



THE DOWNS SCHOOL

THE DOWNS SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2018/19

Determined by the Full Governing Board – 18 January 2017

The admission arrangements for admission to The Downs School for the 2018/2019 academic year and subsequent years are set out in this document. These arrangements take account of all relevant legislation and the School Admissions Code of Practice.

The aim is for admission arrangements to work for the benefit of all parents and children in the area, to be as simple as possible for parents to use and help them to make a decision on the best school for their children. Parents must use the application form of their 'home' Local Authority, i.e. the admissions authority of their home address, when applying for a place. Completed forms should be sent to the 'home' LA by the closing date for applications of the home LA. Parents are encouraged to use the 'on-line' application form provided by their home LA. Details of how to make an application can be found on The Downs School's website (www.thedownsschool.org) and on the LA's website (www.westberks.gov.uk/secondarieschoolplaces).

ADMISSION NUMBERS

Following a recent Net Capacity Assessment by the LA an Indicative Admission Number was reached. The governors set the admission number with regard to this Net Capacity Assessment for the school. The approved admission number for entry to The Downs School has been increased from 180 to 210 at Year 7 from September 2018.

At age 16, a minimum of 10 "additional" places will be offered in Year 12 (i.e. over and above students attending The Downs School who progress from Year 11 to Year 12).

OVER-SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

The following over-subscription criteria in order of priority are applied for application when the school receives more preferences than places available. All preferences will be treated on an equal basis.

A 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 immediately following having been looked after.

B Catchment Area Pupils

Children whose permanent home address is within the catchment area of the school shown on the map at www.westberks.gov.uk/catchments. Where necessary, priority will be given to siblings in catchment. It is the child's normal permanent home address where he or she lives with his or her parents/carers and are living at the closing date for applications in the normal admissions round (31 October 2017) that is used to decide in which school's catchment area the child lives. Future addresses must not be used and will not be accepted.

Where parental responsibilities are shared, the permanent home address will normally be considered to be with the parent/carer with whom the child spends the majority of days and nights Monday to Friday; this will normally be expected to be with the parent/carer that receives the pupil's Child Benefit, where this benefit is still available.

Where there is any doubt about the split of the residence then the relevant address used will be that at which we are satisfied that the child spends the majority of the school week.

Where catchment areas have changed and parents/carers are applying for a school where they were resident in the catchment area before the change, they will still be considered as catchment for that school if:

- a) the child for whom a place is being sought has a sibling (sibling defined in criteria 3 of the oversubscription criteria) and
- b) the application was made for the sibling from the same permanent home address as the current address.

Temporary addresses cannot be used to obtain school places, e.g. temporary addresses whilst retaining a previous permanent home will not be accepted. If parents/carers are in the process of moving from one address to another and want to use the new address for the school place allocations, evidence that they have moved and are already living in the new address will need to be provided before allocations begin. Even if a move is planned, a future address must not be used and will not be accepted.

Any child offered a school place based on fraudulent or intentionally misleading information concerning a catchment area permanent home address will have their place withdrawn and a new application will be required, by which time preferred schools may be full. This may also occur after the child has been admitted to a school.

There are no proposals to alter the catchment area of the school.

Criteria C, D & E apply to children whose permanent home address is not within the preferred school's catchment area

C Siblings

Pupils with a brother or sister (including step/foster sibling) living in the same family unit who is already on the roll of The Downs School and, in relation to admissions at The Downs School's first point of entry, will continue to attend compulsory education at the school during the following academic year.

D Children from primary schools federated to The Downs School

E Children of Staff at the School

Children of staff in either of the following circumstances as certified by the Headteacher where:

- a) the member of staff has been employed at The Downs School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admissions to the school is made,
Or
- b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

F All other applicants

Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs naming a school will always be admitted at any time, above any other child including those on the waiting list. This is a legal requirement. Outside of the normal admission round the West Berkshire In-Year Fair Access Protocol will also apply.

TIE BREAKER

Priority will be given within any of the above over-subscription criteria to the applicant whose permanent home address is nearest to The Downs School. Distances will be measured using the West Berkshire Geographical Information System, with the measuring points as specified within that system, taking a straight line between the home address and the school using the unique property identification points within the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG), and not by taking travelling distances. In cases where there are multiple births, the parents/carers will be approached to decide which sibling or siblings will receive the available places.

WAITING LISTS

Waiting lists will be maintained for all schools and year groups where necessary for children not offered a school place at their first preference school. Placement will be determined by applying the over-subscription criteria outlined above. Waiting lists will remain until the first day of a new academic year. (1 September). At that time parents of pupils on existing lists will be asked to confirm in writing their wish to be placed on a newly constructed waiting list. Names will be removed from the lists if requested or if the offer of a place that becomes available is not accepted. Positions on waiting lists may change due to new applications or revised applications in respect of a change of preferred schools, and precedence is given to those subject to a direction or an admission in accordance with the In-Year Fair Access Protocol.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications are considered as detailed in the coordinated and in-year admissions scheme (Appendix A).

IN-YEAR APPLICATIONS AFTER THE NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND

The administration of applications outside the normal admission round is detailed in the coordinated and in-year admissions scheme (Appendix A).

ADMISSION OUTSIDE NORMAL AGE GROUP

Requests from parents for school places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully whether for gifted and talented pupils or for those who have experienced problems, e.g. having missed education due to ill health, etc. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, cases will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests between the parents, schools concerned (both old and preferred) and any relevant professionals asked for their opinion on the case by The Downs School Governors' Admissions Committee. Those refused places outside the normal age group will be informed of their statutory right of appeal.

APPEALS

Any parent not offered a school place at their preferred school has the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel. This can be for a place at one or more of your preferred schools and against an alternative school place that has been allocated by this Council. Information on how to appeal will be provided with the result of the application. Appeals must be lodged by the dates set out in the Co-ordinated and In-Year Admissions Scheme for the normal admissions round or within 21 days from the date of the offer or refusal letter.

THE PREVIOUS YEARS ALLOCATIONS BY OVER-SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR 2017/18

SEN	Looked After Children	Catchment	Sibling	Other
2	1	174	3	

SIXTH FORM ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2018/19

These arrangements apply to new students entering the school at Year 12 for the first time, not existing school students.

The highest priority is Looked after Children and previously Looked after Children who meet the criteria under 1 and 2 below.

1 ADMISSION NUMBERS

At age 16, a minimum of 10 “additional” places will be offered in Year 12 (i.e. over and above students attending The Downs School who progress from Year 11 to Year 12).

2 ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

At age 16 The Downs School has an open admissions policy, subject to the availability of appropriate courses and to particular requirements as published in the Sixth Form Prospectus. A student must be capable of benefiting from the programme of study.

In order to give the widest possible access for the variety of courses offered the Admission Arrangements are based on the grades achieved at GCSE as detailed below:

Detailed criteria are:

- A. Students choosing BTEC Level Two courses will be expected to have achieved 4 A*- E grades (or equivalent) at GCSE.
- B. Students choosing an Applied Level Three pathway will be expected to have achieved at least 5 A*-C grades (or equivalent) at GCSE.
- C. Students choosing to take A levels will be expected to have achieved at least 7 A*-C grades (or equivalent) or above at GCSE, with students wishing to take 4 A levels being recommended to have achieved 7 A*-B grades (or equivalent) or above at GCSE.
- D. Individual subjects will have their own entry requirements, which are published in the Course Guide.
- E. All students will be expected to follow full time programmes of study.
- F. Entry to Year 13 is dependent upon students having successfully completed their Year 12 programmes of study.

3 WAITING LISTS

If over-subscribed a waiting list will be operated on the same criteria as for Year 7 entry. Appeals for Sixth Form entry will follow the same rules as for Year 7 entry.

4 CLOSING DATE AND LATE APPLICATIONS

The closing date for applications for school places in the normal admission round is the Friday before the February half term.

The Downs School will, as far as possible, accept applications that are received late for a good reason, provided they are received before allocation procedures begin.

The full policy can be obtained from the school and it is also available through the LA website at:

www.westberks.gov.uk/AdmissionsPolicies



APPENDIX A
CO-ORDINATED AND IN-YEAR ADMISSION SCHEME FOR ALL MAINTAINED WEST
BERKSHIRE SCHOOLS
2018-19

Introduction

Each year all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website a scheme by **1 January** in the relevant determination year to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area. Where the scheme is substantially different from the scheme adopted for the previous academic year, the local authority must consult the other admission authorities in the area and any other local authorities it determines. Where the scheme has not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that the local authority must consult on the scheme at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period. Following any such consultation, which must be undertaken with a view to ensuring the admission of pupils in different local authorities is, as far as reasonably practicable, compatible with each other, the local authority must determine the qualifying scheme and must take all reasonable steps to secure its adoption. A local authority must inform the Secretary of State whether they have secured the adoption of a qualifying scheme by **28 February** in the determination year.

The Normal Admissions Round

In relation to any application made in the normal admission round, each parent in the area (The permanent home address as outlined in the published admission arrangements within West Berkshire) shall receive a single offer of a school place, or a refusal, determined under the scheme, the result of which shall be communicated in writing to the parent by the LA on **1 March 2018*** (for secondary admission) or **16 April 2018*** (for primary admission).

*or the next working day where the national offer day falls on a weekend or bank holiday.

West Berkshire residents must make applications for school places online, via the West Berkshire web-site, or on a West Berkshire Common Application Form, where parents can express a preference for up to three schools, rank those schools and give reasons for the preference. All preferences must be expressed on this form, including those for schools in a different area.

Residents of other areas should make their applications on their home local authority Common Application Form or in accordance with the requirements of their home local authority and return them to those authorities. Relevant information will be forwarded by those Local Authorities to West Berkshire for consideration if a preference is made for a West Berkshire School.

Each preference will be considered against the school's admission policy if necessary and, where more than a single school place can be offered, the place will be offered for the highest ranked preference. Information on applications stating preferences for schools for which the governing body is the admissions authority will be passed to the schools preferred. Places will be offered after consultation with those schools regarding available places.

Where a child is eligible to be admitted to a single school applied for online or on the Common Application Form, a place will be offered for that school.

Where a child is eligible to be admitted to more than one school applied for online or on the Common Application Form, a place will be offered for the highest ranked school.

Where a child is not eligible to be admitted to any school applied for online or on the Common

Application Form the LA will either:

1. offer an alternative school place if that child is from the area, or
2. Make no offer for an alternative school place if that child is not from the area.

Children from the area with no allocated place will normally be offered a school place in the following order:

1. At the catchment area school if a place exists, using distance as a priority;
2. at the nearest school from the home address where a place exists.
3. in the unlikely situation of there being no West Berkshire School places available, at the nearest West Berkshire school without breaking class size legislation no place will be allocated.

The normal admissions round process will be undertaken in accordance with the timetables below.

Late Applications

The closing date for secondary admission applications in the normal admission round is **31 October 2017** and the closing date for primary applications is **15 January 2018**. The authority will accept, applications received after this date provided that they are received **before allocation procedures begin** and treat them as on time applications.

For Secondary applications that are considered late received before the offer date of **1 March 2018** will be processed together from **1 March 2018**.

Late applications received between **1 March 2018** and **19 March 2018**, will be processed together from **19 March 2018**.

Late applications received from **20 March 2018** will be processed by date of receipt on the basis of the admissions oversubscription criteria of the preferred school.

No place will be allocated to children from waiting lists until **19 March 2018** when acceptances should have been returned.

For Primary applications considered late received before the offer date of **16 April 2018** will be processed together from **17 April 2018**.

Late applications received between **16 April 2018** and **30 April 2018**, will be processed together from **1 May 2018**.

Late applications received from **1 May 2018** will be processed by date of receipt on the basis of the admissions oversubscription criteria of the preferred school.

No place will be allocated to children from waiting lists until **1 May 2018** when acceptances should have been returned.

Duties of the LA

To forward application data received for places at Voluntary Aided or Foundation schools in the area to the governing body as soon as possible.

Where an application is made online or on the Common Application Form for a school outside the area, or received from another LA for a school within the area, to exchange details of that application with the other LA as soon as possible, and no later than the timetabled date for the normal admissions round.

To determine by reference to the LA's admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria the order in which any application for a place at a Community or Voluntary Controlled school is ranked.

To confirm with the Governing Bodies of Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools, by reference to their admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria, the order in which any application for a place at those schools is ranked.

To determine whether a child is to be granted or refused a school place at a school in the area in accordance with this scheme, and timetable for the normal admissions round.

To inform the governing body or other LA where appropriate of the decision whether to grant offers or refuse applications, and by the timetabled date in the normal admissions round.

To communicate the decision granting or refusing places at schools in the area to parents, including the date by which the pupil will be registered, on behalf of a governing body where appropriate, on **1 March 2018*** (for secondary admissions) or **16 April 2018*** (for primary admissions) for the normal admissions round (*or the next working day where the national offer day falls on a weekend or bank holiday).

In –Year to communicate the decision granting or refusing places, etc to all applicants.

Duties of the Governing Bodies acting as Admission Authorities

To forward applications incorrectly received directly for places at the school to the LA as soon as possible.

To receive application data from the LA and determine by reference to the governing body's admission arrangements and over-subscription criteria the order in which any application for the school will be ranked, and to notify the LA of the ranked list by the timetabled date for the normal admissions round.

To ensure that any determination under this scheme to offer or refuse a place at the school will only be communicated to the parent by the LA on behalf of the governing body.

Secondary Schools – Normal Admissions Round Timetable

31 October 2017	Closing date for applications
04 December 2017	LA transfer of applications data to other LAs
26 January 2018	First provisional allocation list sent to other LAs
1 March 2018*	Offers and refusals issued to parents
19 March 2018	Parent's acceptance of offer
30 March 2018	Closing date for appeals

Primary Schools – Normal Admissions Round Timetable

15 January 2018	Closing date for applications
16 February 2018	LA transfer of applications data to VA Governing Bodies (Additional data received later from other Local Authorities will be transferred for inclusion)
5 March 2018	West Berkshire VA Governing Bodies' ranked lists to the LA
16 April 2018*	Offers and refusals issued to parents
1 May 2018	Parents' acceptance of offer
21 May 2018	Closing date for appeals

*or the next working day where the national offer day falls on a weekend or bank holiday.

This co-ordinated and in-year scheme for school admissions for 2018/19 has been adopted by the Governing Board of The Downs School, Compton.

Signed: Mrs E Havers (Chair of Governors)

Date: 18th January 2017