



POLICY TITLE: Admissions Policy for Admissions in September 2023 – July 2024

Persons with Responsibility:

Amy Rogers (Principal)

Documents Consulted:

School Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice
Disability Discrimination Act
Disability Rights Commission Code of Practice

Policy History:

Issue No.	Date	Author	Summary of Changes	Next Review Date
3	September 2021	AR	Date of admissions changed for the new school year	September 2022
2	July 2021	AR	Updated in view of IPLAC guidance	September 2021
1	September 2020	AR	Update of information/dates	September 2021

THE ADMISSION OF PUPILS TO THE DASHWOOD BANBURY ACADEMY

This policy sets out the admission arrangements for the Dashwood Banbury Academy. The Academy will comply with all relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice (the School Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice) as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with the law on admissions as it applies to maintained schools. Reference in the codes to admission authorities shall be deemed to be references to the governing body of the Academy. In particular, the Academy will take part in the Admissions Forum set up by the LA and have regard to its advice; and will participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by the LA, including any local Fair Access Protocols that are in place.

Notwithstanding these arrangements, the Secretary of State may direct the Academy to admit a named pupil to the Academy on application from an LA. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the Academy.

The admission arrangements for the Academy for the year 2022/23 and, subject to any changes approved by the Secretary of State, for subsequent years are:

- The Academy has an agreed admission number of 60 pupils for Reception to Year 6. The Academy will accordingly admit at least 60 pupils in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received;
- The Academy may set a higher admission number as its Published Admission Number for any specific year. Before setting an admission number higher than its agreed admission number, the Academy will consult (see Consultation section below). Pupils will not be admitted above the Published Admission Number unless exceptional circumstances apply and such circumstances shall be reported to the Secretary of State.

Process of application for admission to Nursery [2 to 3 Year olds - Cherry Class]

The Academy Governors have agreed to admit 24 pupils over 3 intakes (should demand be there for staffing levels). These arrangements and the admissions criteria (below) are reviewed annually. For applications to be considered under this policy, they must be submitted by the end of March the year before they are due to start. When there are more applications than there are places available in the Nursery, the Governors will admit pupils according to the over-subscription criteria (below), which are listed in order of priority. *[A 'place' is currently three terms' attendance (either a morning or afternoon session on five days per week for a total of 15 hours commencing Term 1, Term 3 or Term 5 – the term after the child is 2. Parents who wish to seek access to increased provision should make contact with the Foundation Stage Coordinator to discuss the possibilities.]*

Twenty-four places per year will be allocated to children aged from 2 years old who qualify for free two-year-old funding. Up to 4 places will be available for fee paying pupils.

Funded places

In order to secure a free place for your 2-year-old child you need to meet Oxfordshire's criteria – these are listed below and can be found in more detail here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/free-early-education-2-year-olds-0>

In order to access free nursery provision for 2 year olds the following criteria must apply:

1. Economic criteria

(a) You are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit (<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>)

(b) Your family receives Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit provided your annual household income, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, does not exceed £16,190

2. Non-economic criteria

(c) Your child has a current statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan; or attracts Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

(d) Two year olds currently in the care of the local authority (Looked After Children)¹ or who have left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order.

How to apply:

- Free places

You need to have a Two Year Old Funding Voucher from Oxfordshire County Council and bring this to Dashwood where you will be asked to complete an application form stating the voucher reference number.

- Paid places

If you wish to pay for a place at Dashwood, this will be a cost of £5.50 an hour with each session being 3 hours long. You will need to complete an application form and in the first instance please contact the Academy's office on 01295 263240, to discuss whether there are places and what your requirements are.

Where there are more applicants than spaces a waiting list will be established. When spaces become available children will be allocated from the waiting list in order of the priorities listed above. Length of time on the waiting list and address will not be considered.

- I. Children who qualify for free two-year-old funding (see Economic and Non-economic criteria above)
- II. Children with sibling attending Dashwood Banbury Academy in the academic year of admission (for this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or stepbrother or - sister resident at the same address)
- III. Children of staff employed by the Aspirations Academy Trust for two or more years at the time at which the application for admissions is made or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- IV. Children from whom this is the nearest school measured by the shortest designated route from the home address
- V. Any other children whose parents wish them to attend the school

A maximum of 24 funded places will be offered where demand is there and staff is in place. Any funded places not taken by funded 2 year olds 2 months prior to the admission date may be made available for other 2 year old children.

¹ A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order, including those 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. 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). An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements 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 as amended by 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).

A place in the 2-year-old Nursery setting (Cherry class) will guarantee a place in the Nursery [F2/3] setting (Plum class) but not into the Reception [F1] class. If a parent wishes their child to attend the Reception setting after Nursery then they must apply through the Local Authority's admissions process.

Process of application for admission to Nursery (3 to 4 year olds – Plum Class)

The Academy Governors have agreed to admit up to 52 pupils over 3 intakes in Nursery [F2 & 3.] The Academy will admit a number of 30 hour places per year. For applications to be considered under this policy, they must be submitted by the end of March the year before they are due to start. Parents/Carers can apply for either a 30 hour placement or a 15 hour placement. Those who do not receive a 30 hour place will automatically be entered into the 15 hour placement applications. 30 hour places will only be allocated to those who eligible through the online portal which currently states that they must satisfy the following conditions.

- Both parents/sole parent earns at least the equivalent of 16 hours at the living wage.
- Neither parent earns more than £100,000.

When there are more applications for either the 15 or 30 hour sessions than there are places available in the Nursery, the Governors will admit pupils according to the following over-subscription criteria, which are listed in order of priority. *[A 'place' is currently three terms' attendance (either a morning or afternoon session on five days per week for a total of 15 hours commencing Term 1, Term 3 or Term 5 – the term after the child is 3. Parents who wish to seek access to increased provision should make contact with the Foundation Stage Coordinator to discuss the possibilities.]*

After those Nursery Children with an Education, Health & care Plan issued by a local authority naming a specific school where a pupil should receive his/her education, the following criteria will be applied in order of which they are set out below:

Children looked after by a local authority (LAC)¹ or adopted children who were previously in care
Then:

- I. Children with sibling attending Dashwood Banbury Academy in the academic year of admission (for this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or stepbrother or - sister resident at the same address)
- II. Children of staff employed by The Aspirations Academy Trust for two or more years at the time at which the application for admissions is made or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- III. Children from whom this is the nearest school measured by the shortest designated route from the home address
- IV. Any other children whose parents wish them to attend the school

Process of application for admission to Reception Year

Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements, and will be made on the Common Application Form provided and administered by the respective home LAs of the applicants. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes may go over the legal 30 limit per class if the 31st child is a twin or from a multiple birth, or of armed services personnel. These arrangements and the admissions criteria (below) are reviewed annually.

Consideration of applications

The Academy will consider all applications for places. Where fewer than 60 applications are received, the Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

Procedures where Academy is oversubscribed in Reception Year

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below:

After the admission of pupils with plans of an Education, Health & Care Plan where the Academy is named on the plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- i. Looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). Such students will be given top priority before the oversubscription criteria is applied.
- ii. Admission of pupils whose siblings currently attend Dashwood Banbury Academy and who will continue to do so on the date of admission; (for this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or stepbrother or - sister resident at the same address)
- iii. Children of staff employed by The Aspirations Academy Trust for two or more years at the time at which the application for admissions is made or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- iv. Remaining places will be allocated by the distance from the Academy. Pupils closest by drawing a straight line from the address point set by Ordnance Survey to the Academy will be considered first.

Pupils with Disabilities

Children with disabilities will be treated no less favourably than other applications for admission. Disabled children will be given equal consideration of a place with others under the stated criteria for admission. The definition of disability is that contained within the Disability Discrimination Act (amended). Dashwood Banbury Academy will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that pupils with disabilities are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in accordance with the Disability Rights Commission Code of Practice.

Notification of Places

At the beginning of April preceding the intended admission date (September) the Local Authority sends letters/email to parents offering a place at the Academy. At this point the Academy will carry out a second proof of address check on all pupils offered a place at the Academy. **The Academy will confirm the Local Authority offer on the basis that a valid proof of residency has been supplied.**

Proof of home address

The proof of address checks will be done by checking the latest council tax bill provided by parents. Where there are exceptional circumstances and the parent is unable to provide a council tax bill as proof of address, alternative official documentation may be used only through consultation with and the agreement of the Admissions Officer at the Academy.

Where a child spends time with parents at more than one address, then the address given should be the one of the prime carer. The prime carer is the parent in whose name Child Benefit payments are made.

As the Local Authority co-ordinates admissions they also make checks to verify the addresses of pupils.

Operation of 'continued interest' lists

Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in the LA's coordinated admission scheme, the Academy will operate a waiting list. Where in any year the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of July following the admission date. This will be maintained by the 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.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Arrangements for appeals panels

Parents will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Academy. The Appeal Panel will be independent of the Academy. The arrangements for Appeals will be in line with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals published by the Department for Education as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel will be made in accordance with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals and is binding on all parties. The Academy will provide guidance for parents about how the appeals process will work and provide parents with a named contact who can answer any enquiries parents may have about the process.

Arrangements for admitting pupils to other year groups, including to replace any pupils who have left the Academy (In-Year Admissions)

Subject to any provisions in the LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the Academy must consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child. If more applications are received than there are places available then the following procedure will be applied:

After the admission of pupils with an Education, Health & Care Plan where the Academy is named on the plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- I. Looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). Such students will be given top priority before the oversubscription criteria is applied.
- II. Admission of pupils whose siblings currently attend Dashwood Banbury Academy and who will continue to do so on the date of admission; (for this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or stepbrother or - sister resident at the same address)
- III. Children of staff employed by The Aspirations Academy Trust for two or more years at the time at which the application for admissions is made or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- IV. Remaining places will be allocated by the distance from the Academy. Pupils closest by drawing a straight line from the address point set by Ordnance Survey to the Academy will be considered first.

Parents whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.

Fair Access Admissions

Dashwood Banbury Academy will adhere to the Fair Access Protocol as determined by the LA to ensure that 'Hard to Place' students will receive a suitable school place. Managed Move requests for students from other Primary Schools will also be given consideration as part of the adherence to the School Admissions Code.

PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Consultation

Dashwood Banbury Academy will set admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements there will be a public consultation on these arrangements. If no changes are made to admission arrangements the Academy consultation will only take place at least every 7 years.

The Consultation Period will last for a minimum period of eight weeks, between 1st November and 1st March of the year before the arrangements are to apply.

The Academy will consult by 1st November:

Parents of children between the ages of two and eleven;

- other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the Academy have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- All other admission authorities for primary and secondary schools located within the relevant area;
- Any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority.

For the purposes of consultation, the Academy will publish a copy of the proposed admission arrangements on the Academy website together with the contact details of the Admissions Officer, to whom comments must be sent.

The Academy will also send, upon request, a copy of the proposed admission arrangements to any of the persons or bodies listed above inviting comment.

Determination and publication of admission arrangements

Dashwood Banbury Academy will determine its admission arrangements by 15th April every year, even if they have not changed from previous years.

Publication of admission arrangements

Dashwood Banbury Academy will notify the appropriate bodies and publish a copy of the determined arrangements on the Academy website for the whole offer year (the academic year in which offers for places are made). The Academy will also send a copy of the full, determined arrangements to the Local Authority as soon as possible before 1st May.

Representations about admission arrangements

Where any of those bodies that were consulted, or that should have been consulted, make representations to the Academy about its admission arrangements, the Academy will consider such representations before determining the admission arrangements. Where the Academy has determined its admission arrangements and notified all those bodies whom it has consulted and any of those bodies object to the Academy's admission arrangements they can make representations to the Schools Adjudicator by 30th June. The Schools Adjudicator will consider the representation and in so doing will consult the Academy. The Academy will provide all the information that the local authority needs to compile the composite prospectus no later than 8th August, unless agreed otherwise.

Those consulted have the right to ask the Academy to increase its proposed Published Admissions Number for any year. Where such a request is made, but agreement cannot be reached locally, they may ask the Secretary of State to direct the Academy to increase its proposed Published Admissions Number. The Secretary of State will consult the Academy and will then determine the Published Admission Number.

In addition to the provisions above, the Secretary of State may direct changes to the Academy's proposed admission arrangements and, in addition to the provisions above, the Secretary of State may direct changes to the proposed Published Admissions Number.

Proposed changes to admission arrangements by the Academy after arrangements have been published

Once the admission arrangements have been determined for a particular year and published, the Academy will propose changes only if there is a major change of circumstances. In such cases,

the Academy must notify those consulted under paragraph 16 above of the proposed variation and must then apply to the Schools Adjudicator setting out:

- a) the proposed changes;
- b) reasons for wishing to make such changes;
- c) any comments or objections from those entitled to object.

Records of applications and admissions shall be kept by the Academy for a minimum period of one year and shall be open for inspection by the Secretary of State.