CONSULTATION ON ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2019: Academies in West Sussex

1. Introduction

1.1. The University of Brighton Academies Trust is consulting on its admissions arrangements for entry to its academies in West Sussex from September 2019. The academies included in the consultation are:

**Secondary academy**
- The Burgess Hill Academy

**Primary/infant academies**
- Blackthorns Community Primary Academy
- Desmond Anderson Primary Academy
- Holmbush Primary Academy
- Lindfield Primary Academy
- Pound Hill Infant Academy

2. Proposed admissions arrangements for entry from September 2019

2.1. The proposed admissions arrangements for entry to the University of Brighton Academies Trust’s academies in West Sussex from September 2019 are summarised below.

2.2. Published admissions number

2.2.1. The Published Admissions Number (ie the admissions number for the year group at which pupils are normally admitted to the academy) for each academy is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary Academy</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Primary/Infant Academy</th>
<th>Reception Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Burgess Hill Academy</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>Blackthorns Community Primary Academy</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmond Anderson Primary Academy</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Holmbush Primary Academy</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindfield Primary Academy</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Pound Hill Primary Academy</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3. Catchment area

The catchment areas for admissions for each academy are attached as Annex 1.

2.4. Oversubscription criteria

2.4.1. Criteria for The Burgess Hill Academy, Blackthorns Community Primary Academy, Desmond Anderson Primary Academy and Holmbush Primary Academy

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the Published Admissions Number, applications will be prioritised in accordance with the over-subscription criteria which are provided below:

After the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Education Needs where the academy is named on the statement or Education Health and Care Plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

1. Looked after children (children in public care) and children who were previously looked after who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order. Evidence must be provided.
2. Children who need a place at the academy on exceptional and compelling social, psychological or medical grounds. Evidence must be provided.
3. Children of staff employed at the academy in either or both of the following circumstances:
   (a) Where the member of staff has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made
   (b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
4. Children who have brothers or sisters already at the academy at the time of application and will still be in the academy at the time of admission. Brothers or sisters may be half or step-siblings (by marriage or co-habitation) or foster siblings but must be living permanently at the same address.
5. Children who live in the catchment area.
6. Children who live outside the catchment area

2.4.2. Criteria for Lindfield Primary Academy

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the Published Admissions Number, applications will be prioritised in accordance with the over-subscription criteria which are provided below:

After the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Education Needs where the academy is named on the statement or Education Health and Care Plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

1. Looked after children (children in public care) and children who were previously looked after who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order. Evidence must be provided.
2. Children who need a place at the academy on exceptional and compelling social, psychological or medical grounds. Evidence must be provided.
3. Children of staff employed at the academy in either or both of the following circumstances:
   (a) Where the member of staff has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made
   (b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
4. Children who have brothers or sisters already at the academy at the time of application and will still be in the academy at the time of admission. Brothers or sisters may be half or step-siblings (by marriage or co-habitation) or foster siblings but must be living permanently at the same address.
5. Children who live in the catchment area for Lindfield Primary Academy.
6. Children who live in the catchment area for Blackthorns Community Primary Academy.
7. Children who live outside the catchment area for Lindfield Primary Academy and Blackthorns Community Primary Academy

2.4.3. Criteria for Pound Hill Infant Academy

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the Published Admissions Number, applications will be prioritised in accordance with the over-subscription criteria which are provided below:

After the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Education Needs where the academy is named on the statement or Education Health and Care Plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

1. Looked after children (children in public care) and children who were previously looked after who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order. Evidence must be provided.
2. Children who need a place at the academy on exceptional and compelling social, psychological or medical grounds. Evidence must be provided.
3. Children of staff employed at the academy in either or both of the following circumstances:
   (a) Where the member of staff has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made
   (b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
4. Children who have brothers or sisters already at the academy or at Pound Hill Junior School at the time of application and will still be in the academy or Pound Hill Junior School at the time of admission. Brothers or sisters may be half or step-siblings (by marriage or co-habitation) or foster siblings but must be living permanently at the same address.
5. Children who live in the catchment area.
6. Children who live outside the catchment area

2.4.4. Tiebreaker for The Burgess Hill Academy, Blackthorns Community Primary Academy, Desmond Anderson Primary Academy, Holmbush Primary Academy, Lindfield Primary Academy and Pound Hill Infant Academy

If there are more children who qualify for a place than places available, places will be allocated to pupils living closest to the academy (using the shortest distance from home to school using a straight line distance). All distances are measured by a straight line from the academy to the child's home address, using Ordnance Survey address point data from a central point in each building.

3. Summary of proposed changes to admissions arrangements from September 2019

3.1. No changes are proposed to the Published Admissions Numbers.
3.2. No changes are proposed to the Catchment areas.
3.3. The following changes are proposed to the oversubscription criteria:

(i) Change
   To introduce a new oversubscription criterion in the admissions arrangements of all academies giving priority to children of staff. The proposed wording of the criterion aligns with the requirements set out in the School Admissions Code:
   “Children of staff employed at the academy in either or both of the following circumstances:
   (c) Where the member of staff has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made
   (d) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage”

Rationale
The rationale for this change is to support the recruitment and retention of high quality staff to the trust.

(ii) Change
   To give priority to all siblings of children already at the academy above children living in the catchment areas (currently children living in the catchment area without siblings at the academy get priority over children living outside the catchment area with siblings).

Rationale:
The rationale for this change is to enable academies to strengthen links with parents of pupils (research suggests that good parental engagement has a significant positive effect on children’s learning and outcomes: this can be more difficult to achieve when siblings attend different schools) and to improve attendance / timely arrival of pupils (some parents currently drop off children at two or three different schools each morning).

3.4. No changes are proposed to the tie breaker.