



DAYSPRING TRUST

Venerable Bede CE Academy

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR

2023 - 2024

Ratified by: Board of Directors

Date of review: September 2021 (*updated February 2022*)

Date of next review: September 2022

The Dayspring Trust aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian faith and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. We believe that our Christian values spring from the two great commandments, 'Love God and love your neighbour'. We seek to live this out through the power of the Holy Spirit. St Paul reminds us in Galatians 5.22-23 that the fruit of the Spirit is "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control". These are also underpinned by the Old Testament injunction to "Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God" Micah 6.8. These values rooted in the Christian Faith come as a package and we aim to embed them in the life of our academies in a worked out way. We recognise that at times we may highlight particular values to bring them into greater prominence within our academies and these are currently the five values of Forgiveness, Hope, Joy, Perseverance and Wisdom. We believe these values to be in accordance with British values springing from our Judeo-Christian roots. Collective worship will play a major and vital part in assisting with this process of embedding these values in the life our academies.

The Multi Academy Trust Members and Directors are aware of their responsibilities in law and are committed to the provision of an excellent education within its academies in accordance with our Anglican foundation. This is embraced in our Dayspring Trust vision statement:

- **Forge a supportive and challenging family of academies**
- **Provide excellent education within a strong Christian community**
- **Resource our pupils for wise and generous living**

In addition, each academy also has its own distinctive mission statement, flowing out from the vision statement of the Dayspring Trust.

At Ian Ramsey CE Academy:

"Together to learn, to grow, to serve."

This is embodied in scripture:

'Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.' 1. Peter 4.10

At Venerable Bede CE Academy:

"Soar to the heights together"

This is embodied in scripture:

'But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.' Isaiah 40:31

This policy has been developed to take into consideration our ethos as well as local and national policy and guidance.

Dayspring Trust will be the Admissions Authority for this academy.

Venerable Bede CE Academy intends to admit up to 180 pupils into Year 7 in September 2023.

We believe that our academy is inclusive and all children are welcome. We are a neighbourhood academy; open to all.

Although we are a Church of England academy with a distinct Christian ethos, you do not need to be baptised or be a practising Christian to apply for a place.

“The needs of each pupil are carefully considered in the light of the academy’s motto ‘Soar to the Heights Together’. As a result, decisions are made in the very best interests of the individual so that he/she is enabled to succeed as a child of God in, and beyond, the academy community”.

Quote from SIAMS inspection June 2017

All children who apply will be offered a place unless the academy is oversubscribed.

Application Process

Applications must be made online via the City of Sunderland website or, alternatively on the Local Authority Application Form and returned to the Local Authority.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Need or with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) which names the academy, must be admitted before the oversubscription criteria applies.

If the academy is oversubscribed, then the following criteria will be applied:

1. CHILDREN IN CARE/ADOPTED CHILDREN

A ‘Looked-after’ child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residency/child arrangement or special guardianship order – a child that is looked-after’ by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Children’s Act 1989 and a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so, because of adoption (or become subject to a child arrangements order, residence order or special guardianship order) and a **‘Looked-after’ child who appears to the Admission Authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as result of being adopted** – a child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

2. SIBLING LINKS

We will admit children who will have an older sibling in the school at the time they join. We define the term sibling to mean an older brother/sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer’s partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

We will also admit children who have an older sibling in year 11 at the time of application.

3. ATTENDANCE IN KEY STAGE 2 (AGED 7 – 10+) AT A DESIGNATED CLUSTER JUNIOR OR PRIMARY SCHOOL. Our cluster primary schools are Benedict Biscop CE Academy, St Pauls CE Primary School, New Silksworth Academy and Ryhope Junior School.

4. DISTANCE

The shortest safe walking distance from the school will be used to determine the order of admission. This distance will be measured from the centre of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system. This includes provision for cases where parents have shared responsibility for a child following the breakdown of their relationship and the child lives for part of the week with each parent.

5. MEMBERS OF STAFF

We will also admit children of staff members (teaching and non-teaching) into Year 7 and also into other year groups if a place were to become available. This is only applicable where the member of staff has been employed at the academy for two years or more at the time of application or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Tie-Breaker

If the distance between two children's homes and the academy is the same, we will use random allocation to decide which child should be offered the place. The process will be conducted in the presence of a person independent of the academy.

Waiting Lists

The academy maintains waiting lists **ONLY** for those children who are not offered a place in year 7, and the parents ask for their child's name to be added to the waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained **ONLY** until 31 December of the admission year.

Secondary School Transfer Process

If your child is already of secondary school age and you want them to transfer to Venerable Bede CE Academy, the following procedure will be followed:

1. Parents/carers of the child should make an application to Venerable Bede CE Academy using the agreed applications procedure as outlined by Sunderland City Council (<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/schools-admissions>).
2. Upon receiving an application for admittance to the academy, an initial meeting will be set up with the appropriate member of the academy's senior leadership team. At this

meeting, a decision will be made to determine whether the Managed Move Protocol should be followed to support the pupil's transition from their current secondary school.

Fair Access

The academy participates in the Local Authority Fair Access Protocol. This covers, for example, children who have moved into our area after the normal admission round, or who need to move school as a result of severe bullying or social issues. Children qualifying under the Fair Access Protocol may be offered a place even if there are no places available in the relevant year group and also take priority for admission over any other child on the waiting list.

Admission Outside of Normal Age Group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the Headteacher in advance of applying for a place. The Trust may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

Notes

- i. Where an application is found to contain false information, the Trust reserve the right to withdraw their offer of a place.

RIGHT OF APPEAL: if you are not successful in obtaining a place for your child at our school, you have a statutory right of appeal. Further details are available from the School Admissions Team and an appeals form can be obtained from them.