

Response to admission consultation representations

Author: Alison Elway

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Responses to admissions consultation process December 2021 and January 2022. Consultation closed 31.01.2022

In total 344 emails were sent to all Notts CC schools, local MATs, neighbouring local authorities, local Diocesan offices, local playgroups/pre-schools and childminders where known. In addition, emails were sent to all trustees and governors and all Business Leaders and Executive Leaders, Executive Principals and Principals. All academies sent a message to parents via WeDuc. The consultation was also placed on social media sites by the Marketing and Communications Team and it featured as a pop-up on the Trust and all academy websites throughout the consultation period.

We received the following responses. 4 were via the MS Form we asked interested people to complete and the Notts CC letter was received via the email inbox that had been specifically created for any correspondence if responders preferred this method of communication.

	Date	From	Which area of the consultation commented on	Representation	Response	Action/agreed by Trustees
1	10.12.21	Parent at THPA	The Trust having an overarching policy and individual academy appendix	I think these all make sense I am happy with these changes	N/A	N/A
2	11.12.21	Parent of children at Tuxford Academy Also a staff member at the Academy	Children of staff who have been employed at the Academy for at least two years and/or are recruited to fill a demonstrable skill shortage.	This feels exclusive, is the skill shortage a subject area, an admin position, a mid day supervisor role. Could this be worded to be more inclusive, I am sure these are looked at on a case to case basis, however, I feel it should be ANY staff who have been employed at the academy for the last two years. Where would it state on a staff members terms of employment that they were recruited to fill a skill shortage? Worst case scenario - could this mean that a parent who has not had their child accepted could appeal stating that a staff members child had got into Tuxford, however they	1.39 of Admission Code states: Admission authorities may give priority in their oversubscription criteria to children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances: a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and/or b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. 1.40 Admissions authorities must specify in their admission	Our policy (Page 11) does not distinguish which members of staff this will apply to. This has been amended to read 'regardless of role'. The policy states that a letter from HR will be required to confirm that a member of staff meets the criteria. Now updated to read that HR must confirm if a member of staff has been appointed to fill a demonstrable skills shortage.

				were not recruited to fill a demonstrable skill shortage	arrangements how this priority will be applied, for example, which groups of staff it will apply to	Trustees agreed the action taken at Board Meeting held on 02/02/2022.
3	11.12.21	Parent of children at Tuxford Academy Also a staff member at the Academy	Children who live outside the catchment area but who are attending a Tuxford Family linked primary phase school	As a Trust, surely the "Trust Primary Schools are linked primary phase schools out of the catchment area", should include all the primaries within DA as linked Primaries. Bracken Lane, Thrumpton, etc are on bus routes to Tuxford. Would this not be beneficial for our Trust as we have a clear link through with curriculum, pupil information etc, which is sometimes difficult to get hold of from other primaries	Each school has a defined catchment area on the Notts CC website and individual academies (including Tuxford) have historically consulted upon other feeder schools linking to a secondary. To add BLPA and THPA to Tuxford's linked primary phase schools would be to the detriment of Retford Oaks academy and the existing linked primary schools. Parents have a choice where they apply to and their child will be admitted as part of the oversubscription criteria at each academy.	No change to oversubscription criteria at Tuxford Academy Trustees agreed the response of no action to be taken regarding oversubscription criteria at Board Meeting held on 02/02/2022
4	21.01.22	Parent at TPA	TPA proposal to change reception PAN from 45 -30 TPA proposal to change its age range from 2-11 to 3-11	I am in support of the above changes to ensure the continued financial viability of the school, and to ensure single year group teaching is possible to provide the best education to pupils. With regard to the change of admission age, year-round care for 2 year olds is available at other facilities within the catchment (eg Pump Farm) so I do not feel this will be to the detriment of the local community.	N/A	N/A

5		Parent of a child at Newton-on-Trent Primary School	Consideration of feeder school to Tuxford Academy	Tuxford Academy is the closest secondary school to Newton on Trent, but because we have an LN1 postcode we are not in the catchment area. It doesn't feel right that there are schools further away from Tuxford who are in the catchment when Newton is not. There are very few children that would ever come from Newton as the primary school is very small. I would like Newton on Trent to be considered as a feeder school	Each school has a defined area on the Notts CC website. Headteachers at any school are welcome to apply to an academy for consultation to add their school to the list of feeder schools. Being a linked feeder school does not guarantee a place at the academy as these are allocated according to the oversubscription criteria.	No change to feeder schools to Tuxford Academy Trustees agreed the response of no action to be taken to feeder schools at Board Meeting held on 02/02/2022
6	26.01.22	Response from Nottinghamshire County Council	NCC is of the view that the consultation held by the Trust does not fully comply with paragraphs 1.45-1.48 of the School Admissions Code 2021.	NCC received no formal notification from the Trust nor any of the academy schools of the consultation on the admission arrangements for 2023-2024 as required in 1.47d of the Code. "1.47 Admission authorities must consult with: whichever of the governing body and the local authority is not the admission authority"	The Trust made Notts CC aware of its proposal to consult on its admission arrangements in a number of telephone calls and emails with Senior Professional Practitioners in the Admissions Team (24/8, 21/9, 23/9). This culminated in an email sent on 10.12.2021 to admissionconsultations@nottsc.c.gov.uk to advise the that the consultation was live.	N/A
			Trust document	The arrangements do not make it clear to parents that applications made at the normal transfer point, reception, infant to junior (year 3), transfer from primary to secondary (year 7), must be made to the home local authority where the child lives, irrespective of which local authority area the school is in. In addition, it is the responsibility of the child's home	Policy amended to reflect	Trustees agreed policy amendment at Board meeting held on 02/02/2022

			<p>local authority to communicate the decision on applications on national offer day.</p> <p>The arrangements advise parents that children do not automatically transfer from nursery to primary education and that a formal application must be made. However, they do not make it clear that children do not automatically transfer from primary to secondary education and that applications are also required at this transfer point.</p> <p>NCC maintains waiting lists in partnership with own admission authority schools for applications in the normal admissions rounds until 31 December. This does not include sixth form.</p> <p>The arrangements list a definition for displaced sibling. However this does not form part of the oversubscription criteria for any of the schools in the Trust and therefore is not relevant.</p> <p>NCC notes that oversubscription criteria for all the schools do not state at what point attending a linked school or residing in the</p>	<p>Policy amended to reflect that applications must be made to transfer from primary to secondary education as well as from nursery to primary.</p> <p>Policy amended to reflect that waiting lists are not held by the LA for sixth form. Email to all Sixth Form administrators to check our arrangements and policy will be updated accordingly.</p> <p>Might not be relevant but may be useful for parents to be aware of.</p> <p>All academy appendices to be updated to add 'at the closing date for applications'</p>	<p>Trustees agreed policy amendment at Board meeting held on 02/02/2022</p> <p>Trustees agreed policy amendment at Board meeting held on 02/02/2022</p> <p>No change to be made to policy</p> <p>Trustees agreed no change required to Policy and appendices agreed to be</p>
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				catchment area is required (i.e., at the closing date for applications). NCC recommends the Trust reviews this for all schools to ensure that the oversubscription criteria are clear.		updated at Board meeting held on 02/02/2022.
		Queen Elizabeth's Academy		<p>NCC notes the proposed reduction to the external sixth form PAN from 40 to 5. However, there is no rationale included for this reduction.</p> <p>The criteria include priority for children attending another school within the Diverse Academies Trust, but the School Admissions Code 1.15 clearly states that any linked schools must be clearly stated and made on reasonable grounds. NCC would question how reasonable it would be for all primary schools within the Trust to be linked to this school and to be given priority over other children living closer to the school.</p>	<p>Error recorded on the appendix. In discussions with Notts CC to establish what this figure should be.</p> <p>Not previously challenged by the LA when QEA consulted on their 2022/23 policy. Removed from appendix as doesn't affect the oversubscription for the number of applications received.</p>	<p>The figure recorded will be the PAN for external students.</p> <p>Email to Notts CC 10.02.22</p> <p>Trustees agreed this action at Board meeting held on 02/02/2022</p>
		Retford Oaks Academy admission arrangements		NCC notes the proposed change to the oversubscription criteria removing a higher priority for children who have siblings on roll at the school. Whilst NCC does not object to the change, NCC considers that this disadvantages those families who do not send their child to a linked school but have a sibling on roll at the school.	There has been no change to the oversubscription criteria at the academy and the 2021/22 & 2022/23 policies are the same as the proposed ones for 2023/24	Propose no action Trustees agreed no action to be taken at Board meeting held on 02/02/2022

			<p>The arrangements refer to catchment area and direct parents to NCC's public website for information on the catchment area for the school. As the school does not give priority to a catchment area within the oversubscription criteria this information is not relevant for this school.</p>	<p>The link to the Notts CC website showing catchment areas for each academy is useful for parents who do not know which secondary school is applicable for their postal address</p>	<p>Proposal to leave on the site Trustees agreed the action to leave link on website at Board meeting held on 02/02/2022</p>
		Samuel Barlow Primary Academy	<p>NCC notes the proposed increase in PAN at the school and does not object to this increase. NCC would advise the Trust that if the increased PAN is determined the funding agreement should be revised with the ESFA as part of a significant change process. NCC welcomes the proposed change to the oversubscription criteria which gives children living in the catchment area a higher priority than those children of staff employed at the school.</p>	<p>The Trust is aware that there is a need to amend the funding agreement at the academy via a fast track application to the ESFA. This will be submitted now that the consultation period has ended.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
		The Holgate Academy	<p>NCC notes the proposal to give priority to children of staff employed at the school.</p> <p>The oversubscription criteria for admission into the sixth form gives priority to children who were on roll at the academy at the end of year 11. The criteria for sixth form is only for external students and therefore this requires review.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Sixth Form oversubscription amended on their appendix</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Trustees agreed amendment on appendix at Board meeting held on 02/02/2022</p>

				<p>The arrangements refer to catchment area and direct parents to NCC's public website for information on the catchment area for the school. As the school does not give priority to a catchment area within the oversubscription criteria, this information is not relevant for this school.</p>	As above for Retford Oaks	<p>Trustees agreed the action to leave link on website at Board meeting held on 02/02/2022</p>
			Tuxford Primary Academy	<p>NCC has considered the proposal to reduce the PAN from 45 to 30 and as there is a sufficiency of places across the area it is not something which NCC objects to.</p> <p>In addition, NCC notes the proposal to give priority to children of staff employed at the school at Hillocks Primary Academy, Bracken Lane Primary Academy and Wainwright Primary Academy.</p>	No notification required to ESFA as it was not previously increased to 45.	N/A