

Policy on Admissions for September 2017

GENERAL

1. This annex may be amended in writing at any time by agreement between the Secretary of State and The JCB Academy Trust.
2. The JCB Academy Trust will act in accordance with, and will ensure that the Independent Appeal Panel is trained to act in accordance with, all relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education ("the Codes") as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with equalities law and the law on admissions as they apply to maintained schools. For this purpose, reference in the Codes or law to "admission authorities" shall be deemed to be references to the governing body of The JCB Academy Trust.
3. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement, the Secretary of State may:
 - (a) direct The JCB Academy Trust to admit a named pupil to The JCB Academy on application from a local authority. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult The JCB Academy Trust;
 - (b) direct The JCB Academy Trust to admit a named pupil to The JCB Academy if The JCB Academy Trust has failed to act in accordance with this Annex or has otherwise failed to comply with applicable admissions and equalities legislation or the provisions of the Codes.
4. The JCB Academy Trust shall ensure that parents and 'relevant children' will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of The JCB Academy Trust. The Independent Appeal Panel will be independent of The JCB Academy Trust. The arrangements for appeals will comply with the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.
5. The JCB Academy Trust shall prepare guidance for parents and relevant children about how the appeals process will work and provide them with a named contact who can answer any enquiries they may have about the process. The JCB Academy Trust may, if it chooses, enter into an agreement with a local authority (LA) or any other organisation for it to recruit, train and appoint appeal panel members, and to arrange for the process to be independently administered and clerked.
6. In paragraphs 4 and 5 above, 'relevant children' means:
 - (a) in the case of appeals for entry to a sixth form, the child, and;
 - (b) in any other case, children who are above compulsory school age, or will be above compulsory school age by the time they start to receive education at the school.

Relevant area

7. The 'relevant area for consultation. is the area covered by a circle centred at The JCB Academy with a radius of 18 miles, i.e. the area within 18 miles of The JCB Academy.
8. A map of the relevant area is attached at Appendix A.

ANNUAL PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Consultation

9. The JCB Academy Trust shall consult the following parties on The JCB Academy's proposed admission arrangements for a minimum of eight weeks between 1 November and 15 March in the 'Determination Year'¹:
 - (a) Staffordshire LA.
 - (b) The admission forum for Staffordshire LA.
 - (c) Any other admission authorities for primary and secondary schools located within the relevant area for consultation.
 - (d) Any other governing body for primary and secondary schools (as far as not falling within paragraph (c)) located within the relevant area for consultation.
 - (e) Affected admission authorities in neighbouring local authority areas.
 - (f) Parents living in the relevant area for consultation whose children have attained the age of two but are not above compulsory school age and who are or will be eligible to apply to be admitted to The JCB Academy.
 - (g) Community groups which The JCB Academy considers relevant.
 - (h) Teaching unions if the consultation includes an increase in admission number.

Such consultation shall be in line with the requirements of the Codes and relevant admissions legislation.

10. From 2011-12, and for subsequent years, consultation in line with paragraph 9 is not required in any year where the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the admission arrangements were consulted upon in one or both of the previous two years; and
 - (b) there have been no changes, or proposed changes, since the last consultation.
11. As soon as any changes are made to arrangements, or proposed, the consultation cycle in paragraph 9 must be followed for the next determination year.

The JCB Academy Trust determination of admission arrangements

12. The JCB Academy Trust will consider comments made by those consulted in accordance with paragraph 9, including any requests to amend the proposed admission number, before determining the admission arrangements for The JCB Academy.
13. The JCB Academy Trust will determine The JCB Academy's admission arrangements annually by 15 April of the Determination Year and notify consultees listed in paragraph 9 what has been determined within 14 days of that decision being made.

¹ A 'determination year' is The JCB Academy financial year beginning two years before The JCB Academy financial year which the admissions arrangements will be for, e.g. consultation to end in March 2016 and determination to be in April 2016 for admissions in September 2017

Representations about admission arrangements

14. Where the JCB Academy Trust has determined The JCB Academy's admission arrangements and notified all consultees listed in paragraph 9, if any of those persons or bodies object to The JCB Academy's admission arrangements, including the proposed admission number, they can make representations to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. Any representations must be made by 30 June in the Determination Year.

Publication of admission arrangements

15. The JCB Academy Trust shall each Determination Year publish The JCB Academy's agreed admission arrangements by:
- (a) copies being sent to the persons consulted in paragraph 9;
 - (b) copies being sent to primary and secondary schools in the relevant area for consultation;
 - (c) copies being sent to the offices of Staffordshire LA;
 - (d) copies being made available without charge on request from The JCB Academy;
 - (e) copies being sent to public libraries in the relevant area for the purposes of being made available at such libraries for reference by parents and other persons.
 - (f) a copy being uploaded to The JCB Academy's website.
16. The published admission arrangements will set out:
- (a) the name and address of The JCB Academy and contact details;
 - (b) a summary of the admission policy, including full oversubscription criteria and any arrangements for post-16 admission;
 - (c) numbers of places and applications for those places in the previous year; and
 - (d) arrangements for hearing appeals.

PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING PUPILS TO THE JCB ACADEMY

Admission number(s)

17. The JCB Academy Trust has the following agreed admission number for The JCB Academy for the year 2017/2018 and, subject to any changes approved or required by the Secretary of State, for subsequent years:
- (a) 120 for pupils in Year 10.
 - (b) 30 for pupils in Year 12. The JCB Academy has capacity for 300 pupils in the sixth form. The total Year 12 group size will be 150, including children who transfer from The JCB Academy's Year 11. If fewer pupils transfer from Year 11, The JCB Academy will admit over the admission number up to the overall size of the Year 12 group if sufficient applications are received.
18. The JCB Academy Trust may set a higher admission number than The JCB Academy's agreed admission number for an applicable year group.

Process of application

19. Arrangements for applications for places at The JCB Academy will be made directly to The JCB Academy.
20. The JCB Academy Trust will use the timetable set out in this policy for applications to The JCB Academy each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year). This will fit in with the timetable for the co-ordination of admission arrangements within Staffordshire LA as agreed by the Staffordshire Admissions Forum, Staffordshire LA, local schools and academies.

Currently, this is:

- (a) The JCB Academy will provide information to the LAs for inclusion in the information to parents, booklets and composite prospectus, to the required deadline for inclusion.
- (b) April: The JCB Academy will publish on its website information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (e.g. in April 2015 for admission in September 2016). This will include details of open evenings and other opportunities for prospective students and their parents to visit the school.
- (c) September/October: The JCB Academy will provide opportunities for parents to visit The JCB Academy.
- (d) Application Form to be completed and returned to The JCB Academy by 31 January.
- (e) 10 February The JCB Academy provides Staffordshire LA information on applications.
- (f) 20 February: The JCB Academy sends list of students to be offered places to Staffordshire LA.
- (g) 1 March: The JCB Academy makes offers to parents.

Consideration of applications

21. The JCB Academy Trust will consider all applications for places at The JCB Academy. Where fewer than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year groups are received, The JCB Academy Trust will offer places at The JCB Academy to all those who have applied.

Admission arrangements for 14-16 provision

22. (a) The oversubscription criteria will use random allocation of places as a tie-break for children within the 18 mile radius catchment area and use the priority segments as the allocative method to ensure geographical spread and distance for children residing outside these areas. This means that applicants living close to The JCB Academy, or with siblings at The JCB Academy, do not have priority over other applicants within the segments. Random allocation means that The JCB Academy will not select children on the basis of their ability.
- (b) A set percentage of places will be allocated for children resident in each of 4

segments defined by Ordnance Survey gridlines (the priority zone). A map showing these gridlines is attached at Appendix A. In the event that places allocated to a particular segment are not filled, the balance of places will first be allocated for children resident in any of the remaining segments by random allocation.

- (c) The number of places allocated to each segment is based initially on the population density within the 18 mile radius area. This is to ensure that students are admitted fairly from across all 4 segments.
- (d) Where the outer boundaries of the 18 mile radius bisect a property², that property will be considered to be inside the priority zone.

Procedures where The JCB Academy is oversubscribed

23. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) where The JCB Academy is named on the statement of EHCP, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:
- (a) Looked after children and previously looked after children³. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted⁴ (or became subject to a residence order⁵ or special guardianship order⁶). Further reference to previously looked after children in this policy means such children who were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.
 - (b) Children residing within the 18 mile radius as measured in a straight line from the applicant's home address to the front gates of The JCB Academy as calculated by Staffordshire LA's Geographical Information System⁷, in the

² The term 'property' for the purposes of the admissions document is defined as the child's principal place of residence.

³ 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

⁴ Under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. See Section 46 (adoption orders).

⁵ Under the terms of the Children Act 1989. See Section 8 which defines a 'residence order' as an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.

⁶ See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

⁷ The JCB Academy uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) to calculate home to school distances in miles. The measurement is calculated using Ordnance Survey (OS) data from an applicant's home address to the main front gate of the school. The coordinates of an applicant's home address are determined using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and OS Address Point data.

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parent's main and genuine principal place of residence at the time of the allocation of places i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than legal guardianship) the friends or relative's address will not be considered for allocation purposes.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

If there are a limited number of spaces available and we cannot distinguish between applicants using the criteria listed, such as in the case of children who live in the same block of flats or are the result of a multiple birth,

percentages set out below:

Segment A - 33% of the remaining places by random allocation

Segment B - 11% of the remaining places by random allocation

Segment C - 39% of the remaining places by random allocation

Segment D - 17% of the remaining places by random allocation

- (c) Children residing outside the 18-mile radius with priority being given to those living nearest to The JCB Academy as measured in a straight line from the applicants home address to the front gates of The JCB Academy using the computerised measuring system.
24. (a) If there are the same number or fewer applicants from any segment than places available, then all applicants will be offered a place. Any unfilled segment places will be distributed firstly to the other gender in that segment and then to those applicants who live in other segments using random allocation.
- (b) Random allocation will be used as a tie-breaker to determine who is offered a place if a segment is oversubscribed. Criterion 23 (c) above will not come into operation until all applicants who live in the 18 mile radius have been offered places.
- (c) If there are more applicants from a segment than places available, then the maximum number of remaining places will be allocated through random allocation of those places.
- (d) Applications from sets of twins or other children from multiple births will be treated as individual applicants, this may result in one child being allocated a place under random allocation and another not.
- (e) If we are unable to distinguish between applicants on the basis of distance under criterion 23 (c) (because they are children who are as a result of multiple birth or live in the same block of flats) then the child or children who will be offered the available place(s) will be randomly selected.
- (f) Unsuccessful applicants will have a right of appeal to an independent admission appeals panel.

Late applications

- (g) Applications received after the common application date but before 1 February will all be treated in an identical manner.
- (h) Applications received after 31 January will only be considered alongside those applicants who have applied before this date if places have not been allocated and there are exceptional reasons for the late application i.e. a major change of circumstance. A late application will not affect the right of appeal or the right to be placed on the waiting list.
- (i) The JCB Academy will ensure that someone independent of the school supervises the random allocation processes.

Admission Outside of the Normal Age Group

then the child or children who will be offered the available spaces will be randomly selected by drawing lots.

25. Parents may seek to apply for their child's admission to The Academy outside of their normal age group, for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

These parents will need to make an application alongside children applying at the normal age which should explain why it is in the child's best interest to be admitted outside of their normal age which may include information such as professional evidence as to why this is the case and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. A decision as to whether this is an appropriate course of action will be made by the Governing Body who will take into account the circumstances of the case and views of the Principal. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

Post 16 admission criteria

26. The JCB Academy Trust will publish specific criteria in relation to minimum academic entrance requirements for admission or transfer to The JCB Academy sixth form. Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter the sixth form will be expected to have met the minimum academic entry requirements for the sixth form.

These academic entry requirements will be the subject of consultation with those listed in paragraph 9 and published on The JCB Academy's website and signposted from Staffordshire LA's website to enable parents to view the determined arrangements.

When the sixth form is undersubscribed all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted.

When there are more external applicants that satisfy the academic entry requirements than the number of post-16 places available and after the admission of pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs where The JCB Academy is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children.
2. Children in catchment.

27. The JCB Academy expects to receive applications for entry in September each year by the first Monday of the preceding January (e.g. 4 January 2016 for entry in September 2016). Applications received after this deadline will be considered if space is still available or if space subsequently becomes available at a later stage in the admissions and enrolment process.
28. There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for internal pupils refused transfer and external applicants refused admission.

Operation of waiting lists

29. Where in any year The JCB Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the first term of the school year. This will be maintained by The JCB Academy and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

30. Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in paragraph 23, or for post-16 places paragraph 26, above. Where a place becomes vacant it will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where a new unsuccessful applicant is added to the Year 10 waiting list all applicants on the waiting list will be subject to further random allocation to determine priority for the place available.

Arrangements for admitting pupils to other year groups, including to replace any pupils who have left The JCB Academy

31. The JCB Academy will participate in Staffordshire LA's In Year Fair Access Protocol.
32. The JCB Academy Trust will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child unless one of the permitted reliefs apply. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 23, or for post-16 places paragraph 26, shall apply. Parents whose application is turned down shall be entitled to appeal.

Arrangements for admission of pupils as The JCB Academy builds to its full capacity

33. The JCB Academy opened on 1 September 2010 with a Published Admission Number relating solely to pupils in Year 10 and Year 12.
34. There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel for unsuccessful applicants.

