



**Cabot**  
Learning  
Federation

Bristol Metropolitan  
Academy Admissions  
Policy for the  
2025/2026 academic  
year

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**Date: March 2024**

### History of most recent Policy changes

| Date           | Page                      | Change  | Origin of Change e.g. TU request, Change in legislation                |
|----------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Date           | E.g. Whole Document       | Detail of change  | Reason for change  |
| November 2016  | P7 In Year Admissions     | Amended to reflect in year admission applications are made on the Academy application form, not the CAF | Review   |
| September 2017 |                           | Amended to reflect recommendations from BCC Admissions  | Review   |
| October 2018   | Oversubscription Criteria | Adjusted language to ensure compliant with Bristol LA   | Advice received from LA  |
| July 2019      | Whole document            | Adjusted following recommendations from BCC admissions team   |  |
| August 2021    | Whole document            | Updated to reflect School Admissions Code 2021  |  |
| August 2022    | Whole document            | Annual review   |  |
| January 2023   | Whole document            | Annual review   |  |
| March 2024     | Whole Document            | Annual Review. Approved at Academy Council.   |  |
| August 2024    | 8                         | Removed 11.6- not relevant to a Secondary School  | Amended to reflect recommendations from Office of Schools Adjudicator. |
| August 2024    | 6                         | Removed 5.2- not relevant to a Secondary School   | Amended to reflect recommendations from Office of Schools Adjudicator. |
| August 2024    | 7                         | Removed oversubscription criterion 6- 'Tie-Breaker'. Should not be included.                            | Amended to reflect recommendations from Office of Schools Adjudicator. |
| August 2024    | 10                        | Removed definition of 'Tie-Breaker' as not included in the oversubscription criterion.                  | Amended to reflect recommendations from Office of Schools Adjudicator. |
| August 2024    | 8                         | Added date of 31 December in relation to 2.15 of the Admissions Code.                                   | Amended to reflect recommendations from Office of Schools Adjudicator. |
| August 2024    | 10                        | Added link to 'designated area' map provided on Bristol City Council's website specific to the Academy. | Amended to reflect recommendations from Office of Schools Adjudicator. |

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## 1 Policy Statement

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to make clear the admissions process to Bristol Metropolitan Academy.

1.2 The Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) adheres to the statutory requirements and the principles outlined in the School Admissions Code [DfE 2021], which all academies are required to adhere to via the Funding Agreement between Bristol Metropolitan Academy and the Secretary of State.

1.3 The CLF has agreed that the admission arrangements will remain in line with the agreed arrangements for Bristol Local Authority maintained non-denominational secondary and primary schools.

1.4 More information about the CLF can be found on the website as follows: <https://clf.uk/>.

1.5 The policy covering admissions for Post 16 students across the federation is not contained in this document. Please visit the Cabot Learning Federation website to view details of Post 16 provision and the relevant admissions policies.

## 2 The Admissions Timetable

### 2.1 Consultation

2.1.1 The Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) sets out admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the federation will first publicly consult on those arrangements. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, the Academy admissions policy will be consulted on at least once every 7 years.

2.1.2 For admission arrangements for entry in September 2025 and all subsequent years, consultation will be for a minimum of 6 weeks and will take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply. An illustration of these timeframes is contained in Table 1 below.

2.1.3 As their own admission authority, CLF academies are not required to consult on their Published Admission Number (PAN) where they propose either to increase or keep the same PAN; however, where a PAN is increased the Academy will notify the LA and publish details on the Academy website.

2.1.4 When consultation is required, the CLF will consult the following parties on the proposed admission arrangements

2.1.5

- a. Parents/carers of children between the ages of 2 – 18;
- b. Bristol LA;
- c. The Admission Forum for Bristol LA (where this exists);
- d. Any other admission authorities for primary and secondary schools located within the relevant area for consultation set by Bristol LA;
- e. Any other governing body/Academy Council for primary and secondary schools (as far as not falling within paragraph c)) located within the relevant area for consultation;
- f. Affected admission authorities in neighbouring local authority areas.

2.2 Determination

2.2.1 Once feedback from the consultation has been considered the CLF must determine the admission arrangements and must notify the Local Authority (LA) of these and publish them on the relevant Academy website.

2.3 Offers and Acceptance of Offers

2.3.1 Offers are made and need to be accepted by the dates set out at Table 1 below.

Table 1 Admissions Timetable

|   | <b>Admission in September 2023</b>                     | <b>Admission in September 2024</b>                    | <b>Admission in September 2025</b>                    |
|---|--|---|---|
| Consultation period for changes to the Admissions Policy                          | 6 weeks between 1 October 2021 and 31 January 2022     | 6 weeks between 1 October 2022 and 31 January 2023    | 6 weeks between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2024    |
| The CLF must determine admission arrangements by                                  | 28 February 2022                                       | 28 February 2023                                      | 28 February 2024                                      |
| The CLF must publish the appeals timetable by                                     | 28 February 2022                                       | 28 February 2023                                      | 28 February 2024                                      |
| The CLF must notify the LA of the arrangements and publish them on the website by | 15 March 2022  | 15 March 2023   | 15 March 2024   |
| Applications from parents/carers close  | Secondary: 31 October 2022<br>Primary: 15 January 2023 | Secondary 31 October 2023<br>Primary: 15 January 2024 | Secondary 31 October 2024<br>Primary: 15 January 2025 |
| Offers made to parents/carers on National Offer Day*                              | Secondary: 1 March 2023<br>Primary: 16 April 2023      | Secondary: 1 March 2024<br>Primary: 16 April 2024     | Secondary: 1 March 2025<br>Primary: 16 April 2025     |
| Appeals must be made by   | 20 school days following offer of place                | 20 school days following offer of place               | 20 school days following offer of place               |

*[Amend dates if you follow an alternative admissions timetable]*

\*National Offer Day is on the date specified or the next working day where the specified date is a weekend or bank holiday.

### **3 Process of Application**

- 3.1 Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with Bristol Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements, and will be made on the Common Application Form (CAF) provided and administered by the Local Authority. The CAF can be found by visiting <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/school-admissions>. Alternatively, parents/carers can contact the Academy who will provide them with a copy of the form.

### **4 Published Admissions Number**

- 4.1 Bristol Metropolitan Academy has a PAN of 180 places in Year 7, leading to a total number of 900 places across Years 7 to 11 when at full capacity.
- 4.2 The policy covering admissions for Post 16 students across the federation is not contained in this document. Please visit the Cabot Learning Federation website to view details of Post 16 provision and the relevant admissions policies.

### **5 Consideration of Applications**

- 5.1 The Local Authority will consider all application for places. Where fewer than 180 applications are received, the Local Authority will offer places to all those who have applied.

### **6 Students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities**

- 6.1 Children with an EHC Plan are placed in schools/academies through the arrangements set out in the SEND Code of Practice and not through these admission criteria. All admission authorities are required by Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit to the academy a child with an EHC Plan that names the academy. Academies must admit such children whether they have places or not. Any appeal concerning the statement of the admission is to the independent First-Tier Tribunal (Health, Education and Social Care Chamber). Parents/carers of children with an EHC Plan should contact their child's lead professional for any further information.

### **7 Oversubscription Criteria**

- 7.1 Where the number of applications for admissions is greater than the Published Admission Number (PAN), applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. These are listed in priority order and will be applied to all applications received by the published closing date.

Notes/definitions to the oversubscription criteria are set out in Annex A (page 10).

1. Children in care or children who were previously in care.
  - To a Local Authority in England and immediately after being in care who became subject to an adoption, child arrangement order, or special guardianship order.
  - 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.

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).

2. Siblings living in the designated area of first priority.
3. Geography – Children living in the school's designated area of first priority.
4. Siblings living outside the designated area of first priority.
5. Geography – Out of the area children. Children living closest to the school as measured in a direct line from the home address to the school (see notes on measurements).

## **8 Late Admissions**

- 8.1 Late applications will not be considered until offers have been made to on time applicants and in accordance with the dates set out in the Bristol Admission Scheme.

## **9 In Year Admissions**

- 9.1 The Academy is part of the Bristol LA coordinated in year admissions arrangements. This scheme applies to all applications for places in existing year groups from parents/carers resident in Bristol LA or with a confirmed move to Bristol LA at the time of the application.
- 9.2 Applications for Academy places from parents/carers resident in, or with a confirmed move to the local area must be made on the Academy application form available from the following website <https://bristolmetropolitanacademy.clf.uk/> of the Academy. The Academy will consider each application at the time it is made. Parents/carers whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.

## **10 Waiting List**

- 10.1 Where the Academy has been oversubscribed in the normal admissions round and places have been refused to some applicants, a waiting list will be maintained for any vacancies which subsequently occur in the Academy until at least 31 December.
- 10.2 The waiting list will be prioritised according to the admission criteria and not by reference to the date of joining the waiting list.

## **11 Admissions of children outside their normal chronological year group (delayed or accelerated entry)**

- 11.1 Applications for delayed or accelerated entry in cases where parents would like their child to be admitted to a year group that is not the chronological age year group, will be considered. The admissions authority for the school will make the final decision.
- 11.2 In addition, parents of summer born children (born on or between 1 April and 31 August) can request to admit their child into the Reception year, one year after they would normally enter the school. The admissions authority for the school will make the final decision.
- 11.3 Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. This will include taking account:
- the parent's views;
  - information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
  - where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
  - whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
  - whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.
- 11.4 The admissions authority must also take into account the views of the Principal.
- 11.5 Parents will need to write to the school to request that their child starts a year later or earlier than their chronological age. Parents will need to give reasons for the request and details of the child's particular needs. Any reports or evidence to support your request should also be enclosed.
- 11.6 Where the admission authority agrees to a parent's request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group the parent must apply according to the timescales of the agreed admission cohort. The application will be processed as part of the main admissions round (including applying the oversubscription criteria where applicable), unless the parental request is made too late for this to be possible. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied and been refused. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

## **12 Feeder Schools**

- 12.1 The CLF does not operate a feeder primary academy policy for admissions to a secondary academy and therefore attendance at a federation primary academy does not guarantee a



place at a particular federation secondary academy. The exception to this is King's Oak Academy which is an all-through provision.

### **13 Appeals**

- 13.1 When an offer of a place is not made, the reasons for the decision will be set out, together with details of how the parent/carer can lodge an appeal against the decision by the deadline for doing so. The Academy must establish an independent appeals panel to hear the appeal. The panel will decide whether to uphold or dismiss the appeal. Where a panel upholds the appeal the Academy is required to admit the child.
- 13.2 The arrangements for appeals will be in line with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals.
- 13.3 Parents will normally have 20 school days after notification of a place not being offered to lodge an appeal.
- 13.4 Parents/carers wishing to appeal against an admission appeal should send a completed appeal form to the address detailed on the offer letter. Other documents may be submitted in support of an appeal and should be lodged not less than 5 school days before the appeal hearing.
- 13.5 Parents/carers will be given 10 school days' notice of the appeal hearing, unless they agree to a shorter period of notice.
- 13.6 The decision of the Appeal Panel will be communicated in writing as soon as possible after the hearing has been concluded and within 5 school days. In the case of unsuccessful appeals the Appeal Panel will give the parents/carers their reasons for not upholding the appeal.

## Annex A Notes/definitions to the oversubscription criteria Bristol LA

**1. Children in Public Care and Previously in Public Care** are children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority under section 22 of the Children Act 1989. 1989 Children's Act

In relation to school admissions legislation a 'looked after child' is a child in public care at the time of application to a school. Applicants can provide evidence demonstrating their child was previously in care to an institution acting as a Local Authority, or an organisation that supports the best interests of the community/child. In the case of previously looked after children, admission authorities may request a copy of the adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order and a letter from the local authority that last looked after the child, confirming that they were looked after immediately prior to that order being made, or such evidence that demonstrates a child was in state care outside of England prior to being adopted.

2. Siblings refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, step brother or sister, fostered or adopted children, or a child of the parent or carer's partner where the child for whom a place is being sought is living in the same family unit at the same address. The older sibling is already in attendance at the preferred school and will be in attendance in the September of the younger sibling's admission year. Pupils will not be considered as a sibling link where the older child is attending the school in the year of entry as Year 12 or Year 13 students.

3. Home address –Bristol Local Authority will not accept more than one address as the child's home address. Where a child regularly lives at more than one address the Local Authority will have to reach a conclusion about which should be counted as the main address when allocating places, taking relevant evidence into account. Normally this will be the address where the child is registered with a medical GP. Where parents or carers are living separately and do not agree on the child's home address, they are urged to reach an agreement. If this does not happen evidence may be required by providing court documents or other legally binding documentation such a sworn affidavit confirming where the child resides for the majority of the school week. Where satisfactory evidence cannot be provided Bristol Local Authority will determine the address be used for allocating a school place.

4. Geographical considerations -Home to school distances will be measured in a direct line from a point on the home address as held by the Local Authority, defined in the Local Land and Property Gazetteer, to a defined point within the main school building using the Local Authority's computerised mapping system. To view the Academy's designated area, please visit [Bristol Metropolitan Academy \(arcgis.com\)](http://Bristol Metropolitan Academy (arcgis.com)).

6. Maps To view the areas of priority, visit <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/pinpoint/>. Specific addresses can be located by entering a postcode via the 'Address' tab. School priority areas can be seen via the 'Education' tab and selecting 'Secondary school areas of first priority' or 'Secondary school areas of second priority'.