

Orchard Mead Academy Admissions Policy from 2022 onwards

Policy Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Version:	2022
Date created:	24 th November 2022
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Determined by:	Trust Board
Date determined:	
Review date:	November 2029*

Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Summary of Changes
2022	23.11.2022	CBR	Rewrite of first half of page 2 for clarity. Addition to oversubscription Criterion 1 – children who were previously in care outside of England instead of being Criterion 2. Addition of section on Fair Access Protocol at end of policy with limit on % of children in main school with same need as those in DSP.
2021	18.12.2019	CBR	Change in PAN from 240 to 210
2019	01.11.2017	CBR	New admissions policy following conversion to academy and amendments to oversubscription criteria to bring policy in line with proposed 2019/20 Leicester City Council admissions arrangements, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 - children previously in care outside England • 3 - pupils with serious medical conditions or exceptional social or domestic needs • 4 & 5 – specified siblings in Years 8-11 • 7- children of Academy staff

**Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period*

Introduction

Orchard Mead Academy ('the School') is an 11 to 16 school sited in Leicester. The School is part of The Mead Educational Trust (TMET) which is a school trust with schools in Leicester and Leicestershire.

The Mead Educational Trust is the admissions authority for the School and, as such, is responsible for setting the criteria for admission and their interpretation; however, at all times it will act in accordance with the School Admissions Code published by the Department for Education. The Trust has decided that the School will remain part of the Leicester City admissions process and, therefore, the local authority administers all admissions to the School.

The school catchment area is set by Leicester City Council and the link to this is provided on the School website (under Parents and Admissions).

Planned Admission Number (PAN)

The School has an admission number of 210 for entry in year 7.

The School will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the PAN for the relevant year group are received, places will be offered at the School to all those who have applied.

Application process

All parents wishing to apply for a place at the School should do so via the online Leicester City Council admissions process, the link for which is on the School website (under Parents and Admissions). Parents have a right to express a preference for the school they want for their child. Applications must be submitted to the Council by the specified date which is published annually, usually the end of October for secondary schools.

Oversubscription criteria

Where the number of applications for places exceeds the number of places available, as specified by the Planned Admission Number, the following criteria, in priority order, will be applied to determine those children who will be offered a place.

Places will be allocated to pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the School before any other allocations are made, **although see the Fair Access Protocol section at the end of this policy for the limit on this.**

- Criterion 1: Children in the care of a local authority within England or who were previously in the care of a local authority within **and outside of** England (see note 1).
- Criterion 2: Pupils who have a serious medical condition or exceptional social or domestic needs that make it essential they attend the School (see note 2).
- Criterion 3: Children whose home address is in the catchment area of the School with a sibling at the School who will still be on roll in Years 8 – 11 when the applicant starts school (see note 3).

- Criterion 4: Children whose home address is outside the catchment area of the School with a sibling at the School who will still be on roll in Years 8 – 11 when the applicant starts school (see note 3).
- Criterion 5: Children whose home address is in the catchment area of the School (see note 4).
- Criterion 6: Children who are sons/daughters of staff working at the School (see note 5).
- Criterion 7: Children whose home address is outside the catchment area of the School and who have requested a place.

Note 1: A “looked after” child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority in England, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England, in the exercise of their social services function at the time of making an application to the School. A “previously looked after” child is a child who was looked after, either in England or outside of England, but ceased to be because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of, or were accommodated by, a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Note 2: All schools have experience in dealing with children with diverse social and medical needs. However, there may be exceptional cases where there are compelling reasons why it is essential they attend the school requested. Please refer to the full guidance shown in the Leicester City coordinated scheme.

Note 3: Sibling means a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister or child of the parent/carer’s partner. In every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address. Siblings must be attending in Years 8 to 11 at the point of entry.

In the case of twins, triplets or other children of multiple births, if the final place is offered to one child, and the remaining sibling(s) would ordinarily be refused, places will be offered to the remaining sibling(s).

Note 4: Home address means the child’s permanent home address at the time of application. In the case of split households, it is the address of the person who receives the Child Benefit. ‘At the time of application’ means the closing date for applications. Informal accommodation arrangements with family and friends are not accepted unless there are very special circumstances and supporting proof is required. An address used for child care arrangements cannot be used as the home address for the purpose of applying for a school place.

Note 5: Admission authorities may give priority in their oversubscription criteria to children of staff in the following circumstances:

- Where the member of staff has been employed at the School for 2 or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and/or
- The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Children include natural, adopted, step-children and children of cohabiting partners, living with the staff member or elsewhere.

The member of staff must be employed by The Mead Educational Trust and have worked at the School for at least 2 years.

Within each criterion, priority will be given to children living closest to the School, as measured on a straight line basis using a geographical information system measuring from the Geo-code reference point for the child's home address to the Geo-code reference point for the School. Applicants living in the same block of flats will be regarded as living the same distance from the School.

In the event that two applicants within a category live exactly the same distance from the School and only one place remains, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to determine which child shall be offered the place.

Late applications

In the event of the School being oversubscribed, applications received after the closing date, which is published each year, will be dealt with after all on time applications.

Waiting List

For those who have been refused a place, Leicester City Council holds a waiting list in order of the School's admissions criteria until July of the admission year. If a place becomes available, it will be offered to the first child on the waiting list. The Council is not allowed to distinguish between on-time and late applications when maintaining waiting lists so a child can move down the list when a child being added meets a higher admissions rule.

Being placed on the waiting list does not remove the applicant's right of appeal.

Appeals

If a child has been refused a place at the School, the parents have the right to appeal. The School has engaged the services of Leicester City Council to conduct its appeals. The link for appeals is on the School website (under Parents and Admissions). Leicester City Council will arrange the appeal to be heard by an independent panel, whose decision is binding on all parties.

In Year Admissions

All applications made outside of the normal year of entry should be made directly to Leicester City Council using their online application form and will be administered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out earlier in this policy. If a place is available in the appropriate year

group, then that will be offered. If no places are available the application will be refused, right of appeal offered and the child's name placed on the waiting list. The position on the waiting list is determined by the oversubscription criteria.

Fair Access Protocol

The School will participate in full with the Local Authority's Fair Access protocol in order that the most vulnerable children are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. In exceptional circumstances, this may include admitting children above the School's published PAN. Children who are allocated a place at the School in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

Orchard Mead Academy has a Designated Specialist Provision (DSP) unit which has 12 places to cater for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan detailing a primary need of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. Therefore, the School already has a number of pupils with significant SEMH need. As a result, the School reserves the right to refuse to admit more than 2.5% of children in the main school with the same identified need as those in the DSP (i.e. SEMH), or those on the identification pathway.