

# **Gurney Pease Academy**



**Gurney Pease**  
Academy

**Admissions Policy 2024-2025**

## Values and Ethos

Our values and ethos are inclusive and child centred. Our Trust is founded on the principles of inclusivity, diversity and fairness, and they are fundamental to our delivery of exceptional learning experiences.

EVAT stands for:

**E**xcellence and high standards a can-do culture and no-excuses ethos

**V**alues driven with a deep sense of purpose putting children and young people first behaving ethically

**A**mbitious and aspiration for all irrespective of background or barriers – being truly inclusive

### **T**eamwork

we do more, better and faster, together

We are a village. We collaborate, with our learners, their families and our communities, to provide exceptional education so that all the children and young people we serve achieve the best possible outcomes.

### **Our Ethos is to:**

- Create a nurturing and friendly atmosphere and provide an environment where everyone feels valued for who they are
- Bring out the best in every child and young person and meet the full range of their individual needs
- Provide different and unique experiences, challenges and activities
- Show tolerance and respect for each other
- Prepare our children and young people for lifelong learning
- Improve the life chances of every child and young person we serve.

**This document, and its associated procedures and protocols, are based on these key principles.**

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The Board of Directors of The Education Village Academy Trust (EVAT) is the Admissions Authority for Gurney Pease Academy. The Admissions Policy Criteria will be applied on an equal preference basis and works in association with the Coordinated Scheme for Darlington Authority.

### **Admission number**

For Gurney Pease Academy the admission number for our Reception class is 30. The usual admission date for our Reception class is 1<sup>st</sup> September each year.

The admission number for our Nursery is 26 morning places for 15 hours, weekly provision. There are 26 afternoon places available should numbers increase above the morning intake of 26. **See appendix 1** for our Nursery Admission policy and procedure.

The admission number for our provision for two-year-olds is 12 morning places. See **Appendix 1** for our Two-Year Olds Admission Policy.

The following applies to Reception Class admissions:

### **Process of application**

Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the coordinated admission arrangements of Local Authorities and will be made on the Primary School Application forms provided and administered by the Local Authority. Prospective pupils and their parents/carers are encouraged to visit the Academy before making an application.

### **Consideration of applications**

Where fewer than the admission number are received, the Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered against the oversubscription criteria set out below. After the admission of students with a statement of Special Educational Needs where the Academy is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- a) Children in Public Care (Looked after Children); See Note 1 below.

- b) Students whose siblings (see Note 2 below) currently attend the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission.
- c) Students who live nearest the Academy measured from the front door of the home address to the main school gate, by the shortest walking route judged to be safe (lighting at regular intervals and paved/ tarmacked). This will be based on the child's permanent home address (See Note 3 below). To remain consistent, the Academy will measure distance using the Geographical Information System adopted by the Borough Council to measure all distances.
- d) Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to placement at one of the Academies. Applications under this criterion should be supported by written evidence from a doctor (see explanation below).

### **Tie Break**

In the event of a tie-break in any oversubscription criteria, distance will be the deciding factor, which may involve an officer walking the route using a pedometer.

### **Multiple Births**

For multiple births where only one place remains, infant classes will be allowed to exceed the statutory limit where the 31<sup>st</sup> child is a twin or from multiple births. The 'excepted pupil' will be allowed for the time in Key Stage 1 or until the class numbers fall back to current class size limit.

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

If a parent seeks a place in a year group outside of their normal age group, they should complete an application form and attach a covering letter along with any accompanying documentation that details the circumstances behind their request, for example if their child has missed a significant amount of time due to ill health or they believe their child to be gifted and talented.

This should be forwarded to the Schools Admissions Team, at the Town Hall, who will consider the request with the Trust. Once a decision has been made the Admission Authority will write to the parent/carer informing them of the decision and setting out reasons for such.

Parents of summer born children can also make a request to apply for their child to start school in the next academic year after they reach five and should follow the same process but should start the process in the September of the year prior to the of entry.

## Admissions Oversubscription Criteria

### Note 1: Definition of Children in Public Care

Children who are currently in public care (looked after children) including adopted children who were previously in care. A 'looked after' child is a child who is looked after by a LA in accordance with Section 22 of the Children's Act 1989(b) at the time when application for admission to the Academy is made and whom the LA can confirm will still be looked after at the time of admission.

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.

### Note 2: Definition of 'sibling'

Siblings (brothers or sisters) are considered to be those children who live at the same address and either:

- have one or both natural parents in common.
- are related by a parent's marriage.
- are adopted or fostered.
- their parents are married/co-habiting and children live together in the same household.
- they are children of the same household.

### Note 3: Home Address

This is the child's permanent address where he or she generally resides. Temporary addresses may not be used in the application for admission to the Academy.

For parents/carers who may have more than one property, reference should only be made to the property in which they and the child(ren) mainly reside.

Where parents/carers are separated and the child lives for periods with both, then the home address will be that of the parent that receives the child benefit.

If the main address has changed temporarily, for example, where a parent/carer resides with extended family during a period of sickness or takes up temporary accommodation due to building works/renovation, then the home address remains that at which the parent/carer was resident before the period of temporary residence began.

Any permanent change of address during the period from making an application to the offer being made, must be notified to the Local Authority immediately, as this may affect the admission offer made. In the event of a change of address affecting the application for your child to attend the Academy, the Academy will request a letter from a licensed conveyancer or a solicitor's letter confirming exchange of contracts.

Where there are shared care arrangements, the home address will be where the child lives for the majority of the week Monday to Friday or where a court has determined their home address should be.

#### Note 4: Children with medical factors directly relating to an Academy admission

If you state a preference for an EVAT Academy and indicate your reason for doing so is 'medical', then you are required to send a supporting letter from a professional practitioner. The supporting evidence should set out the particular reasons why the Academy is the most suitable school and the difficulties it would cause if your child had to travel to another school. Permission from parents must be given to share this information.

### **Waiting lists**

Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in the LA's co-ordinated admission scheme, the Academy will operate a waiting list. Where in any year the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate. This will be maintained by the Local Authority, and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

The position of children on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in paragraph 7 of this policy. Where places become vacant, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

### **Arrangements for appeals panels**

Parents will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Academy. The Appeal Panel will be independent of the Academy. For details on how to appeal contact the School Admissions Team at the Local authority.

### **Arrangements for admitting students to other year groups, including to replace any students who have left the Academy**

Subject to any provisions in the LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the Academy will consider all such applications and, if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria shall apply. Parents whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.

### **Policy for In-Year Applications**

Families who move into the area who require a place(s) at a Darlington school must contact the Schools Admissions Section at the Town Hall. Parent/carers will be sent an In-year

Application Form (IYAF) and will be directed to the Council's website for a copy of the Guide for Parents. Should a place be available at the school requested by a parent, a meeting with the Principal (or his/her representative) must take place before a start date is agreed.

The In-year application form should be accompanied by a copy of the birth certificate and/or passport. The Schools Admissions Team in agreement with the parent/carers and the Principal of the Academy, will arrange this meeting. Should however a parent/carer request a place at a school that has no places available, then they will be informed about the appeals process and the availability of alternative school places.



## Appendix 1



### Nursery & Two Year Olds Admission Policy

<b>Rationale</b>
We aim to provide a clear, consistent and fair admissions procedure for all, particularly where there are more applications than places available.
<b>Transition through EYFS</b>
Children will be allocated a place in the two-year-old provision from the term after their 2 <sup>nd</sup> birthday until the term after their 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday.
Children will be allocated a place in the Nursery from the term after their 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday until they start Reception class.  The nursery class has a major intake in September of children who will be 4 years old during that academic year.  The September intake will be staggered over the first 2 to 3 weeks of term.  Any spare places will be allocated during the year as they become available, providing that the child has already passed his/her third birthday. The child would be eligible to start the term after this.
Children start in Reception, the September after they are 4 years old.

## **Process of application**

Parents/Carers of children approaching 2 or 3 years of age should visit the school and complete an application form to place their child on the waiting list. A consideration list will be kept by the school of names, addresses, D.O.B., telephone number and date registered of children who are interested.

No child will be placed on the consideration list until they have reached their second birthday.

In the case of funded two-year-old places eligibility will be checked through the PFIS by the school. Eligibility will be confirmed as soon as possible, and the child's name placed on the appropriate waiting list.

Confirmation of places will be sent half a term before your child is due to start.

## **Admissions criteria**

### **Two-Year-old provision**

A maximum of **12** places are available at any one time in the two-year-olds provision. Where possible, places will be funded where children must be eligible/approved. **Up to 6** places will be paid places.

### **Nursery (3–4-year-olds)**

A maximum of **26** places will be allocated over the year.

Where there are more children than places, priority will be given as follows:

- Children in care
- Children with additional or special educational needs
- Professional referral including Health Visitor, Children's Centre team
- Siblings already in the school
- Date of birth
- Address

Where there are more applicants than spaces a waiting list will be established, and afternoon sessions potentially offered in our Nursery provision. When spaces become available children will be allocated from the waiting list in order of the priorities listed above. Length of time on the waiting list will not be considered.

### **Allocation of preferred sessions**

Parents will be asked to give a preference with regards to the session options when they apply for a place. Account will be taken of any preference for session options expressed by parents, but preferences will be allocated subject to availability and are not guaranteed. If the preferred session is unavailable, the child will be offered an alternative session.

### **Attendance and Loss of Nursery Place**

If attendance and punctuality is poor or erratic the nursery teacher will talk to parents and remind them that for the child to benefit fully from nursery education, attendance needs to be regular and punctual due to the great demand for places. This conversation should be recorded and dated in the child's folder.

If after a period of two weeks attendance and punctuality remain poor a letter will be sent to the parents inviting them to meet with the Headteacher.

If following the meeting there is no sustained improvement in attendance within an agreed period, then the child may lose their place. Parents will be notified of the loss of place in writing.

### **Transfer from Nursery into Reception**

All parents and carers must be made aware that a place in the Nursery does not guarantee a place in the school's Reception class and that they must still go through the correct Darlington admissions procedure.

The Nursery staff will liaise closely with colleagues in Reception classes to plan for a smooth transition to their chosen or allocated school. Nursery staff will send on reports and other agreed records to the school admitting the pupil as appropriate.

### **Transfer from Two-Year-Old provision to Nursery**

All parents and carers must be made aware that a place in the Two-Year-Old provision does not guarantee a place in the school and that parents/carers of children approaching 2 or 3 years of age should visit the school and complete an application form to place their child on the waiting list.

### **Nursery and two-year-old Admissions Oversubscription Criteria**

The criteria used where application for places is oversubscribed is the same as that used for entry into Reception – see pages 6 & 7 of this Admissions Policy.