



THE BRAMBLE ACADEMY

**ADMISSIONS POLICY**  
**2023/2024**

## **PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING PUPILS TO THE BRAMBLE ACADEMY**

The Bramble Academy provides for the needs of children within the 3 to 11 age range.

Pupils will be admitted at the age of 3+ without reference to ability or aptitude using the criteria set out in this policy. Admission to our Academy is not dependent on any 'voluntary' contribution.

The Greenwood Academies Trust is the Admissions Authority for the Bramble Academy.

The Academy participates in the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme and all deadlines within that should be adhered to by applicants.

### **Admission number for primary provision (age 5)**

1. The Academy has the following agreed admission number:
  - a) 30 for pupils in Year R (Reception)
2. All children are entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

### **Variations to Admission Numbers**

3. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, in any specific year, The Bramble Academy may set a higher admission number than its agreed admission number for an applicable year group. The Academy is not required to consult on its PAN where it proposes either to increase or keep the same PAN. The Academy must consult where they propose a decrease to the PAN.

### **Process of Application**

4. Arrangements for applications for places at the Bramble Academy will be made in accordance with the Nottinghamshire LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in Nottinghamshire can apply online at:

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home Local Authority.

5. The Academy will use the Nottinghamshire LA's timetable for applications each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year).
  - a) September/October - the Academy will provide opportunities for parents to visit the Academy
  - b) By 15 January – Parents complete the common application form (CAF) and return it to the LA to administer
  - c) 16 April or the next work day – notification of offers made to parents.

## **Consideration of applications**

6. The Bramble Academy will consider all applications for places at the Academy.

Where fewer than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year groups are received, the Bramble Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

Any applications received after the closing date will be accepted but considered only after those received by the closing date in accordance with the published Nottinghamshire County Council co-ordinated scheme and timetable.

## **Procedures where the Bramble Academy is oversubscribed**

7. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number in any age group, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below.

### **Admission to Reception (statutory age 5) – oversubscription criteria**

8. The Bramble Academy will first accept all pupils with a statutory right to a place through an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHC) naming the Academy. After the admission of these pupils, criteria will be applied for the remaining places in the order in which they are set out below:

- a) Looked after children and previously looked after children, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted\*.
- b) Children who live in the catchment area\* at the closing date for applications and who, at the time of admission, will have a sibling\* attending the Academy.
- c) Other children who live in the catchment area at the closing date for applications.
- d) Other children who live outside the catchment area.

In the event of oversubscription, within any of the above criterion, preference will be given to children who live nearest to the Academy as the crow flies.

In the event that two or more distances are exactly the same, the Academy will use a method of random allocation by lot, drawn by an independent person outside of the Academy.

If applications exceed the number of places available the Academy will operate a waiting list in which priority for places will be given on the basis of the above criteria.

*\* see definitions*

### **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

9. Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group, for example, summer born children\*, if the child is gifted and talented, has experienced problems such as ill health or is born prematurely.
10. For Reception year, any parent of a summer born child wanting their child to be admitted outside of the normal age group should make an application to the Academy in the first instance but also to the Local Authority for their child's normal age group at the usual time in case a request is not agreed.

For other year groups, any parent wanting their child to be admitted out of the normal age group should submit a request, in writing, to the Academy via the Local Authority as soon as is possible.

11. When such a request is made, the Academy will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the parent, the Principal and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. The Academy is responsible, as the admissions authority, for making the decision on which year group a child should be admitted to.

All such applications will be considered at the time they are submitted.

*\* The term 'summer born' is used to refer to children born from 1 April to 31 August.*

### **Operation of Waiting Lists**

12. If, after the offer of places has been made, the Academy is over-subscribed, all unsuccessful applications will be placed on the waiting list which will be administered by the governors of the school in partnership with the Local Authority for the duration of the co-ordinated admissions scheme. A child's position on this waiting list will be determined by the Academy's published over-subscription criteria.

Once the coordinated scheme is closed, the waiting list will remain open but will be administered by the governors of the school. The waiting list will be maintained for the remainder of the current academic year.

13. For in-year applications, where the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate for unsuccessful applicants. Waiting lists 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 a waiting list for the relevant year group following an unsuccessful application.

### **Arrangements for in-year Admissions**

14. The Nottinghamshire Local Authority will co-ordinate admissions for in-year applications and for applications for year groups other than the normal point(s) of entry; further details are on our website at [www.brambleacademy.org](http://www.brambleacademy.org)
15. 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 will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child.
16. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 8 for the relevant age group shall apply. Parents whose application is refused shall be entitled to appeal.

### **Late Applications**

17. Late applications are those submitted after the closing date for the co-ordinated admissions scheme and will be dealt with in accordance with that scheme. Late applications will be considered up to the date in late December specified in the co-ordinated scheme providing the applicant can provide evidence that they have moved into the area after the closing date for applications or can establish at the time of completing the form that there were exceptional reasons for missing the closing date. Examples include family bereavement, hospitalisation, and family trauma. Supporting evidence may be required.

When the Academy is informed by the Local Authority that a place has been offered, it will write to the parent(s) seeking written confirmation that they will take up the place. If this confirmation is not received within four weeks, the school will notify the Local Authority that the offer of a place should be withdrawn and offered to the child ranked highest on the waiting list.

### **Right of Appeal**

18. There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for unsuccessful applicants relating to admissions at age 5 (statutory school age) or above. Appeals should be made within twenty-five (25) school days of the date of refusal.
19. If refused admission you should contact the Academy Admissions Clerk at the address below to lodge an appeal:

Bramble Academy  
Oxclose Lane,  
Mansfield Woodhouse,  
Mansfield,  
Notts NG19 8DF

Please mark your envelope 'Admissions Appeals'.

Repeat applications in the same academic year will not be considered unless there is a significant and material change in circumstances.

### **UK Armed Forces**

20. For families of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning to live in the area from overseas, the Academy will:
  - Process an application in advance of the family arriving in the area provided it is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address, intended address or quartering area address to use when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
  - Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child where the parent requests this
  - The Academy will not refuse a service child a place solely because the family does not have an intended address or does not yet live in the area.

Evidence of an intended address will be required such as tenancy agreement, or mortgage statement. Please contact the school for more details.

21. For late coordinated applications and in year applications supported by the appropriate military documentation, we will aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces). The Academy will consider whether:
  - An application from that address would normally succeed in an oversubscribed year
  - There is any child on the reserve list with higher priority under the oversubscription criteria
  - The prejudice from admitting an extra child would be excessive.
22. The Academy has discretion to admit above the admission number in these circumstances if they wish but are not obliged to do so. If a place is refused, you will be informed of your right of appeal.

## **Fair Access**

23. The Bramble Academy participates in Nottinghamshire County Council's Fair Access protocol. All schools, including Voluntary Aided Schools, Trust Schools and Academies must participate in the protocol.

The purpose of the Fair Access Protocol is to ensure that vulnerable children are offered a school place as quickly as possible and to evenly spread children with additional needs across all schools in the county. The protocol only applies to mid-term applications; it does not operate when children transfer from primary school to secondary school.

## **Fraudulent or Misleading Applications**

24. As an Admission Authority, we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about an application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that a fraudulent claim has been made or misleading information provided, for example a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

## **Definitions**

### **1. Definition of 'Looked After' children and previously 'Looked After' children**

A 'looked after child' is a child who is:

- in the care of a local authority, or
- 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.

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of, or were accommodated by, a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

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). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. 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).

## **2. Definition of siblings and the position of twins**

Sibling:

- Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half-brothers or half-sisters, legally adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

In the case of twins or other siblings from a multiple birth, where there is only one place available in the Academy, the children will be considered together. The Academy's admission number may be exceeded; the School Admissions Code makes an exception to the infant class limit in this situation.

In the case of siblings in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the Academy, these may be considered together. The Academy may go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children, except in cases where infant class regulations, as stated in the Schools Admissions Code, prevent this from happening.

## **3. Definition of the distance to an intending pupil's home**

In the event of oversubscription, within all but the first criterion, preference will be given to children who live nearest to the school as the crow flies. Distances are measured from the main administrative point at the school campus to a point at the entrance to the child's home using the local authority's computerised measuring system.

In the event of two distances being equal, the local authority will measure to the next decimal point. If the measurements remain equal, lots will be drawn and the process will be independently verified.

## **4. Home address**

The child's place of residence is taken to be the parental home, other than in the case of children fostered by a Local Authority, where either the parental address or the foster parent(s) address may be used.

Where a child spends part of the week in different homes, their place of residence will be taken to be their parent or parents' address. If a child's parents live at separate addresses, the address where the child permanently spends at least three 'school' nights (i.e. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) will be taken to be the place of residence.

Addresses of other relatives or friends will not be considered as the place of residence, even if the child stays there for all or part of the week. Evidence that a child's place of residence is permanent may also be sought.

The evidence should prove that a child lived at the address at the time of the application and will continue to live there after the time of admission. Informal arrangements between parents will not be taken into consideration. The designated officer may also seek proof of residence from the courts regarding parental responsibilities in this matter.

In all cases all those with parental responsibility must be in agreement with the preferences made.

## **5. Tie Break**

If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two applicants for the last remaining place then a lottery will be conducted by an independent person outside of the Academy.