

**TITLE OF REPORT: Primary Community Controlled School Admissions Arrangements and Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for Primary and Secondary Schools for 2021/22**

**REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Children, Adults and Families**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet's approval of Gateshead's school admissions arrangements and the co-ordinated admission schemes for Primary and Secondary Schools for 2021/22, which includes:
  - (a) the proposed Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools Admission Policy 2021/22;
  - (b) the proposed Co-ordinated admission schemes for Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary Schools 2021/22;

and to note:

- (c) the proposed Planned Admission Numbers (PANs) for Community Schools for 2021/22.

### **Background**

- 2 The school admission code "The Code" applies to school admission arrangements for admission in the 2021/22 academic year. It applies to all maintained schools in England. Academies, including those that are Free Schools are required, to comply with The Code and the law relating to admissions, though the Secretary of State has the power to vary this requirement where there is a demonstrable need.
- 3 The Code and the related legislation ensure that school admission authorities, whether local authorities or schools and academies, must operate in a fair way that promotes fair access to school choice, social equity and community cohesion. The Code has a statutory basis and imposes mandatory provisions. Admission authorities must ensure that their school admission arrangements comply with the mandatory provisions of this Code.
- 4 Admission regulations disapply the necessity to consult on the arrangements if they remain the same and have been consulted on during the previous 7 years and remain unchanged. This was the case for the 2016/17 admission arrangements, when we carried out a full consultation. The next time we would need to carry out a full consultation would be for the 2023/24 admissions round. It should be noted that the amendment to the policies, to reflect mandatory requirements relating to the extended definition of Looked After Children (LAC) updated in the 2013 policies, do not constitute a change requiring consultation.

- 5 The proposed school admission policy for 2021/22 has regard to The Code issued in December 2014. They have been formulated having taken account of the responses received from consultees in previous years (including individual parents and carers) following a consultation process that was completed in January 2016.
- (a) National offer dates apply for both the Secondary and Primary admission rounds. The Secondary national offer date is the 1 March whilst the Primary offer date is the 16 April each year. In both instances where the set national offer day falls on a Saturday or Sunday or bank holiday the actual offer date will move to the first working day after that.
  - (b) The proposed Planned Admission Numbers and the proposed co-ordinated admission schemes in Appendix 3 contain compliance dates for the exchange of information between schools and the local authority so that co-ordination of the allocation of places to parents can take place by statutory deadlines. The dates contained in the schemes largely mirror the compliance dates and timeframes set in the previous year.
  - (c) It is proposed, in accordance with statutory regulations, to adopt the closing dates of 15 January 2021 (for primary schools) and 31 October 2020 (for secondary schools) for the submission of applications for admission to schools in September 2021.

## **Proposal**

- 6 Cabinet is asked to consider the following:
- (a) The proposed Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools admission policy for September 2021 as attached in Appendix 2, together with their proposed Planned Admission Numbers for 2021/22.
  - (b) The proposed separate co-ordinated admission schemes for Secondary schools and Infant Junior and Primary schools for September 2021 which are set out in Appendix 3.
  - (c) Secondary schools that are academies by this date will formulate their own admission policies
  - (d) Colegate Primary School reduction in PAN from September 2020

## **Recommendations**

- 7 Cabinet is asked to approve:
- (a) That the Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Admissions Policy set out in Appendix 2 is adopted for September 2021.
  - (b) That the approved admissions policies for September 2020 are used, as a basis for consultation, if necessary, with schools and others for formulating the relevant admissions policies from September 2020/21 onwards.
  - (c) That the approved two co-ordinated admission schemes for Secondary, Infant Junior and Primary schools in Appendix 3 are adopted for September 2021.

- (d) The reduction in Colegate Primary School PAN from 45 pupils per year group to 30 pupils per year group from September 2020.

Cabinet is also requested to note that the Planned Admissions Numbers set out in Appendix 3 for all community Primary schools will need to be adopted by the governing bodies of each school.

8 For the following reason:

- To enable the Council to comply with statutory legislation as it relates to school admissions policies, admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission arrangements.

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## APPENDIX 1

### Policy Context

- 1 This proposal supports the Council's strategic approach of Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives; as well as the Sustainable Community Strategy for Gateshead. The proposal also supports the Council's Equal Opportunities policy.
- 2 The report reflects the duties placed on the Council by legislation and statutory guidance.

### Background

- 3 At its meeting in April 2016, the Council agreed that the approved school admissions policies for September 2017 be used as a basis for future school admissions policies.

### Admission Policies

- 4 The revised admission policies for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools are contained within Appendix 2.
- 5 In addition, a request was made to all local authorities by the Minister for Education to include an additional oversubscription category in both their primary and secondary admission policies pertaining to Looked After and previously Looked After Children;

*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.*

This has been included as category 2.

### Statutory Infant class size limit

- 6 In certain defined circumstances as listed as "excepted reasons" within the Admission Code individual children must be admitted above the statutory infant class size limit of 30 children to a single teacher. The Admission Code issued in December 2014 added an additional category to the list of "excepted reasons" which now includes;

*Children of UK service personnel admitted outside the normal admission round*

### Allocation system- Equal Preference

- 7 The Admissions Code requires all admission authorities to implement a mandatory "equal preference" allocation system when considering parental preferences. Freedom to express choice under the Equal Preference system does not override the admission criterion that applies to applicants for admission to individual schools.

## **Fair Access Protocols**

- 8 The School Admissions Code requires all admission authorities to participate in the fair access protocols to ensure that unplaced children who move in to the borough outside of the normal admissions round are able to secure school places. It should be noted that there is no duty to comply with parental preference when allocating places through the fair access protocol.
- 9 Children who have been referred for admission and allocated a school through the Fair Access Protocols will take precedence over all children on the waiting list with the exception of children in public care e.g. “looked after” children as defined within the policy.
- 10 If appropriate to do so, the local authority through the Fair Access Protocol, may determine that such children should be admitted above the planned admission number for a relevant school.

## **Waiting lists**

- 11 Waiting lists will be maintained for all oversubscribed community schools for the whole of the academic year.

## **Children in Public Care**

- 12 Children in public care **must** have top priority in school admission arrangements. This definition was extended in the Admission Code issued on 1 February 2012, to include children who were previously looked after but immediately after being “looked after” became subject to adoption residence, or special guardianship order. Policies have been updated to include this mandatory provision.

## **Exceptional Social and Medical Grounds**

- 13 The local authority considers cases from parents who have submitted the required independent evidence from a relevant health professional i.e. doctor or social worker as part of the admission process. This independent evidence must clearly demonstrate why the chosen school is the most suitable school and what difficulties would be caused if the child were to attend another school. These cases will be referred to the primary and secondary fair access panels for consideration.

## **Planned Admission numbers**

- 14 The proposed Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) for community primary schools are contained within Appendix 3. There are no changes to the Planned Admission Numbers, apart from the PAN for Colegate Primary School.
- 15 At the request of the governors, the local authority recently consulted on the changes to the PAN for Colegate Primary School.
- 16 The proposal was to reduce the current published PAN from 45 pupils per year group to 30 with effect from September 2021.

- 17 The school is comprised of two separate buildings, however, due to falling rolls over a number of years and the need to reduce their running costs, with effect from September 2020 the school will operate out of one building which is big enough to house the current number of pupils and sustain a PAN of 30.
- 18 There are sufficient places in surrounding primary schools to accommodate all of the children in the area. This reduction will be subject to ongoing monitoring and should the need arise, the council will look to increase the capacity of the school.
- 19 Under normal circumstances the PAN would be reduced from September 2021, however following consultation and council approval the request is that the school operate at 30 PAN from September 2020 due to the lack of physical space which would be available when the school begins to operate out of one building which will take place from September 2020.
- 20 At the time of consultation, no objections were received to the above proposal.

### **Mandatory Closing dates for return of applications - Primary and Secondary**

- 21 Mandatory closing dates apply for the return of applications for Secondary and Primary admissions and have been incorporated into the relevant admission policies.
- 22 It is proposed, in accordance with statutory regulations, to adopt the closing dates of 15 January 2021 (for primary schools) and 31 October 2020 (for secondary schools) for the submission of applications for admission to schools in September 2021

### **Co-ordinated admission schemes 1) Secondary schools and 2) Infant, Junior and Primary schools.**

- 23 Both schemes contain the administrative timescales that must be met by those schools and academies who determine their own admission arrangements so that they can supply the local authority with the allocation lists for their school, enabling the co-ordination of the allocation of places by the local authority, to parents across the borough and for schools in neighbouring boroughs.
- 24 The local dates contained in both schemes are similar to those set in the previous year and have regard to statutory deadlines contained in the admission code. These are contained within Appendix 3

### **Consultation**

- 25 The Admission Code issued on December 2014 allows for exemption to consultation for up to 7 years providing the admission arrangements (admission criteria) were consulted on immediately prior to that period and have not changed.
- 26 This is the case for 2020, as a full consultation process was completed for the 2016 admission process and another round of consultation will not be required until the 2023/24 admission round.
- 27 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young has been consulted.

## Alternative Options

28 There is no alternative to considering and adopting policies proposed in this report.

## Implications of Recommended Option

29 **Resources:**

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – Nil
- c) **Property Implications** - Schools that have increased their Planned Admission Numbers have confirmed that space is available to accommodate the planned increase in numbers in future years. With schools that have decreased their Planned Admission Numbers the Council is confident that there are enough school places in neighbouring schools and will keep under review the need for any additional spaces.

30 **Risk Management Implication** - Nil

31 **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The policies comply with equal opportunities requirements in that all persons are treated equally with criteria being applied objectively.

Section 49 of the Equality Act 2006 determines that it is unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of the person's religion or religious belief in specific ways including the terms on which an admission authority offers to admit a child or affords a child access to a benefit, facility or service or refuses him/her the benefit, facility or service.

The Secretary of State has exempted those schools having religious character (faith schools) from this requirement. However, all schools need to be aware of their obligations to review their policies and practices to make sure these meet the requirements of the Act, even if they believe that they are already operating in a non-discriminatory way.

32 **Crime and Disorder Implications** – Nil

33 **Health Implications** - Nil

34 **Sustainability Implications** - Nil

35 **Human Rights Implications** - School Admissions Policies have human rights implications. It is a convention right that no person should be denied the right to education. The policy pursues a legitimate aim and is proportionate. It is necessary to assist the local authority and governors in distinguishing between competing applications. It is also necessary to allow parents to more accurately assess the prospects of their being able to obtain a place at the school/s they prefer.

36 **Ward Implications** - All wards are covered by this report

## Appendix 2

### Gateshead Council Primary School Admission Policy 2021/2022

We allocate places at Gateshead Primary, Infant and Junior Schools using this policy and co-ordinate admissions to Gateshead schools using the coordinated admission scheme.

The policy is as follows:

- Children start school at the beginning of the academic year in which they will reach the age of five. (An academic year lasts from 1 September in one year to 31 August the following year). Children are entitled to a full-time place as soon as they start school, however in most schools, the first term will include an induction period, (a period for children to get used to school life gradually, generally from September to October). Although, you may request that your child attends school part-time until later in the school year, but not beyond the point that your child reaches compulsory school age.

In addition, parents may request that their child is admitted to school later in the school year following September 2021, but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

- We will accept pupils up to the schools agreed Planned Admission Number for the year group unless we feel there are lawful grounds not to do so.

#### Oversubscription Criteria

We will consider applications from parents who have named the school as any ranked preference on their application form this is called the equal preference system. If there are more applications for the number of places available at a school, we will then allocate places by using the following order of priority:

Order of Priority	Oversubscription Criteria
Criteria 1	Children in Public Care (and as deemed under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) including a child who was previously “looked after” but immediately after being “looked after” became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order (see definition*).
Criteria 2	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.
Criteria 3	Children who live in the school’s catchment area and who will have a brother or sister at the school, or at the feeder junior school during the coming academic year. (see definition*).
Criteria 4	Other children who live in the school’s catchment area.
Criteria 5	Other children who will have a brother or sister at the school or at the feeder junior school during the coming academic year (see definition*).
Criteria 6	Other children who have exceptional medical or social grounds see point 1 below.
Criteria 7	All other children.

(\*see definitions of our criteria in priority 1, 3 and 5 above in our parent’s information booklet and at [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)).

#### Point 1

We can consider exceptional individual applications, particularly in cases involving medical or social needs. If you wish to apply on medical or social grounds you must provide written evidence from relevant registered health professionals i.e. a doctor or social worker. The evidence must demonstrate why the chosen school is more appropriate and what difficulties



would be caused if they were to travel to and attend alternative schools. We will not consider such applications if the relevant professional evidence is not provided. The evidence will be presented to the Primary Fair Access Panel for consideration. No assumption should be made that submission of the relevant evidence will be, in itself, sufficient to allocate a place.

### **Whickham Parochial Church of England Controlled Primary School**

This school has the same oversubscription criteria as priorities 1 to 6 above except that criteria 4 and 5 above are reversed. Priority 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 remain in the same order however for this particular school their oversubscription criteria places priority 5 children above those children in priority 4.

### **Oakfield Junior School**

The school has the same oversubscription criteria as priorities 1 to 6 above, however, they have an additional criterion (8 in total). Criteria 7 is also different that above. Please see below; Criteria 1 to 6 same as criteria 1 to 6 above.  
Criteria 7 children that attend Oakfield Infant School.  
Criteria 8 all other children.

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

Parents may request a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example gifted and talented children, children that have suffered ill health or parents of summer born children (children born from 1 April 2017 to 31 August 2017).

All cases of admission of children outside their normal age group must be discussed with the Council and relevant school Head Teacher prior to the application being made.

Such requests must be made on the Common Application Form which is available from 9 September 2020. Parents must detail the circumstances of their request and include any supporting information from relevant professionals.

The Council will consider each case individually and parents will be notified of the outcome of their request before 16 April 2021. *(Please refer to the 'Admission to Primary School booklet for further information regarding deferred entry and admission of children outside their normal age group).*

### **Address**

For the purposes of deciding whether a child lives in the catchment area of a school we will use the parent or legal guardian's address or the address of a relevant adult who has parental responsibility, as defined under the 1989 Children's Act, for the child.

### **Tie breaker**

If, within any of the above criteria, there are more applicants than places available priority will be given to those children based on the distance they live from the school, measured 'as the crow flies' i.e. in a straight line from the central of the home residence to the school's main entrance. Children living nearest to the school will have priority. We measure the distance using a geographical information system (GIS). Where two or more applicants share the exact same distance, a random allocation process will be used to determine the ranked order of the applications in question.

### **Waiting list**

If places become available, we will consider all relevant applications based on a waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained by the council from the start of the academic year and be kept for the rest of the academic year. All applicants on the waiting list are placed according to the admission criteria and priorities set out above. However, children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the LA or who have been referred for admission and have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

**Application Dates**

From 11 September 2020 Gateshead residents can apply on-line at: [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)

On-line applications must be submitted by **15 January 2021**. Alternatively, parents can request a paper application from The School Admissions Team on 0191 433 2757. Paper applications must be returned to The School Admissions Team, Dryden Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead, NE9 5UR by **15 January 2021**.

If you live outside Gateshead and want to apply to a Gateshead school, you must obtain an application form from your home Council and return it to them by their closing date, even if the schools you want to apply to are in Gateshead. However, you must still consider the information in Gateshead Council's 'Admission to Secondary School' booklet so that you know what the admission arrangements are to Gateshead schools. This information is available at [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk). Your own Council will send us notification of your application and they will let you know the final allocation of a school place for your child.

**Offer Date - 16 April 2021**

A letter will be sent to parent's resident in Gateshead on or around 16 April 2020 informing them of the school they have been offered for their child. Gateshead residents who apply on-line are also informed by e-mail on 16 April 2021.

**General Information and definitions**

For information on our admission arrangements and definitions of the terms used in this policy please refer to our "Admission to Primary School" booklet for 2021 available at [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk).

Gateshead's co-ordinated admission scheme and catchment areas referred to in this policy can also be viewed online or at The Dryden Centre.

## Gateshead Council Secondary School Admission Policy 2021/22

We allocate places at Gateshead secondary schools using this policy and co-ordinate the admissions to Gateshead schools using the co-ordinated admission scheme.

The admission policy is as follows:

- Secondary schools will normally admit pupils between the ages of 11 and 16, or 11 and 19, depending upon the school.
- We will accept pupils up to the school's agreed planned admission number for the year group unless we feel there are lawful grounds not to do so.

### Oversubscription Criteria

We will consider applications from parents who have named the school as any ranked preference on their application form, this is called the equal preference system. If there are more applications for the number of places available at a school, we will then allocate places using the following order of priority:

Order of Priority	Oversubscription Criteria
Criteria 1	Children in Public Care (and as deemed under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) including a child who was previously "looked after" but immediately after being "looked after" became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order (see definition*).
Criteria 2	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.
Criteria 3	Children who live in the school's catchment area.
Criteria 4	Children who will have a brother or sister at the secondary school during the coming academic year.
Criteria 5	Other children who have exceptional medical and social grounds see point 1 below.
Criteria 6	All other children.

(\*see definitions of our criteria in priority 1 and 3 above in our parent's information booklet and at [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk))

**Point 1-** We can consider individual applications in cases involving exceptional medical or social needs. Such applications must be supported in writing from relevant registered health professionals i.e. a doctor or social worker. The evidence must demonstrate why the chosen school is the most suitable and what difficulties would be caused if the child were to attend another school. We will not consider such applications if the relevant evidence is not provided. The evidence will be presented to the Council's Pupil Placement Panel for consideration. Each case will be considered individually, and no assumption should be made that the submission of the relevant evidence will, in itself, be sufficient to allocate a place.

### Tie breaker

If within any of the above criteria there are more applicants than places available, priority will be given to those children based on the distance they live from the school, measured 'as the crow flies' in a straight line from the centre of the home residence to the school's main entrance. Children living nearest to the school will have priority. Distance is measured using a geographical information system (GIS). Where two or more

applicants share the same distance, a random allocation process will be used to determine the ranked order of the applications in question.

### **Sibling link**

For your child to receive priority because of an older brother or sister in the sixth form at the school, the brother or sister must have been at the school at the start of Year 11.

### **Address**

For the purposes of deciding whether a child lives in the catchment area of a school we will use the parent or guardians address or the address of a relevant adult who has parental responsibility, as defined under the 1989 Children Act, for the child.

### **Waiting list**

If places become available, we will consider all relevant applications using a waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained by the council from the start of the academic year and be kept for the rest of the academic year. All applicants on the waiting list are placed according to the admission criteria and priorities set out above. However, children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the LA or who have been referred for admission and have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

### **Application Dates**

From 11 September 2020 Gateshead residents can apply on-line at:

[www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)

On-line applications must be submitted by **31 October 2020**. Alternatively, parents can request a paper application from The School Admissions Team on 0191 433 2757. Paper applications must be returned to The School Admissions Team, Dryden Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead, NE9 5UR by **31 October 2020**.

If you live outside Gateshead and want to apply to a Gateshead school, you must obtain an application form from your home Council and return it to them by their closing date, even if the schools you want to apply to are in Gateshead. However, you must still consider the information in Gateshead Council's 'Admission to Secondary School' booklet so that you know what the admission arrangements are to Gateshead schools. This information is available at [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk) . Your own Council will send us notification of your application and they will let you know the final allocation of a school place for your child.

### **Offer Date - 1 March 2021**

A letter will be sent to parent's resident in Gateshead on or around 1 March 2021 informing them of the school they have been offered for their child. Gateshead residents who apply on-line are also informed by e-mail on 1 March 2021.

### **General Information and definitions**

For information on our admission arrangements and definitions of the terms used in this policy please refer to our "Admission to Secondary School" booklet for 2021 at

[www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)

Gateshead's co-ordinated admission scheme and catchment areas referred to in this policy can also be viewed online or at The Dryden Centre.

### Gateshead Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme Infant/Junior/Primary Schools September 2021

#### Introduction

1. This scheme is made by Gateshead Council under the Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Primary) (England) Regulations 2002 and applies to all Infant, Junior & Primary Schools in Gateshead.

#### Interpretation

2. In this Scheme -

*'The LA'* means Gateshead Council acting in their capacity as local authority.

*'The LA area'* means the area in respect of which the LA is the local authority.

*'Primary education'* has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Education Act 1996.

*'Infant, junior & primary school'* has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996.

*'Secondary school'* has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996.

*'School'* means a community or voluntary school (but not a special school), which is maintained by the LA.

*'Academy'* means such of the schools have 'academy' status.

*'Voluntary controlled schools'* means such of the schools as are voluntary controlled schools, where the LA sets the admissions criteria and offers places.

*'VA schools'* means such of the schools as are voluntary-aided schools.

*'Admission authority'* in relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the LA and, in relation to a VA school or Academy means the governing body of that school.

*'The specified year'* means the school year beginning at or about the beginning of September 2020.

*'Admission arrangements'* mean the overall procedure, practices, criteria, and supplementary information which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school;

*'Home LA'* means the local authority in which the child resides.

*'CAF'* means the common application form that must be used by the parent to apply for a school place for normal admission round first year of entry.

*'Equal preference system'* means all preferences for each school listed by parents on the common application form are considered against the oversubscription criterion without

reference to the parental ranking nominated on the CAF. However, where a child may be potentially offered a place at more than one school nominated on their CAF, then the rankings given on CAF will be used to determine the final single offer that will be made by selecting the school that was ranked highest on the CAF for which the child is eligible for an offer.

**'Parent or Legal Guardian'** means any person who holds parental responsibility, including carers, as defined under the 1989 Children Act and with whom the child normally resides.

**'In Year Admissions'** means any application for a place in any year group for Infant Junior or Primary school received during the academic year commencing in September 2020.

**'Eligible for a place'** means that a child has been placed on a school's ranked list at such a point, which falls within the school's published admission number or is eligible following determination under the Fair Access protocol.

### **Commencement and extent**

This scheme applies in relation to the admission arrangements for schools and Academies for the admission year 2021/2022 (the specified year). The LA will include in its admission arrangements for the specified year the provisions set out in Schedule 1 to this scheme, or provisions having the same effect. The governing body of each of the VA schools and academies will include in its admission arrangements for the above year the provisions set out in the Schedule, so far as relevant to that school, or provisions having the same effect.

### **The Scheme**

1. The Scheme shall be determined in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 1 and processed in accordance with the timetable set out in Schedule 2.
2. The Scheme shall apply to every infant, junior & primary school including academies in the LA area as identified in Appendix 1 (except special schools).
3. The scheme will also include applications from parents seeking admission to Gateshead schools who live within the following neighbouring LA's:

**Durham, Newcastle, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland**

We will also co-ordinate our admission process with any other admission authorities where relevant.

### **SCHEDULE 1 Part 1 - The Scheme**

1. A standard application form known as the Common Application Form (CAF) will be used for applications to school for normal year of entry in the specified year. A standard application form known as 'School Transfer Form' will be used for 'In Year' applications made after the commencement of the academic year 2021.
2. The CAF will be used for admitting pupils into the first year of infant/junior/primary education in the academic year 2021/2022.
3. The CAF must be used as a means of expressing up to 3 preferences by parent's resident in the LA area wishing to express a preference for their child:
  - a) to be admitted to a school within the LA area
  - b) to be admitted to a school located in another LA's area
4. **The Common Application Form will -**
  - a) allow the parents to express up to 3 preferences by naming them in rank order of preference and where relevant for schools outside Gateshead LA area.
  - b) invite parents to give their reasons for each preference.

c) specify the closing date and where the application form must be returned, in accordance with paragraph 10.

**5. The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that:**

- a) the CAF is available on request from the LA and on-line at [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk) until the closing date and;
- b) every parent resident in the LA area who has a child eligible to commence primary education and those transferring from infant to junior school receives a written explanation of how to apply and an explanation of the admission procedures and coordinated admission scheme and has access to the CAF on-line and paper copy (on request only).
- c) every parent whose application falls within the category of 'in year' admission receives a copy of the School Transfer Form and an explanation of the admission procedures and coordinated admission scheme.

**6. The LA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that:**

- (i) applicants will receive no more than one offer of a school place and
- (ii) a place will be offered at the highest ranked school for which they are eligible under the admission criteria; and
- (iii) if more than one school is nominated and no order of ranking is stated, or a wish expressed that they be ranked equally, the parent will be regarded as having ranked the schools in the order appearing on the form (the first-mentioned being ranked the highest); and
- (iv) if a place cannot be offered at any nominated school, a place will be offered at an alternative school.

7. All preferences expressed on the CAF are valid applications. The governing body of an academy or VA school can require parents who have nominated their school on the CAF, to provide additional information on a supplementary form only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a supplementary form is required it will be sent to the parents by the governing body for completion and returned to the school.

8. Where a school receives a supplementary form, it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed a CAF and the school is nominated on it. Where supplementary forms are received directly by the school then the school must inform the LA immediately, so it can verify whether a CAF has been received from the parent and, if not, the LA will contact the parent and ask them to complete a CAF. Under the requirements of the scheme, parents must not be under any obligation to complete an individual school's supplementary form where this is not required for the academy governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.

9. Any school which operates criteria for selection by ability or aptitude must ensure that its arrangements for assessing ability or aptitude, to enable decisions to be made on nominations, conform to the timing requirements of the scheme as set out in Schedule 2 (no School in Gateshead operates criteria for selection-based ability or aptitude).

**Submitting Applications (CAF)**

10. Completed CAFs must be returned to the LA by 15 January 2021. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that CAFs are returned to the LA, on-line or paper copy by the closing date.

**Determining offers in response to the Common Application Form**

11. The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAF's received. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF where:

- (a) it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or
- (b) an applicant is eligible for more than one place and is allocated a place at the highest ranked school, or
- (c) an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.

The LA will allocate places in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 17 of this Schedule.

12. Completed application forms must be returned to the home LA by the closing date of 15 January 2021.
13. Completed application forms that are received after the closing date will be considered as 'late' unless exceptional circumstances apply except that the procedure must not prevent the proper processing under the Scheme of those application forms received on time refer to paragraph 23 in part 2 of this scheme.
14. The LA will process all application forms. Any completed application forms must be treated as a confidential communication between the parent and the LA. All ranked applications received by the closing date will be considered before any ranked applications received after the closing date unless exceptional circumstances apply.
15. **By 1 February 2021** the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every nomination that has been made for that school. Where parents have nominated a school outside the Gateshead LA area, then Gateshead LA will also notify the relevant maintaining authority by this date.
16. **By 1 March 2021** the admission authority for each school will consider all applications for their school and apply the school's oversubscription criteria (if appropriate) and provide the LA with a list of all potential offers in ranked order according to the school's oversubscription criteria.
17. **By 19 March 2021** the LA will match the above lists against the ranked lists of the other schools nominated and:
  - Where the child is eligible for a place at the parents' first preference school, that school will be allocated to the child.
  - Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at that school will be offered.
  - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the preferred schools, they will be offered a place at the school that is ranked the highest on the CAF for which they are eligible and any lower offered will be disregarded.
  - Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the ranked schools, the child will (if places are still available) be allocated a place at the Community catchment school, or if this is not available at the next nearest appropriate Community school with a vacancy, measured as the crow flies from the centre of the parental residence to the main entrance of the school.
  - The LA will allocate a school place to those pupils who have not submitted a CAF after all other pupils who submitted a CAF have been considered. The LA will allocate a place at the appropriate community catchment school or if this is not available at the next nearest appropriate community school, with a vacancy, measured, as the crow flies, from the centre of the parental residence to the main entrance of the school,



18. **By 15 March 2021** the LA will provide other LA's with a first indicative list of offers and refusals for Gateshead schools for children resident in their LA areas.
19. **By 9 April 2021** the LA will inform its infant, junior & primary schools and academies of the pupils to be offered places at their schools.

### **National Offer Day**

#### **20. On or around 16 April 2021**

Parents will be notified by email if they applied online that they are being offered a place at the allocated school. A letter will also be posted to all applicants, including those that applied online informing them of the school place allocated.

This letter will give the following information:

- The name of the school at which a place is offered;
- The reasons why the child is not being offered a place at any of the other higher ranked schools nominated on the CAF;
- Information about their statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at the other nominated schools and waiting list procedures;
- Inform parents of the date they should accept the school place offered.
- Invite parents to write to the LA if they want to be considered for any places that might become available in the re-allocation process on 21 May 2021 for those schools nominated on the CAF at which they were refused a place.
- Contact details to obtain an appeal form for higher ranked schools on the CAF for which they were not offered a place.

The letter will not inform parents of places still available at other schools.

21. **30 April 2021** - the deadline for parents to accept the place offered. If parents do not respond by this date it will be assumed that they have accepted the place, however the LA will continue to pursue parents for written confirmation of acceptance.

Where parents have not returned their acceptance slip for oversubscribed schools the LA will give the parent a further opportunity to respond however, the LA will explain that the offer may be withdrawn if they do not respond.

#### **22. Waiting Lists and reallocation of places 21 May 2021**

The LA will maintain waiting lists for all oversubscribed schools in Gateshead.

Parents may request in writing for their children to be placed on a waiting list at any school at which they have been refused a place. Parents may be informed of the position their child occupies on the list, however individual positions may change on a regular basis due to the addition or deletion of children to the list or changes in the admission criteria applied to individual applications.

A child's position on any waiting list will be determined using the admission criterion for the school in question. However, children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the LA or who have been referred for admission and have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

The LA will maintain waiting lists for all oversubscribed schools in Gateshead. Voluntary Aided schools and Academies will inform the LA where children shall be placed on the waiting list for their respective schools.

If vacancies occur after 16 April 2021 the first allocation of places will take place on 21 May 2021 for all relevant schools followed by subsequent allocations, if found to be necessary, at weekly intervals.

Where a child may be eligible for an offer from more than one school waiting list then the offer made will be for the school that was ranked highest by the parent on the CAF.

**On 21 May 2021** the LA reallocates any places that have become available since 16 April 2021 in accordance with the school's admission criteria. The waiting list will be compiled from those children whose parent/carer has written to the LA requesting to be placed on the waiting list for the school in question. This list will include the following children:

- Those who applied late after 15 January 2021 but before 16 April 2021 and who did not receive an offer for a school choice which was ranked higher on the CAF than the school they were offered. Such applicants may be placed on the waiting list for all schools nominated on the CAF at which they have been refused a place.
- Those who have not been offered a place at any of the schools they nominated on the CAF.
- Where a parent has been offered a place at a school which they did not nominate on the CAF, they may be placed on the waiting list for all schools they did nominate on the CAF.
- Those who have been offered a place at a school nominated on the CAF but were refused a place at a school ranked higher on the CAF than the school they were offered.
- Parents who have submitted a new application (accepted for exceptional reasons only i.e. moved house into the area) for consideration including those for children in public care as defined by the admission policy and children requiring placement through the Fair Access protocol.

Parents who write to request a new school not originally named on the CAF following the allocation date on 16 April 2021 and who do not have exceptional reasons as described above will NOT be placed on the waiting list for that new school until 28 May 2021, this is after the first reallocation of places on 21 May 2021.

From 18 May 2021 the waiting list will be opened to all new requests.

### ***Part 2 - Late Applications***

- 23.** The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round is **15 January 2021**.

As far as is reasonably practicable applications for places in the normal admissions round that are received late for exceptional reasons will be accepted provided they are received by 19 February 2021. Examples of what will be considered as a valid exceptional reason include: where a family has just moved into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a Gateshead property will be required in these cases). Other circumstances will be considered, and each case decided on its own merits.

#### **Changing of preferences received after 15 January 2021**

- 24.** Parents submitting requests to change their preferences, from those originally ranked on the CAF, will be classed as late applications and may only be considered if 'exceptional circumstances' apply such as those examples described in paragraph 23 above. If no such exceptional circumstances apply the LA will continue to proceed with those original preferences ranked on the CAF for the purposes of the allocation of places on the 16 April 2021. In these circumstances such applications may only be considered if vacancies exist after all on time applicants who have ranked the school on their CAF have been allocated a place.

#### **Late applications received after 19 February 2021**

25. Applications received after 19 February 2021, will be classed as late and will not be processed until after 16 April 2021. Parents will, nevertheless, receive an offer of a school place on 16 April 2010 according to the terms of this scheme.

#### **No application received by 16 April 2021**

26. Where no CAF is submitted the child will, on 16 April 2021, be offered a place at their catchment school if there are places available. If no places are available at the catchment school, a place will be offered at the next nearest school with places available, measured, as the crow flies, from the centre of the parental residence to the main entrance of the school. The LA will be aware which parents this applies to as a result of liaison with nursery school and private providers.

#### **New applications received after 16 April but before 21 May 2021**

27. Applications made direct to the school must be forwarded to the LA immediately. The LA will offer a place on 21 May 2021 in accordance with the scheme, at the school ranked highest on the CAF at which there is a vacancy, or if this is not possible, at their community school, or if this school is also full at the next nearest community school measured as the crow flies from the centre of the parent residence to the main entrance of the school. However please note that new applications submitted during this period from parents who have already submitted a CAF in the normal admission round will not considered until 28 May 2021 in accordance with paragraph 22 above.

#### **Applications received after 21 May 2021 but before 31 August 2021**

28. The LA will continue to co-ordinate admissions to all relevant schools in Gateshead up to 31 August 2021.

Applications received after **21 May 2021**, for first year of entry must be made on the CAF and sent to the LA, who will:

- Determine any application for a community school for which it is the admission authority and
  - If the application is for a voluntary aided school, refer the application to the governing body of the school, which will make a determination and notify the LA of their decision The LA will notify the parent. Parents who are refused admission will be offered a right of appeal and informed about the waiting list procedures.
  - If any parents approach an academy or voluntary aided school directly about a casual admission, the governing body must ensure that the parent completes a CAF (if they have not already done so). The CAF should be sent to the maintaining LA as soon as practically possible, along with the governing body's decision on the application. The governing body will notify the maintaining LA of its decision who will inform the Parent and, if the parent is refused a place, the right of appeal will be offered.
  - Please note, new applications/requests submitted after 16 April 2021 from parents who have already submitted a CAF in the normal admissions round and do not have exceptional reasons may not be considered until 28 May 2021 in accordance with paragraph 22 above.
29. The LA will keep track of any pupils who apply for admission from 16 April 2021 but before 31 August 2021 and intervene as appropriate to ensure that they are allocated a school place without undue delay.

#### ***Part 3 - In Year Applications***

- 30 'In Year' applications are those applications received after 31 August 2021 for places in any year group requesting admission during the academic year 2021/2022.
- 31 Parents should apply for a place in a Gateshead school directly through Gateshead LA.

In Year applications must be made on the Gateshead School Transfer Application Form. 'In Year' applications are those applications received after 31 August 2021 for places in any year group

requesting admission during the academic year 2021/2022. Please note that parents who have been refused a place in the normal allocation round for the first year of entry to primary, infant or junior schools for admission from 2021 and have been refused a place by the independent appeal panel may not reapply for the same year of entry unless they can demonstrate there has been a significant and material change in their circumstances that relate to the question of admission.

- 32 Gateshead's School Transfer Form is available from the Education Support Service, Dryden Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead, NE9 5UR or online at [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk).
- 33 Gateshead Local Authority will process all School Transfer forms for Gateshead schools and inform parents of the outcome of their application even if the school is a voluntary aided school or academy.
- 34 The local authority is unable to process applications for schools where the date that the school place is required from, is more than 6 weeks from the date of the application (Service and Crown personnel are exempt).
- 35 Children must be resident in the country before a School Transfer Form can be considered (Service and Crown personnel are exempt).
- 36 School places cannot be allocated based on intended future changes of address unless a house move has been confirmed through the exchange of contracts or a rental agreement. The admission authority reserves the right to seek further documentary evidence to support the claim to residence.

#### **Responding to School Transfer Forms**

- 37 If the school transfer application form is for a Voluntary Aided school, the Local authority will refer the application to the Governing Body of the school. In the case of applications for schools outside Gateshead, the LA will request that parents apply directly to the relevant admission authority. We do not process 'in year' application forms for schools outside Gateshead.
- 38 All primary schools within Gateshead must respond to the Local Authority (LA) within 10 days of receiving the School Transfer Form, informing the LA of the availability of a place. If there is a place available parents must be notified within 10 days from the date the application was received.
- 39 Where places are not available at the highest ranked school the LA will co-ordinate with the second and third preference schools until a place can be offered at one of the preferences subject to the availability of places and admission criteria.
- 40 If a pupil is not on the roll of a Gateshead school and a place cannot be offered at any of the nominated schools, the parent will be informed of places available at other schools in the area.
- 41 If there are more applications than places available, the published oversubscription admission criteria must be applied.
- 42 Pupils will only be refused a place at a school if one of the statutory reasons in the school admissions code applies.
- 43 Pupils should not be placed outside the normal age group without written recommendation from a professional within Care, Wellbeing and Learning at Gateshead Council. This could include an Education Psychologist, a Professional Officer working with Gifted and Talented children etc.

- 44 The LA will keep track of any pupils who apply for ‘in year’ admissions and intervene as appropriate to ensure that they are placed in a school without undue delay particularly in respect of Children in Care and disadvantaged children moving into the area i.e. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.

#### Determining Offers in response to the School Transfer Form

- 45 Pupils living in Gateshead and applying for a school in the area (including Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies) The LA will notify the parent verbally if a place is available for Schools and Academies in Gateshead. However, if a place is not available the parent will be notified of this in writing.
- 46 **Pupils living in Gateshead applying for a school out of the area.** The home authority (Gateshead) will request that the parent refers directly to the relevant admission authority to process their request and follow their ‘in year’ application process.
- 47 **Pupils living outside Gateshead applying to a Gateshead school.** The home authority must ask the parent/carer to contact Gateshead LA to complete a School Transfer Form to confirm the availability of a place. Gateshead LA will liaise with the parents regarding the outcome of their request.
- 48 **Acceptance of a school place.** Parents will be expected to contact the school offered to accept or decline the offer within 2 weeks. Failure to do so may result in the school place being withdrawn and offered to the next child on the waiting list if appropriate.
- 49 **Waiting Lists.** The LA will hold the waiting list for oversubscribed Gateshead schools. If your child is refused a place at the school you requested, you may request that your child’s name is placed on the waiting list for this school. The LA will maintain school waiting lists for reception class until the end of December 2021, following this date they will be sent to the individual schools to maintain. A child’s position on a waiting list will be determined using the admission criterion for the school in question however children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the LA or who have been referred for admission and have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

#### Timescales for processing ‘In Year’ Applications

School Transfer form received by the Education Support Service	Process commences unless place is not required until a date more than 6 school weeks away (extended for children of service personnel and crown servants).
Within 5 school days of receipt of application	The LA notifies the Governing Bodies of any request for a place at their school
Within 10 school days of the school being notified of the request	The Governing Bodies of any requested school must respond to the Education Support Service regarding the availability of places
Within 20 school days of receipt of application by the Education Support Service	The Education Support Service will notify the parent by telephone if a place is available at their requested school. If a place is not available the parent will be notified of this in writing, including information about appeals and waiting lists, where appropriate.
Within 2 weeks of the date of a school place being offered	The school must receive confirmation of acceptance of the place from the parent.

## SCHEDULE 2

### Timetable of Primary Co-ordinated scheme 2021 First Year of Entry

<b>Monday 11 September 2020:</b>	Common Application Form made available to parents online or paper copy (on request only). Schools/Academies receive information letters for distribution to parents.
<b>Wednesday 15 January 2021:</b>	On-Line applications or paper form to be submitted to the LA.
<b>Friday 1 February 2021:</b>	Details of applications to be sent to VA schools and other LA's.
<b>Monday 1 March 2021:</b>	VA schools provide the LA with ranked lists of applicants.
<b>Friday 12 March 2021:</b>	The LA will provide other LA's with an indicative list of offers for relevant children.
<b>Thursday 9 April 2021:</b>	By this date the LA will notify schools/Academies which parents have been offered places at their schools.
<b>Thursday 16 April 2021:</b>	Notifications sent to parents.
<b>Thursday 30 April 2021:</b>	Last date for offers to be accepted by parents.
<b>Monday 21 May 2021:</b>	Any places that have become available are reallocated to parents in accordance with paragraph 22 of schedule 1 of this scheme.

**Waiting lists maintained by the LA until end of the autumn term December 2020**

**SEPTEMBER 2020  
PLANNED ADMISSION NUMBERS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED  
SCHOOLS**

<b>Primary School</b>	<b>DFE Number</b>	<b>Determined Planned Admission Number 2019</b>	<b>Proposed Planned Admission Number 2020</b>
Barley Mow Community Primary	2226	30	30
Bede Community Primary	2039	30	30
Bill Quay Primary	2197	30	30
Birtley East Community Primary	2163	30	30
Blaydon West Primary	2182	30	30
Brandling Primary	2200	27	30
Brighton Avenue Primary	2221	45	45
Caedmon Community Primary	2233	30	30
Carr Hill Community Primary	2008	45	45
Chopwell Primary	2235	45	45
Clover Hill Community Primary	2216	30	30
<b>Colegate Community Primary</b>	<b>2228</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>30*</b>
Crookhill Community Primary	2219	30	30
Dunston Hill Community Primary	2164	60	60
Emmaville Primary	2167	60	60
Falla Park Community Primary	2198	30	30
Fellside Community Primary	2231	30	30
Fell Dyke Community Primary	2232	45	45
Front Street Community Primary	2184	60	60
Glynwood Community Primary	2225	45	60
Greenside Community Primary	2181	30	30
Harlow Green primary	2238	60	60
Highfield Community Primary	2186	17	17
High Spen Primary	2168	29	29
Kells Lane Primary	2234	60	60
Kelvin Grove Community Primary	2012	60	60
Larkspur Community Primary	2051	29	29
Lingey House Primary	2205	60	60
Lobley Hill Primary	2222	60	60
Oakfield Junior	2049	60	60
Oakfield Infant	2055	60	60
Parkhead Community Primary	2236	58	58
Portobello Primary	2162	30	30
Ravensworth Terrace Primary	2058	30	60
Roman Road Primary	2229	30	30
Rowlands Gill Primary	2239	60	60
Ryton Community Junior	2193	60	60
Ryton Community Infant	2188	60	60
South Street Community Primary	2036	44	44
Swalwell Primary	2172	30	30
The Drive Community Primary	2213	29	29
Wardley Primary	2224	45	45

Washingwell Community Primary	2194	30	30
Whickham Parochial C of E Primary	3001	30	30
White Mere Community Primary	2214	30	30
Windy Nook Primary	2227	45	45
Winlaton West Lane Community Primary	2177	45	45

\*indicates a proposed reduction to the planned admission number from September 2021.



**Gateshead Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme  
Secondary Schools  
September 2021**

**Introduction**

1. This Scheme is made by Gateshead Council under the Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Secondary) (England) Regulations 2002 and applies to all Secondary schools in Gateshead.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Scheme

*'The LA'* means Gateshead Council acting in their capacity as local authority;

*'The LA area'* means the area in respect of which the LA is the local authority;

*'Primary education'* has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Education Act 1996;

*'Secondary education'* has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996;

*'Primary school'* has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996;

*'Secondary school'* has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996;

*'School'* means a community, foundation or voluntary school (not a special school) which is maintained by the LA;

*'Foundation schools'* means such of the schools as are foundation schools;

*'VA schools'* means such of the schools as are voluntary-aided schools;

*'Academy'* means such of the schools have academy status;

*'CTC'* means City Technology College (Emmanuel College in Gateshead)

*'Admission authority'* in relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the LA and, in relation to a VA school or Academy means the governing body of that school.

*'The specified year'* means the school year beginning at or about the beginning of September 2020;

*'Academic year'* means a period commencing 1 September and ending 31 August;

*'Admission arrangements'* means the overall procedure, practices, criteria, and supplementary information which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school;

*'CAF'* means the common application form that must be used by the parent to apply for a school place for the normal admission round (first year of entry);

*'Home LA'* means the local authority in which the child resides;

**‘Equal preference System’** means all preferences for each school listed by parents on the CAF are considered against the school’s oversubscription criterion without reference to the parental ranking nominated on the CAF. However, where a child may be eligible for a place at more than one school ranked on their CAF, then the rankings given will be used to determine the final single offer that will be made by selecting the school that was ranked highest on the CAF for which the child is eligible for an offer.

**‘Parent or Legal Guardian’** means any person who holds parental responsibility, including carers, as defined under the 1989 Children Act and with whom the child normally resides.

**‘In Year Admissions’** means any application for a place in any year group for secondary school received during the academic year commencing in September 2021.

**‘Eligible for a place’** means that a child has been placed on a school’s ranked list at such a point which falls within the school’s published admission number or is eligible following determination under the Fair Access protocol.

### **Commencement and extent**

This scheme applies in relation to the admission arrangements for the schools and Academies for the admission year 2021/2022 (the specified year). The LA will include in its admission arrangements for the specified year the provisions set out in Schedule 1 of this scheme, or provisions having the same effect. The governing body of each VA school will include in its admission arrangements for the specified year the provisions set out in the Schedule, so far as relevant to that school, or provisions having the same effect.

### **The Scheme**

1. The Scheme shall be determined in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 1 and processed in accordance with the timetable set out in Schedule 2.
2. The Scheme shall apply to every secondary school in the LA area including academies, as identified in Appendix 1 (except special schools and the Emmanuel College).
3. The Scheme will also include applications from parents seeking admission to Gateshead schools who live within the following neighbouring LA’s:

**Durham, Newcastle, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland.**

We will also co-ordinate our admission process with any other admission authorities where relevant.

## **SCHEDULE 1**

### **Part 1 -The Scheme**

1. A standard application form known as the Common Application Form (CAF) will be used for applications to school for the normal year of entry in the specified year. A standard application form known as a School Transfer Form will be used for ‘in year’ applications made after the commencement of the academic year in September 2021.
2. The CAF will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into first year of secondary education in the academic year 2021/2022.
3. The CAF must be used as a means of expressing up to 3 preferences by parent’s resident in the LA area wishing to express a preference for their child to:
  - a) be admitted to a school within the LA area

- b) be admitted to a school located in another LA's area
4. **The Common Application Form will:**
- a) allow parents to express up to 3 preferences by naming them in rank order of preference and where relevant for schools outside Gateshead LA area.
  - b) invite parents to give their reasons for each preference.
  - c) specify the closing date and where the application form must be returned, in accordance with paragraph 10.
5. **The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that:**
- a) the CAF is available on request from the LA and on-line at [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk) until the closing date and;
  - b) every parent resident in the LA area who has a child eligible to commence secondary education receives a written explanation of how to apply and an explanation of the key features of the admission procedures and co-ordinated admission scheme and has access to the CAF on-line and paper copy (on request only).
  - c) every parent whose application falls within the category of an 'in year' admission receives a copy of the School Transfer Form and an explanation of the admission procedures and co-ordinated admission scheme.
6. **The LA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that:**
- i. **applicants will receive no more than one offer of a school place and;**
  - ii. a place will be offered at the highest ranked school for which they are eligible under the admission criteria; and
  - iii. If more than one school is nominated and no order of ranking is stated, or a wish expressed that they be ranked equally, the parent will be regarded as having ranked the schools in the order appearing on the form (the first-mentioned being ranked the highest); and
  - iv. if a place cannot be offered at any nominated school, a place will be offered at an alternative school.
7. All preferences expressed on the CAF are valid applications. The governing body of an academy or VA school can require parents who wish to nominate, or have nominated their school on the CAF, to provide additional information on a supplementary form, only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a supplementary form is required it will be sent to the parents by the governing body for completion and returned to the school.
8. Where a school receives a supplementary form, it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed a CAF and the school is nominated on it. Where supplementary forms are received directly by the school then the school must inform the LA immediately, so it can verify whether a CAF has been received from the parent and, if not, the LA will contact the parent and ask them to complete a CAF. Under the requirements of the scheme, parents must not be under any obligation to complete an individual school's supplementary form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.
9. Any school which operates criteria for selection by ability or aptitude must ensure that its arrangements for assessing ability or aptitude, to enable decisions to be made on nominations, conform to the timing requirements of the scheme as set out in Schedule 2. (please note, no Community or Voluntary Aided School in Gateshead operates criteria for selection-based ability or aptitude).

### Submitting Applications (CAF)

10. Completed CAF's are to be returned to the LA by 31 October 2020. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that CAF's are returned directly to the LA, on-line or in a paper format by the closing date.

### Determining offers in response to the Common Application Form

11. The LA will act as a clearinghouse for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAF's received. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF where:

- (a) It is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or
- (b) An applicant is eligible for more than one place and is allocated a place at the highest ranked school or
- (c) An applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.

The LA will allocate places in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 18 of this Schedule.

12. Completed application forms must be returned to the home LA by the closing date of 31 October 2020.
13. Completed application forms, which are received after the closing date will be considered as **LATE** unless 'exceptional circumstances' apply, except that the procedure must not prevent the proper processing under the Scheme of application forms received on time.
14. The LA will process all application forms; any completed application forms must be treated as a confidential communication between the parent and the LA. All ranked applications received by the closing date will be considered before any ranked applications received after this closing date unless exceptional circumstances apply.
15. **By 16 November 2020** the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every nomination that has been made for that school, including all relevant details and any supplementary information received by this date which schools require in order to apply their oversubscription criteria. Where parents have nominated a school outside the LA area, then the LA will also similarly notify the relevant maintaining authorities by this date.
16. **By 4 January 2021** the admission authority for each school will consider all applications for their school and apply the school's oversubscription criteria (if appropriate) and provide the LA with a list of all potential offers in ranked order according to the school's oversubscription criteria.
17. **By 25 January 2021** neighbouring LA's will exchange information of school offers to be made at schools in their area for Gateshead residents and inform Gateshead LA and vice versa.
18. **By 5 February 2021** the LA will match these ranked lists against the ranked lists of the other schools nominated and:
  - Where the child is eligible for a place at the parents first preference school, that school will be allocated to the child
  - Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at that school will be offered to the child.
  - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the preferred schools, they will be offered a place at the school that is ranked the highest on the CAF for which they are eligible, and any lower offers will be disregarded.
  - Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the ranked schools, the child will be allocated a place at their community catchment school (if places are still available), or if places

are not available at this school, a place will be offered at the next nearest appropriate community school with a vacancy, measured as the crow flies from the centre of the parental residence to the main entrance of the school.

- The LA will allocate a school place to those pupils who have not submitted a CAF after all other pupils who submitted a CAF have been considered. The LA will allocate a place at the appropriate community catchment school or if this is not available at the next nearest appropriate community school, with a vacancy, measured as the “crow flies” in a straight line from the centre of the parental residence to the main entrance of the school.

19. **On 22 February 2021** the LA informs its secondary schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools and provides an update to other LA’s of places in Gateshead schools to be offered to their residents.

#### **National Offer Day**

20. **On 1 March 2021** parents will be notified by email if they applied online that they are being offered a place at the allocated school. A letter will also be posted to Gateshead residents on or around this date informing them of the school place allocated (parents that applied online will also receive this letter confirmation).

This letter will give the following information:

- The name of the school at which a place is offered
- The reasons why the child is not being offered a place at any higher ranked school(s) nominated on the CAF
- Information about their statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places at the other nominated schools and waiting list procedures
- Inform parents of the date they should accept the school place offered
- Invite parents to write to the LA if they want to be considered on the school waiting list for any places that might become available in the reallocation process on 22 March 2021 for those schools nominated on the CAF at which they were refused a place
- Contact details for the school, so that they can lodge an appeal

The letter will not inform parents of places still available at other schools.

21. **16 March 2020** - the deadline for parents to accept the place offered. If parents do not respond by this date it will be assumed that they have accepted the place, however the LA will continue to pursue parents for written confirmation of acceptance for oversubscribed schools.

Where parents have not returned their acceptance slip for oversubscribed schools the LA will give the parent a further opportunity to respond however, the LA will explain that the offer may be withdrawn if they do not respond.

#### **22. Waiting Lists and reallocation of places 29 March 2021**

The LA will maintain waiting lists for all oversubscribed schools in Gateshead.

Parents may request in writing for their children to be placed on a waiting list at any school at which they have been refused a place. Parents may be informed of the position their child occupies on the list, however individual positions may change on a regular basis due to the addition or deletion of children to the list or changes in the admission criteria applied to individual applications.

A child’s position on any waiting list will be determined using the admission criterion for the school in question however children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the LA or who have been referred for admission and have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list. Voluntary Aided schools will inform the LA where children shall be placed on the waiting list for their school. Parents, who wish to go on waiting lists

for any school operating 'random allocation' in Gateshead as their tie breaker mechanism, should be clear that any single place that becomes available at such schools will be subject of a separate random selection process within each oversubscription category within the policy.

The first reallocation of places will take place on 29 March 2021 for all relevant schools and academies followed by subsequent reallocations, if found to be necessary, at weekly intervals on the Friday of each week thereafter.

Where a child may be eligible for an offer from more than one school waiting list then the offer made will be for the school that was ranked highest by the parent on the CAF.

**On 29 March 2021** the LA reallocates any places that have become available since 1 March 2021 in accordance with the school's admission criteria. The waiting list will be compiled from those children whose parents/carer has written to the LA requesting to be placed on the waiting list for the school in question. This list may include the following children:

- Those who applied late after 31 October 2020 but before 1 March 2021 and who did not receive an offer for a school choice which was ranked on the CAF. Such applicants may be placed on the waiting lists for all schools nominated on the CAF at which they have been refused a place.
- Those who have not been offered a school place at any of the schools they nominated on the CAF.
- Where a parent has been offered a place at a school, which they did not nominate on the CAF they may be placed on the waiting list for all the schools they did nominate, on the CAF.
- Those who have been offered a place at a school nominated on the CAF but were refused a place at a school ranked higher on the CAF than the school they were offered. For example, where a parent has been allocated a place at their second ranked school, they may be placed on the waiting list of their first ranked school but not their third and so on.
- Parents who have submitted a new application (accepted only for exceptional reasons i.e. moved house into the area) for consideration including those for children in public care ('Looked After' children as defined in the admission policy) and children requiring placement through the in year Fair Access protocol.
- Parents who write to request a new school not originally named on the CAF following the allocation date on 1 March 2021 and who do not have exceptional reasons as described above, will not be placed on the waiting list for that new school until 5 April 2021, this is after the first reallocation of places on 29 March 2021.

From 5 April 2021 the waiting list will be opened to all new requests.

### ***Part 2 -Late Applications***

- 23.** The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round is **31 October 2020**.

As far as is reasonably practicable applications for places in the normal admissions round that are received late for exceptional reasons only may be accepted provided they are received by 11 December 2020. Examples of what will be considered as a valid reason include: a family that has just moved into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a Gateshead property will be required in these cases) or for UK service personnel who have been relocated and have an intended address. Other circumstances will be considered, and each case is decided on its own merits based on the evidence provided.

#### **Change of Preferences received after 31 October 2020**

- 24.** Parents submitting applications to change their preferences, from those originally ranked on the CAF, will also be classed as 'late' and may only be considered if exceptional circumstances apply such as those examples described in paragraph 23 above. If no such exceptional circumstances apply the LA will continue to proceed with the original preferences ranked on the CAF for the purposes of

the allocation of places on the 1 March 2021. In these circumstances such applications may only be considered if vacancies exist after all on time applicants who have ranked the school on their CAF and are eligible for an offer have been allocated a place.

**Late Applications received after 11 December 2020**

25. Applications received after 11 December 2020 will NOT be considered until after 1 March 2021. Parents will, nevertheless, receive an offer of a school place on 1 March 2021 according to the scheme.

**No application form received by 1 March 2021**

26. Where no CAF is submitted the child will, on 1 March 2021, be offered a place at their community catchment school if there are places available. If no places are available at the catchment school, a place will be offered at the next nearest community school with places available, measured 'as the crow flies', from the centre of the parental residence to the main entrance of the school. The LA will be aware which parents this applies to as a result of liaison with junior and primary schools.

**Applications received after 1 March 2021 but before 29 March 2021**

27. Applications made direct to any school or academy on the CAF must be forwarded to the LA immediately. The LA will offer a place on 29 March 2021 at the school/academy ranked highest on the CAF at which there is a vacancy, or if this not possible at their community catchment school, or if this school is also full at the next nearest appropriate community school with a vacancy (as defined in paragraph 18), measured 'as the crow flies' from the centre of the parental residence to the main entrance of the school. However, please note, new applications submitted after 1 March 2021 from parents who have already submitted a CAF in the normal admission round will not be considered until 29 March 2021 in accordance with paragraph 22 above.

**Applications received after 22 March 2021 but before 31 August 2021**

28. The LA will continue to co-ordinate admissions to all relevant schools in Gateshead up to 31 August 2021.

Applications received after 22 March 2021 should be made on the CAF and sent to the LA, who will:

- Determine any application for a community or controlled school for which it is the admission authority; and
  - If the application is for a voluntary aided academy, refer the application to the governing body of the school, which will make a determination and notify the LA who will then notify the parent. Parents who are refused admission will be offered a right of appeal.
  - If any parents approach an academy or voluntary aided schools directly about a casual admission, the governing body must ensure that the parent completes a CAF (if they have not already done so). The CAF should be sent to the maintaining LA as soon as practically possible, along with the governing body's decision on the application. The governing body will notify the maintaining LA of its decision who will inform the Parent and, if the parent is refused a place, the right of appeal will be offered.
  - (NB new applications/requests submitted after 1 March 2021 from parents who have already submitted a CAF in the normal admissions round and do not have exceptional reasons will not be considered until 29 March 2021 in accordance with paragraph 22 above).
29. The LA will keep track of any pupils who apply after 21 March 2021 but before 31 August 2021 and intervene as appropriate to ensure that they are placed in a school without undue delay.

***Part 3 - In Year Applications***

30. In Year applications are those applications received after 31 August 2021 for places in any year group requesting admission during the academic year 2021/2022.
31. Parents should apply for a place in a Gateshead school directly through Gateshead LA.

In year applications must be made on the School Transfer Form. In Year applications are those applications received after 31 August 2021 for places in any year group requesting admissions during the academic year 2021/2022. Please note that parents who have been refused a place in the normal allocation round for the first year of entry to primary, infant or junior schools for admission from 2021 and have been refused a place by the independent appeal panel may not reapply for the same year of entry unless they can demonstrate there has been a significant and material change in their circumstances that relate to the question of admission.

32. The School Transfer Form for 'in year' admissions is available from the Education Support Service, Dryden Centre, Evistones Road, Low Fell, Gateshead, NE9 5UR.
33. Gateshead Local Authority will process all School Transfer Forms for Gateshead schools and inform parents of the outcome of their application even if the school is a voluntary aided school or academy.
34. The local authority is unable to process applications for schools where the date that the school place is required from, is more than 6 weeks from the date of the application (Service and Crown personnel are exempt).
35. Children must be resident in the country before a School Transfer Form can be considered (Service and Crown personnel are exempt).
36. School places cannot be allocated on the basis of intended future changes of address unless a house move has been confirmed through the exchange of contracts or a rental agreement. The admission authority reserves the right to seek further documentary evidence to support the claim to residence.

#### **Responding to School Transfer Forms**

37. If the application form is for a Voluntary Aided school, the Local authority will refer the application to the Governing Body of the school. In the case of applications for schools outside Gateshead, the LA will request that the parents apply directly to the relevant admission authority. We do not process 'in year' application forms for schools outside Gateshead.
38. All secondary schools within Gateshead must respond to the Local Authority (LA) within 10 school days of receiving the School Transfer Form, informing the LA of the availability of a place. If there is a place available, the LA will notify parents of the outcome of the application within 5 school days of the school notifying the Education Support Service of the availability of places.
39. Where places are not available at the highest ranked school the LA will co-ordinate with the second and third preference schools until a place can be offered at one of the preferences, subject to the availability of places and admission criteria.
40. If a pupil is not on the roll of a Gateshead school and a place cannot be offered at any of the nominated schools, the parent will be informed of places available at other schools in the area.
41. If there are more applications than places available the published oversubscription admission criteria must be applied.
42. Pupils will only be refused a place at a school if one of the statutory reasons in the school admissions code applies.
43. Pupils should not be placed outside the normal age group without written recommendation from a professional within Care, Wellbeing and Learning at Gateshead Council. This could include an Education Psychologist, a Professional Officer working with Gifted and Talented children etc.



44. The LA will keep track of any pupils who apply for ‘in year’ admissions and intervene as appropriate to ensure that they are placed in a school without undue delay particularly in respect of Children in public care and disadvantaged children moving into the area i.e. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.

**Determining Offers in response to the School Transfer form**

45. **Pupils living in Gateshead and applying for a school in the area (including Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies)** The LA will notify the parent verbally if a place is available for Schools and Academies in Gateshead. However, if a place is not available the parent will be notified of this in writing.
46. **Pupils living in Gateshead applying for a school out of the area.** The home authority (Gateshead) will request that the parent refers directly to the relevant admission authority to process their request.
47. **Pupils living outside of the Gateshead authority applying to a Gateshead school.** The home authority must ask the parent/carer to contact Gateshead LA to complete a School Transfer Form to confirm the availability of a place. Gateshead LA will liaise with the parents regarding the outcome of their request.
48. **Acceptance of a school place.** Parents will be expected to contact the school offered to accept or decline the offer within 2 weeks. Failure to do so may result in the school place being withdrawn and offered to the next child on the waiting list if appropriate.
49. **Waiting Lists.** The LA will hold the waiting list for oversubscribed Gateshead Schools. If your child is refused a place at the school requested, you may request that your Child's name is placed on the waiting list for this school. The LA will maintain school waiting lists for year 7 until the end of December 2021, following this date they will be sent to the individual schools to maintain. A child's position on a waiting list will be determined using the admission criterion for the school in question however children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the LA or who have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

**Timescales for processing In Year Applications**

School Transfer Form received by the Education Support Service	Process commences, unless place is not required until a date more than 6 school weeks away (extended for children of service personnel & crown servants)
Monday of each week	All secondary transfer forms discussed at LA weekly transfer
By the Friday of that week	The LA notifies the Governing Bodies of any request for a place their school
Within 10 days of the school being notified of the request	The Governing Bodies of any requested school must respond to The Education Support Service regarding the availability of places
Within 5 school days of the school notifying the Education Support Service of the availability of places	The Education Support Service will notify the parent by telephone if a place is available for all Schools and Academies in Gateshead. However, if a place is not available the parent will be notified of this in writing, including information about appeals and waiting lists, where appropriate.
Within 2 weeks of the date of a school place being offered	The school must receive confirmation of acceptance of the place from the parent.

## SCHEDULE 2

### Timetable of Secondary School Co-ordinated Scheme 2021

#### First Year of Entry

Friday 11 September 2020:	Common Application Form made available to parents online or paper copy (on request only). Primary/Junior schools receive information packs to distribute to year 6 pupils.
Saturday 31 October 2020:	On-line application forms, together with any supplementary forms (as required) to be submitted to School Admission Team, Dryden Centre, Evistones Road, Low Fell, Gateshead, NE9 5UR.
Monday 16 November 2020:	Details of application and nominated preference to be sent to other admission authority schools and other LA's.
Tuesday 5 January 2021:	VA academies provide the LA with ranked lists of applicants.
Friday 25 January 2021:	LA's exchange information with other LA's on offer or refusal of school places.
Monday 22 February 2021:	By this date the LA will notify schools which parents have been offered places at their schools.
Monday 1 March 2021:	Notifications sent to parents on or around this date.
Friday 12 March 2021:	Last date for offers to be accepted by parents.
Monday 22 March 2021:	Any places that have become available are re allocated to parents from the waiting list in accordance with paragraph 22 of schedule 1 of this scheme.

Waiting lists will be maintained until end of the autumn term December 2021

#### COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL PLANNED ADMISSION NUMBERS - 2020

Secondary School	DfE Number	Planned Admission Number 2021
Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive	4041	180

**Admission Authorities in the Area of Gateshead to which the Scheme applies**

**Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools where the LA is the Admission Authority:**

**Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School**

Market Lane  
Dunston  
Gateshead, NE11 9NX

**The Scheme applies to the Governing Body as the Admission Authority for the following Academies:**

**Heworth Grange School**

High Lanes  
Heworth  
Gateshead, NE10 0PT

**Grace College**

Saltwell Road South  
Gateshead, NE9 6LE

**Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy**

Birtley Lane  
Birtley, DH3 2LP

**Thorp Academy**

Main Road  
Ryton  
NE40 3AH

**Whickham School and Sports College (Academy Trust)**

Burnthouse Lane  
Whickham, NE16 5AR

**The Scheme applies to the Governing Body as the Admission Authority for the following Voluntary Aided Academies:**

**Cardinal Hume Catholic School**

Old Durham Road  
Gateshead, NE9 6RZ

**St Thomas More Catholic School**

Croftdale Road  
Blaydon, NE21 4BQ