

Executive Summary

It is a mandatory requirement of the National School Admissions Code that all schools 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 places at an Academy.

The Trustees of the North East Learning Trust are required to determine their school admissions arrangements every year and consult on those arrangements once every seven years.

The purpose of this report is to enable the Trust to consult on Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy for September 2026 and beyond.

The consultation will take place for a period of seven weeks between Tuesday 15 October 2024 and Friday 6 December 2024.

The Trust is consulting on a proposal to include the children of staff employed at the school in the over-subscription criteria for Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy in line with the Academies in the Trust. The proposed over-subscription criteria is as follows:

Oversubscription criteria for Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy

1. Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after including those children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions. (see definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989. Previously looked after children are 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. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

2. Medical reasons

Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement (for example the child or one or both parents/carers has a disability that means the child can only attend one school).

Strong supporting evidence must be provided from a professional body involved with the family or child. A letter from the child's GP, parents/carers GP or other relevant professional **MUST** be submitted with the application. The evidence must relate to the school for which the application is being made and must demonstrate clearly why the Academy is the only school that can meet the child's needs. No assumptions should be made that the submission of the relevant evidence will, in itself be sufficient to allocate a school place.

3. Sibling links

Children who have a sibling already attending the Academy and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission. This includes step siblings, foster siblings, adopted siblings and other children living permanently at the same address.

4. Children of staff employed at the academy

Children of all staff employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made and/or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a post at the Academy where there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

5. Distance

Children who live nearest the preferred Academy measured by the shortest walking route. This will be based on the child's address. Where the last place to be allocated would mean that a multiple birth sibling group i.e., twins, triplets, or other multiple birth sibling groups, would be split, the sibling group will be given priority over other children. Otherwise, if only one final place can be offered, and two or more applicants live equidistant from the Academy, random allocation (names out of a hat or other suitable container) will be used. This process will be supervised by a person independent of the Trust.

In assessing home to Academy distance, the measure will be by the shortest walking route. Routes are measured from the centre point of the applicant's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point of the building to the nearest Academy entrance. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is used to identify and measure the shortest walking route. The GIS identifies routes on the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network and Urban Paths Network, which are national recognised datasets. The routes include all man-made paths i.e., those that are metalled or surfaced.

Tie Breaker

Where an Academy is oversubscribed within categories 1,2 3 and 4 distance from home to school will be the deciding factor, with preference given to those whose home address is nearest to the school when measured as the crow flies from the front door of the child's home address to the main gate of the school using the local authority's computerised measuring system.

Responses to the Consultation

The North East Learning Trust welcome comments on the proposed change to the criteria to be used in the event of over-subscription. You can respond to the consultation [here](#) or by email to schooladmissions@nelt.co.uk or by post to Admission Consultation, North East Learning Trust, Traynor House, Traynor Way, Whitehouse Business Park, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 2RU. The deadline for responses is 5pm on Friday 6 December 2024.