measured by the shortest walking route****, with those living nearest the school receiving priority. Otherwise if only one final place can be offered and two applicants live equidistant from the school, the LS's system of random allocation will apply.

Where the school is oversubscribed within category (2) the above criteria will be applied, strictly in order of priority with the exception that, after b), the following will apply: all other students who previously attended in Year 11, a maintained school or academy with 11-16 provision only.

Applicants refused admission to a sixth form are entitled to an appeal to an independent appeals panel.

*The entry requirements are:

- To study 4 or more AS optional subjects in Year 12 the student must have achieved 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade C or above (including Maths and/or English as appropriate) and achieve the individual specific subject or course academic entry requirements.
- To study fewer than 4 AS subjects and/or level 3 vocational courses the student must have achieved 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade C or above and achieve the individual specific subject or course academic entry requirement
- To study a Level 2 vocational course the student must have achieved at least 4 GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade D or above and meet the individual specific subject or course academic entry requirement.

**An adoption order is an order under section 12 of the Adoption Act 1972 or section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. 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).

***Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, step brothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner. Some schools give priority to siblings of pupils attending another community and voluntary controlled school with which they have close links (for example, schools on the same site). Where this is the case, details will be published in the Local Authority's Admission Brochure.

****In assessing home to school distance the LA uses a Geographic information System (GIS) to identify and measure the shortest route utilising only the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network (itn) and Urban Paths Network (UPN) which are national recognised datasets. The LA will not include any other routes or any other method of measurement. Routes are measured from the centre point***** of the child's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point***** of the building, to the nearest school site entrance. In all cases the GIS identifies the route to be measured by connecting in a straight line the centre point***** of the child's house to the closest point on the nearest route on the ITN/UPN.

*****In accordance with the co-ordinates of the Basic Land and Property Unit on the National Land and Property Gazetteer.