Haughton Academy

Admissions Policy 2026-2027

Education Village Academy Trust

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:

- **Excellence** and high standards
  - a can-do culture and no-excuses ethos
- **Values driven** with a deep sense of moral purpose
  - putting children and young people first
  - behaving ethically
- **Ambitious** and aspiration for all
  - irrespective of background or barriers – being truly inclusive
- **Teamwork**
  - 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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Haughton Academy
Salters Lane North
Darlington
DL1 2AN

Tel: 01325 254000
Admissions Officer: Mrs S D Gill

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

Admission number

For Haughton Academy the admission number is 180 pupils in the relevant year group if sufficient applications are received. The usual admission date is 1st September each year.

Process of application

Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the co- ordinated admission arrangements of Local Authorities and will be made on the Secondary 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 pupils with an Education Care Plan, 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) or who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (See Note 1 below);

b) Pupils whose siblings (see Note 2 below) currently attend the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission;
c) Pupils 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 Note 4 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 1 place remains at Haughton Academy, then the Academy will use its discretion in deciding whether to offer a place(s) that will exceed its admissions number (180).

Admissions Oversubscription Criteria

Note 1: Definition of Children in Public Care or previously in state care outside of England

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, or;
- 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

The home address is used for applying the admissions criteria. This means that when you state your school preferences you must give the home address of the child at the time of application, where they mainly reside Monday to Friday. You must not give the address of childminders or other family members who may share in the care of your child.

For parents who may have more than one property, reference should only be made to the property in which they and the child(ren) mainly reside. If the main address has changed temporarily, for example where a parent 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 was resident before the period of temporary residence began. However, if you have sold your property (exchanged contracts) and have moved into temporary accommodation, you will be

required to provide evidence of your situation and a decision will be made based upon the evidence provided.

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 until a month after the admission date. This will be maintained by the Academy 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 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. Guidance about the appeals process is available from Mr G Watson at the Education Village Academy Trust (Tel. 254000), who will answer any enquiries parents/carers may have about the process. Appeals must be made in writing, and letters addressed in the first instance to the Chair of the Directors Board of the Trust at the following address:

The Education Village
Salters Lane South Darlington
DL1 2AN

Arrangements for admitting pupils to other year groups, including to replace any pupils 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 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.