



LORD LAWSON OF BEAMISH ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS POLICY For Entry in Academic Year 2021-22

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LORD LAWSON OF BEAMISH ACADEMY ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

We, at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, allocate places at our academy using the *Gateshead Community, Secondary Academy Admissions Policy*. We consult our Governing Body each year about this policy and arrange admissions to our school using the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme. We will also use this policy and scheme when deciding the allocation of places for in year transfer/casual admissions to the school.

The admission policy is as follows:

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy will:

- admit students between the ages of 11 and 19
- accept students up to the academy's agreed planned admission number for the year, unless we feel there are lawful grounds not to do so
- normally admit students who have been referred for placement to a particular school/academy through the Pupil Placement Panel, who determine some admissions under the Fair Access protocol.

Oversubscription Criteria

We will consider applications from parents who have named the academy as any ranked preference on their application form; this is referred to as the equal preference system. If the number of applications outweigh the number of places available at the academy, we will then allocate places by using the following order of priority:

1. children in Public Care (as defined under section 22 of the Children Act 1989) including a child who was previously 'looked after' but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order)
2. children who live in the school's catchment area
3. children who will have a brother or sister at the school during the coming academic year
4. other children who have exceptional medical and social grounds (see point 1 below)
5. children of school staff
6. all other children.

Point 1 – We can consider individual applications in cases involving exceptional medical or social needs. This kind of application must be supported in writing from relevant registered health professionals i.e. a doctor or social worker. The evidence must demonstrate why the chosen school is the most suitable and what difficulties would be



caused if the child were to attend another school. We will not consider such applications if the relevant evidence is not provided. If provided, the evidence will be assessed by the Local Authority (LA) Admission panel. No assumption should be made that submission of the relevant evidence will, in itself, be sufficient to allocate a place.

Tie Breaker

If, within any of the above criteria there, are more applications submitted than places available at the school, priority will be given to children based on the distance they live from the school, measured 'as the crow flies' in a straight line from the centre of the home residence to the academy's main entrance. Children living nearest to the academy will have priority. Where two or more applications share the exact same distance, a random allocation process will be used to determine the ranked order of the applications in question.

Sibling Link

For your child to receive priority because of an older brother or sister in the sixth form at the school, the brother or sister must have been at the school at the start of year 11.

Address

For the purposes of deciding whether a child lives in the catchment area of a school we will use the parent's or guardian's address or the address of a relevant adult who has parental responsibility, as defined under the 1989 Children Act, for the child.

Waiting List

If places become available, we will consider all relevant applications using a waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained by the council from the start of the academic year. All applications on the waiting list are placed according to the admission criteria and priorities set out above. However, children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the LA or who have been referred for admission and have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol, will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

Appeals

If you are refused a place to your preferred school of choice, you have the right to appeal and may also request that your child's name is placed on the school's waiting list. Any appeal should be directed to school admissions at Gateshead Council:

www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Important Dates

From Friday 11 September 2020 Gateshead residents can apply on-line at www.gateshead.gov.uk. Applications must be submitted by **Saturday 31 October 2020**.



If your child lives in Gateshead and attends a Gateshead School and is due to transfer to secondary school, you will receive information through your child's school on Friday 11 September 2020. If you complete a paper application form you must return it to the School Admissions Team, Dryden Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead, NE9 5UR by **Saturday 31 October 2020**.

If your child does not attend a Gateshead school but lives in Gateshead, you can apply online at www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Alternatively you can request a paper application form from The School Admissions Team on telephone number 0191 4332757. Paper applications must be submitted by **Saturday 31 October 2020**.

If you live outside of Gateshead and want to apply to a Gateshead school, you must obtain an application form from your Council and return it to them by their closing date or apply through their on-line application system. However, you must still consider the information in Gateshead Council's 'Admission to secondary school' booklet using the following link: https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/media/3495/Admission-to-Secondary-School-booklet/pdf/Secondary_Booklet.pdf?m=637345615407630000 so that you know what the admission arrangements are for Gateshead schools. Your own Council will send us notification of your application and they will let you know the final allocation of a school place for your child.

Offer Date

A letter will be sent to parents resident in Gateshead on or around 1 March 2020 informing them of the school they have been offered for their child. Gateshead residents who apply on-line are also informed by email on or around 1 March 2020.

General Information and Definitions

For information on our admission arrangements please refer to the 'Admission to secondary school' booklet using the link above. An explanation of the terms used in this policy can be found towards the end of this document. The co-ordinated admission scheme and catchment areas referred to in this policy can also be viewed at School Admissions Team, Dryden Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead, NE9 5UR and on the website www.gateshead.gov.uk



Secondary Admissions Timeline for Parents/Carers

11 September 2020	Online system opens for parents to apply
31 October 2020	Closing date for submitting applications
1 March 2021	Offer letters and emails sent to parents
12 March 2021	Parents must accept places by this date
22 March 2021	Any places that become available will be offered from the schools waiting list
May/June 2021	Appeals heard



Community Secondary Schools Sixth Form Admission Policy

September 2021 - Applications for Year 12

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy provides courses of study for post-16 students. The majority of the sixth form students transfer from year 11, but we have places available for external students.

The entry requirements for sixth form are largely dependent on the course of study that a student wishes to access. They are the same for internal and external students.

In general, students wishing to access Advanced Level courses must possess a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above, including English Language and maths. The majority of courses require a grade 6 or above specific to that subject.

Details of specific entry requirements and courses available can be found on the school website. The availability of courses is dependent upon the number of applicants and the financial sustainability of the course.

In the event of oversubscription, priority will be given to:

1. 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
2. all other students of the relevant age who satisfy the school's entry requirements for the course available.

Where there are more applicants than places available in any of the priorities above, we will then give priority to children in the following order:

- a. children in Public Care (and as deemed under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) including a child who was previously 'looked after' but immediately after being 'looked after' became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order
- b. students who live in the school's catchment area
- c. students who will have a brother or sister at the school during the coming academic year
- d. all other students.

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



Explanations of the Terms used in this Policy

Academy – A school where the governing body set the criteria and is responsible for the school admissions

Acceptance form – The form to be completed and returned by parents by 12 March 2021 to let us know if they wish to accept the school place their child has been offered.

Appeal – Any parent whose child is refused a place at one of their preferred schools has a right to appeal to an independent appeal panel.

DfE – The Department for Education (central government department responsible for education).

Home local authority – A child's home local authority is the authority of the area in which they reside.

Looked after children – Children who are in the care of a local authority and as defined by section 22 of the children Act 1989 (see also previously looked after children).

Oversubscribed – Where there are more requests for admission to a year group in a school than there are places available.

Parent/guardian/carer – A person who can exercise legal parental responsibility as defined under the 1989 Children's Act.

Published Admission Number (PAN) – The maximum number of students to be admitted into a particular year group at a school.

Preference – The legal right of parents to state the school they would prefer their child to attend.

Previously looked after children – Children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

Sibling link – An older brother/sister or step brother/sister that shares the same parent/guardian/carer and lives at the same address as the child applying, who will be attending the preferred school at the time of school admission; or adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address as the child; or who are fostered and have other children from the host family attending the school in question.

Single offer of a school place – The one offer for a place at a school which is made to parents on 1 March 2021.



Special guardianship order – An order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian or guardian’s as described under Section 14A of the children Act 1989.