Amplify Education

Admission Arrangements 2027/28
Nova Primary School

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OFFICIAL

NOVA PRIMARY SCHOOL
ADMISSION POLICY
FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2027 INTAKE

1 Introduction

1.1 Nova Primary School is a primary school located in Bristol. It is part of Trust in Learning (Academies) (**Trust**), a multi academy trust.

1.2 Admission to all state funded schools is governed by the School Admissions Code 2021 (**Code**). Under the Code, the Trust is the 'Admission Authority' for the School, and has a legal duty to formally determine the 'admission arrangements' for each year's intake in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

1.3 The Trust Board determines the admission arrangements each year, however the application of the admission arrangements to admission applications, and other admission related tasks (for example, the consideration of Request for Admission Outside Normal Age Group), is delegated to a local Admissions Committee.

1.4 This policy and all other admission related documents referred to herein and used during the admission process, together form the School's admission arrangements. Any proposed changes to the admission arrangements are subject to statutory consultation before they can be determined. Determined admission arrangements can only be varied in specific circumstances, and usually only with Secretary of State consent.

2 Definition of a 'Parent'

2.1 In this policy and in education law, the definition of a 'parent' includes a natural or adoptive parent of the child (regardless of whether they child lives with them, has contact with them, or they have parental responsibility for the child). It also includes a person who is not a natural or adoptive parent of the child, but who has care of and/or parental responsibility for the child.

3 Inclusivity and Equality

3.1 The School is fully inclusive and welcome applications for the admission of children with special educational needs (**SEN**), physical, mental or behavioural disabilities and other protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010. The School's admission arrangements are determined and implemented with its equality duties in mind, including the public sector equality duty (**PSED**).

4 Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC plan)

4.1 Children with an EHC plan are admitted to the school under separate statutory procedures

which are managed by the child's home Local Authority, not under the school's determined admission arrangements. Parents of children with an EHC plan should therefore liaise with their child's home Local Authority's SEN team if they want them to propose to name the school in their child's EHC plan and consult with the school as to the suitability of the proposed placement.

4.2 Where, after consultation, the child's home Local Authority names the school in the child's EHC plan, the child will be admitted. Where this happens in the normal admission round (i.e. entry to Reception Year in September), these children will be allocated their places before all other applicants, which will reduce the number of places left within the published admission number (**PAN**).

5 Published Admission Numbers (PANs)

5.1 The PAN for **Reception Year** is **30** pupils.

6 Oversubscription Criteria

6.1 Where there are more applications than places available, the order in which places will be allocated will be as follows:

6.1.1 **Looked after and previously looked after children**

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, in England. A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after in England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order, as well as a child who appears to us to have been in state care outside of England (i.e. in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society), but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.

Applications in this category may need to be supported by documentary evidence confirming the child's status, such as a signed letter from the child's social worker or former social worker confirming their current or previous status, an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. In the case of children adopted from state care outside England (as defined above), evidence of having been in state care outside England and of being adopted will be required. Ideally, this should be received by the application deadline in the normal admission round. When assessing the evidence provided, the DfE's guidance (accessible **here**) will be followed.

Where the Virtual School Head has already verified the child's status, parents should let the Local Authority/School know, as there should be no need for further evidence to be provided in this case.

6.1.2 **Children with a sibling at Nova Primary School**

The sibling must attend Nova Primary School in Reception Year to Year 6 at the time of application/the application deadline **and** when the applicant child is admitted.

For the purpose of this category, a 'sibling' is a full sibling (sharing both parents), a half sibling (sharing one parent), an adopted sibling, a long term foster sibling (i.e. not a temporary placement), a step sibling (one child's parent married to the other child's parent), or a child of their parent's cohabiting partner. In all cases, the sibling must live at the child's home address (as defined by this policy) as part of the same core family unit. For the avoidance of doubt, a child of a friend or extended family member (e.g. cousin) will **not** be a 'sibling' for this purpose, even if they live at the same address as the applicant child.

For inclusion in this category, parents must state the sibling's details in the application form.

6.1.3 **All other children**

This category will include all children who do not fall into any of the oversubscription categories above.

7 Tie Breaker

7.1 Where there are more applications than places remaining in any of the oversubscription categories, the order in which places will be allocated will be determined by the distance between the child's home address (as defined by this policy) and the school, with those living nearest receiving highest priority.

7.2 Distance will be measured in a straight line from the designated point in the child's home address to the designated point within the school building, both of which are defined by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer, using Bristol City Council's 's dedicated computerised mapping system for this purpose.

7.3 Where the child lives in a multi-dwelling building (for example, an apartment block), distance will be measured from same designated point in the building so that the distance will be the same for all children living there.

7.4 Where two or more children live an equal distance from the school (including where they live in the same multi-dwelling building), the order in which places are allocated will be determined by random allocation supervised by someone who is independent of the school.

8 Child's Home Address

8.1 The child's home address is the residential (not business) address of their parent (as defined in this policy) at which they live and sleep for more than 50% of their time from Sunday to Thursday night during term time. It will usually (but not always) be the address at which they are registered with their GP, hospital, dentist and/or optician, and/or where child-based benefits (if eligible) are claimed, at the time of application.

8.2 Where any uncertainty arises in respect of the child's home address, the school reserves the right to seek documentary evidence to determine which address meets the definition stated above. For the avoidance of doubt, it is the address which meets this definition that will be used to process the application, which may not be the address given by the parent.

8.3 Where the child/child's family is/are not living in the area of the school at the time the application is submitted, the application will still be accepted and processed. However, the address used will be the child's current address unless the application is supported by documentary evidence of the future new address which will meet the definition set out above (for example, a signed tenancy agreement, HMLR title deed/document, NHS/GP registration card/letter, etc.).

8.4 In the case of the children of UK Armed Forces personnel or Crown servants, applications will be processed and places offered before the relocation date where they are accompanied by an official letter declaring the relocation date. The address used to apply the criteria in this policy will be the one at which the child will live, as long as the parents provide some evidence of this with their application. Alternatively, the parents can ask for a Unit or quartering address to be used.

9 Statutory Maximum Infant Class Sizes

9.1 The statutory maximum infant class size for Reception Year, Year 1 and Year 2 is 30 pupils per teacher.

9.2 However, certain categories of children may still be admitted where this would result in a class size exceeding the statutory maximum. These categories are set out in regulations and summarised at Paragraph 2.16 of the Code. Where this happens, the additional pupils are 'excepted pupils' who do not count towards the class size until it falls back to 30, when they will no longer be regarded as 'excepted pupils'.

10 Twins, Triplets and Siblings of a Higher Multiple Birth

10.1 In Reception Year, where at least one twin, triplet or sibling of a higher multiple birth achieves an offer of a place at the school within the PAN in the normal way, but their twin, triplet(s) or sibling(s) of a higher multiple birth do not achieve an offer of a place, the school will admit their twin, triplet(s) or sibling(s) of a higher multiple birth to avoid them having to attend different schools even where this means exceeding the PAN. These additional children will be 'excepted pupils' in Reception Year, as set out above.

10.2 In Years 1 to 6, where at least one child can be accommodated without prejudicing the efficient education of others or use of resources (and without breaching the statutory maximum infant class size, where applicable), the school will use its best endeavours to ensure their twins, triplet(s) and sibling(s) of a higher multiple birth are also offered a place to avoid them having to attend different schools. In Years 1 and 2, these additional children will be 'excepted pupils', as set out above.

11 Application Procedure for Admission to Reception Year in September

11.1 Applications for admission to Reception Year in September are known as applications made 'in the normal admission round'.

11.2 Applications in the normal admission round are coordinated by the Local Authority for all schools in its area. This includes **late applications** (i.e. applications received before the first day of term September, but not made in time to enable the Local Authority to offer a place on National Offer Day).

11.3 Applications in the normal admission round must be made **directly to the child's home Local Authority** by completing and submitting a Common Application Form (**CAF**), which is available to download/complete online via the child's home Local Authority's website, by the application deadline. Parents must state a preference for the school in the CAF.

11.4 Parents should carefully consider the oversubscription criteria stated above to determine whether other documentation must be submitted in support of the application. This documentation must be submitted to the child's home Local Authority **by the application deadline**. If not, there will be a significant risk that the child will be placed in a lower oversubscription category because they were not identified as qualifying for a higher one.

11.5 The application deadline for admission to Reception Year in the normal admission round is **15 January 2027**.

11.6 National Offer Day for admission to Reception Year in the normal admission round is **16 April 2027**.

11.7 **Late applications** (as defined above) will be processed by the Local Authority after all on-time applications have been processed, which will unfortunately reduce the chances of the child being offered a place. Parents are therefore strongly advised to submit their applications on time.

12 Application Procedure for In-Year Admission

12.1 An in-year admission application is one for admission to Reception Year submitted on or after the first day of term in September, or for admission to any other year group at any time. This is also known as admission 'outside the normal admission round'.

12.2 Parents should note that the PAN set for Reception Year only applies to that year of entry, for the duration of that school year. Applications to Reception Year may be refused where there are no places remaining with the PAN set for that intake, regardless of when the application is made.

12.3 Where an in-year application for admission to any year group other than Reception Year is made, the child must be admitted to the school **unless admitting an additional child would prejudice the efficient provision of education, and/or the efficient use of resources**.

12.4 Where multiple in-year applications are made at the time for a year group other than Reception Year, and the school has determined that some but not all of these additional children can be admitted without prejudicing the efficient provision of education, and/or the efficient use of resources, the oversubscription criteria set for that year's intake must be applied to determine which of the children are offered a place.

12.5 The school has chosen not to participate in Bristol City Council's coordinated scheme for in-year admissions. Instead, the school will process all in-year applications, including for children who live in a different local authority area.

12.6 Applications for in-year admission must be made to the school by completing and submitting an In Year Admission Application Form. The school will then liaise with the local Admissions Committee for decisions on entry. This form and further information on in-year admissions is available to download on the school's website or in hard copy from the school's main office.

12.7 Parents should carefully consider the oversubscription criteria stated above to determine whether other documentation must be submitted in support of the application. If not, there will be a significant risk that the child will be placed in a lower oversubscription category because they were not identified as qualifying for a higher one.

12.8 It is hoped that parents will be notified in writing of the outcome of applications for in-year application **within 10 school days** of receipt of the application. In any event, parents will be notified of the outcome in writing **within 15 school days** of receipt of the application. Where a place is offered, arrangements will be made for the child to be admitted and start school as soon as possible, particularly where they are not currently attending school.

12.9 Where the application is refused, the refusal letter will set out the reasons why the admission of an additional child would prejudice the efficient education of others and/or the efficient use of resources, in addition with information about the statutory right of appeal (including the deadline for lodging one).

13 Waiting List

13.1 The school operates a waiting list for children who are unsuccessful in achieving a place in all year groups throughout the school year.

13.2 The waiting list is ranked strictly in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in this policy, and not by reference to the date that the child's name was added to the list. This means that a child's name can go down as well as up the waiting list as more names are added.

13.3 Children placed at the school under the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol will take priority over children on the waiting list.

14 Statutory Right of Appeal

14.1 Parents have a statutory right of appeal against the refusal of a place at the school. This applies to all year groups.

14.2 Full details of the statutory right of appeal will be set out in the formal letter notifying parents of the refusal of a place, including the deadline for lodging an appeal.

14.3 The school will also publish an appeals timetable for appeals against the refusal of a place in the normal admission round (i.e. to Reception Year in September) alongside this policy on or before 28 February in the year in which offers are made.

15 Deferred Entry and Part-Time Attendance in Reception Year

15.1 All children are entitled to a full-time place in Reception Year in the September following their fourth birthday. Children do not, however, reach compulsory school age (CSA) until one of three prescribed dates following their fifth birthday as follows:

Born on or between:	Prescribed date the child reaches CSA:
1 September and 31 December	31 December
1 January and 31 March	31 March
1 April and 31 August	31 August (a whole school year later)

15.2 Parents have an absolute right to decide that their child will not start school until they reach CSA, which is known as 'deferred entry' (or 'delayed entry' in the case of 'summer born children' - see below). The school has no discretion to refuse to allow this.

15.3 Where parents choose to defer entry until later in the school year, the school will hold their place in Reception Year for them, rather than giving it to another child, for a maximum of two terms (i.e. until the Easter end of term holiday). Places cannot be deferred or retained beyond this point.

15.4 Parents also have an absolute right to decide that their child will attend school part-time until they reach CSA. In this case, the right can be exercised throughout the school year (i.e. all three terms), and it can also be combined with the right to defer. For example, a child born on 5 February could defer starting school until the first day of term after the Christmas and New Year break, and then attend part-time until the Easter break.

15.5 Where parents want to defer their child's entry and/or choose for them to attend school part-time, they should apply for a place in the normal way and, once they have accepted the offer of a place, notify the school of their decision, preferably in writing. There is no need to give reasons.

16 Delayed Entry for Summer Born Children

16.1 Children born between 1 April and 31 August (known as 'summer born children') do not reach CSA until 31 August, and are therefore not legally required to start school until one school year after they became entitled to a full-time place in Reception Year.

16.2 Parents of summer born children can defer their child's place for one or two terms and/or choose for their child to attend part-time throughout the school year, as set out above. However, they cannot defer their child's place for a whole school year and still retain it. If they do not want their child to start school at all until the following year, they will need to refuse the

offer of a place and apply for admission again the next year.

16.3 However, where a summer born child is admitted one school year later than usual, the default position is that this would be to Year 1 with their normal age group. This means a) they will have missed Reception Year entirely, and b) they will only achieve an offer of a place if there is one available in Year 1, which is uncommon.

16.4 Parents can, however, make a request for their child to be admitted one year later than usual, outside their normal age group, to Reception Year. The procedure for making these requests is set out below, however parents should note that, unlike with deferred/delayed entry and part-time attendance, there is no absolute right for a child to be admitted outside their normal age group - this is at the discretion of the admission authority for the school involved.

16.5 Parents are strongly encouraged to make their requests in a timely manner, preferably well ahead of any application deadlines, so that they can obtain a decision in principle which will enable them to make informed decisions when they subsequently apply for admission.

17 Requests for Admission Outside Normal Age Group

17.1 Parents have a right to request that their child is admitted to a year group other than their normal year group at the school. This may be to a year group below or above, and there may be a variety of reasons for making this request. For example, the child might be gifted, suffer from long-term or serious illness, or have been educated overseas and/or used to studying at a different level (these are examples only, not an exhaustive list).

17.2 However, parents do not have a right to decide that their child **will** be admitted outside their normal age group. Such requests must be considered by the Local Admissions Committee, in order to decide whether or not to agree the request **in principle**, or refuse the request, taking into account the factors set out below.

17.3 Requests for admission outside normal age group are not applications for admission, which must still be made in the usual way. Parents are strongly encouraged to make their requests in a timely manner, preferably well ahead of any application deadlines, so that they can obtain a decision in principle which will enable them to make informed decisions when they subsequently apply for admission. A separate request must be made to the Admission Authority for each school being considered.

17.4 The Local Admissions Committee will make decisions on the basis of **the circumstances of each case** and in the **best interests of the child concerned**, taking into account the parents' views, information about the child's academic, social and emotional development, the child's medical history and the views of their medical professionals, whether they have previously

been educated or attended nursery out of their normal age group, and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group, if it were not for being born prematurely. They will also take into account the views of the Headteacher of the school and, where provided, the Headteacher of any current or previous school. This is not an exhaustive list, and parents may put forward any matters for the committee to consider.

17.5 Parents should make their requests by completing a Request for Admission Outside Normal Age Group Form and submitting it with any supporting documents to the school. This form is available to download on the school's website or in hard copy from the school's main office.

17.6 In all cases, the Local Admissions Committee will notify parents of the outcome of their request formally in writing, explaining its reasons in sufficient detail for parents to understand why it came to that decision. Where the request is agreed in principle, this letter should accompany the application for admission subsequently made for a place at the school.

17.7 Parents do not have a statutory right of appeal against a refusal of a request for admission outside normal age group, but they may submit a complaint under the school's published Complaints Policy if they do not believe the request was dealt with properly.

18 Review and determination of the school's admission arrangements

18.1 The term 'admission arrangements' means *"The overall procedure, practices and oversubscription criteria used in deciding the allocation of school places including any device or means used to determine whether a school place is to be offered"*. The admission arrangements therefore include not only this policy, but all other admission related documents and any other published information about the school's admission processes.

18.2 Under the Code, the Admission Authority for a school must formally determine the admission arrangements for the next intake at that school every year on or before 28 February. Where no changes (other than changing dates/deadlines) are proposed, there is no need to consult. However, where changes are proposed (other than a proposed increase in PAN), the Admission Authority must carry out a 6 week statutory consultation in accordance with the Code between 1 October and 31 January ahead of determination of the admission arrangements. The Admission Authority must in consult on the admission arrangements every 7 years where no changes have been made during that period.

18.3 Once determined, the school's admission arrangements for that intake must be published and a copy provided to the Local Authority. Determined admission arrangements cannot be varied except in very limited circumstances to correct a mistake or give effect to a decision of a School's Adjudicator. Any other variations will require Secretary of State consent, which will only be granted where there has been a 'major change in circumstances'.

18.4 The admission arrangements for the September 2027 intake were determined by the Trust Board on **4th February 2026**. The admission arrangements will be reviewed again early in the Autumn term for the next intake.