

Admissions Consultation  
REAch2 Academy Trust  
C/O Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy  
Henhurst Ridge  
Burton Upon Trent  
DE13 9TQ  
24 November 2023

**Subject: Consultation on Trust admissions arrangements 25/26**

Dear Whom it May Concern,

REAch2 Academy Trust (the Trust), as the admission authority for all of its academies as per the admissions code 2021, is consulting on the admission arrangements for all of its schools. It is the responsibility of the Trust to determine the arrangements for all of its schools, ensuring that they are fully compliant with the admissions code 2021 and other statutory legislation, such as the Equalities Act 2010.

On 4 October 2023, the Trust Board approved several variations to the current arrangements, which seek to add clarity to a number of key definitions within the policy. The new policy also includes more information on how parents can access other admissions related information, including in-year admissions, appeals processes, and Fair Access Protocol's.

The new policies do not propose any change to the school's existing over-subscription criteria. The new policy seeks to make clear that children within the final category of the over-subscription criteria are ranked by the distance they live from the school. The Trust has therefore re-named this criterion from 'other children' to 'distance'. Children within that criterion will still be ranked in the same way.

You can find the proposed school policies for 2025/2026 by visiting [Academy Directory - REAch2 Academy Trust](#)

The consultation will run from **6 December 2023 to 31 January 2024**.

Appended to this letter are the draft policies for:

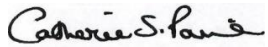
- Copperfield Academy
- Kemsley Primary Academy
- Milton Court Primary Academy
- Tymberwood Academy

We welcome feedback from all stakeholders on the proposed arrangements. Responses to the consultation may be placed by any of the following means:

- By email [admissionsconsultation@reach2.org](mailto:admissionsconsultation@reach2.org)
- Complete the e-form at [www.reach2.org/admissions](http://www.reach2.org/admissions)
- By post **Admissions Consultation, REAch2 Academy Trust, C/O Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy, Henhurst Ridge, Burton Upon Trent, DE13 9TQ**

We thank you for your participation in the consultation process and look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathie Paine'.

Cathie Paine  
CEO, REAch2 Academy Trust

# Admissions Policy

## 2025 - 2026

Audience:	Parents REAch2 Staff Local Governing Bodies Cluster Boards Trustees
Ratified:	REAch2 Trust Board 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
Other related policies:	
Policy owner:	Calum Marriott, PMO
Review:	Annually

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## Introduction to Copperfield Academy & REAch2

Copperfield Academy (the School) is a primary academy located at Dover Road East, Northfleet, Kent DA11 0RB and is part of REAch2 Academy Trust (the Trust).

Here at Copperfield, children are at the centre of all we do. We have redefined our vision to:

‘Children are our priority, change is the reality, collaboration is our strategy.’

We have been through challenging times and now is the time to ensure we provide the highest standards of care and education.

In our school everyone is cared for as a unique individual. We will help the children to acquire effective social and communication skills so that they can in turn show that they are caring people, respectful of the diverse world in which we live and tolerant of others’ beliefs.

We are a family community, committed to working with parents to prepare their children to be life-long learners and contented citizens who will one day make a positive contribution to our world.

We believe in challenging every child to achieve the very best they can. We believe that intelligence is not fixed but that with challenging experiences there is no limit to ability. We will strive to provide high quality first teaching and learning to make this happen.

Our REAch2 Touchstones of Enjoyment, Inclusion, Inspiration, Integrity, Learning, Leadership and Responsibility underpin the expectations we have of ourselves, how we act towards each other in our school and outside in our community.

‘Challenge and Aspiration – Learning for Life’

Education is an essential ingredient for future success. By taking the time to build character in every child through our ethos, code of conduct, curriculum and values-led assemblies, we can teach and nurture all our children to be successful.

The local community will ultimately have a school to be proud of because we are not afraid to make our expectations clear and ensure they are followed. We will not compromise on a thorough grounding in literacy and maths; however, our curriculum will become exciting, motivational and strongly reflect an engagement with 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies.

More information about the School is available on its website: [www.copperfieldacademy.org](http://www.copperfieldacademy.org)

The Trust is the admission authority for all schools within the REAch2 family. The arrangements, set by the Trust are in accordance with the [School Admissions Code](#) and the [school admission appeals code](#). The Trust's aim is to ensure all of its academies have simple, consistent admission arrangements that focus on serving the local community and reflect the Trust's vision and values.

The Trust has developed this policy in full compliance with the Equality Act 2010. The Trust recognises and adheres to its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, especially in relation to children with protected characteristics.

More information about the Trust is available on its website: [www.reach2.org](http://www.reach2.org)



## Leadership

Finding the leader in all of us.



## Inclusion

Realising the greatness in our difference.



## Learning

Creating exceptional opportunities for learning.



## Enjoyment

Loving what we do.



## Inspiration

Feeling the power of the possible.



## Integrity

Being courageously true to our purpose.



## Responsibility

Unwavering commitment to seeing things through.

## Definitions & Interpretations

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this policy:

**EHC Plan** – An education, health and care (EHC) plan for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support. EHC Plans are prepared under the Children and Families Act 2014. They identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs.

**In-Year Admission** – An in-year admission application is one that is made outside of the normal admissions round, for example when a family moves house part way through a school year or is for admission into a year group other than Reception.

**Oversubscribed** – Having more applications than available places.

**PAN** – Stands for “published admission number” and is the number of pupils the school will admit in to Reception.

**Parent** – Means a natural or adoptive parent of the child, as well as a person who is not the natural or adoptive parent of the child, but who has care of the child, or parental responsibility for the child. This is the legal definition of a ‘parent’ in education law.

**Statutory Maximum infant class size** – The requirement in law that infant classes (i.e. classes in Reception year, year 1 and year 2 class) with a single school teacher are not permitted to contain more than 30 pupils, except in certain circumstances. Some children are deemed to be ‘excepted pupils’ as listed in the [School Admissions Code](#)

**Home address** – The address at which the child resides on a permanent basis or is ‘ordinarily resident’. This is generally, the address of the Parent. In some cases, children may be ‘ordinarily resident’ for the majority of the school week, including overnight, with another relative or carer, such as a grandparent. This may also be the case where the child resides between two parents at different addresses following the breakdown of the parental relationship. Where this is the case, the application will be processed on the basis of the address where the child resides for the majority of the school week and proof of residence and address arrangement will be required with the application. The child must be living with the parent, relative or carer for the majority of the school week. Arrangements where parents can leave and collect children from another relative or carer on a daily basis will be considered childcare arrangements, and the child will be deemed to not be ‘ordinarily resident’ with that person. In all cases, we expect the adult with whom the child is ‘ordinarily resident’ receives the child benefit for the child (where eligible).

The exceptions to this rule are the children of UK Armed Forces service personnel with a confirmed posting to their area, or Crown Servants returning from overseas to live in the area, for whom an application for admission may be made in advance of their move where it is accompanied by an official letter that confirms the intended relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address for the child.

## Policy In Detail

The published admission number (PAN) for Copperfield Academy is 60 pupils.

The School will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applications than this are received, the Trust will offer places at the School to all those who have applied.

Applications in the 'normal round' (that is the main cycle of applications for Reception places from the beginning of the school year) are administered on behalf of the Trust by Kent County Council in accordance with the local coordinated scheme. [Primary school places - Kent County Council](#)

### **Oversubscription criteria**

When the School is oversubscribed (that is, there are more applications than places available), after the admission of any pupils with an EHC Plan that names the School, priority for admission will be given to those children based on the criteria set out below, in the order shown:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Children with one or more siblings in the School
3. Children of School staff fulfilling a skills shortage role
4. Other children, with priority for admission given to those whose home address (as defined by this policy) is the shortest distance from the School. Children in this criteria will be ranked in order of distance.

### **Definitions relating to the criteria**

1. 'Looked after children' are any children who are (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions.

'Previously looked after children' are any children that ceased to be looked after because they were adopted, became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. This includes children who appear to the Trust to have been in state care outside of England but ceased to be so because they were adopted.

Children will be regarded by the Trust as having been in state care outside 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. Applicants under this criterion will also need to fill in a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) evidencing state care outside of England. The SIF is available from the school website or school office.

2. 'Siblings' – For applications made in the normal admission round a sibling means a brother or sister, legally adopted brother or sister, stepbrother or stepsister, foster brother or sister, or the child of a parent's co-habiting partner; living in the same family unit in the same family household and address who attends the School at the date of application in any year group excluding the final year. Biological and legally adopted siblings who attend the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year will also be treated as siblings irrespective of place of residence. Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings. For in-year applications a sibling is a brother, sister, legally adopted brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the



same family household and address as a child who attends or has been offered a place at the preferred school at the time of application and determination and with a reasonable expectation that the sibling will be attending at the time of admission.

3. This criterion only applies in relation to staff, whether teaching or non-teaching, with a permanent contract to work predominantly at the School (not Trust employees in the REAch2 cluster or central teams). The application of this criterion will be subject to confirmation by an independent Trust non-executive that, on the evidence available, the member of staff has been recruited to fill a post where there is a demonstrable skills shortage. Staff must contact the School Headteacher when applying for a place under this criterion. The Headteacher will provide a letter to the Trust and Local Authority Admissions Team confirming the staff members' permanent employment. For the purposes of this criterion, 'children of School staff' is taken to include a son, daughter or step-son/daughter, or child who is adopted or fostered or for whom a special guardianship order is in place, in all cases providing they are living at the same address as the parent who is employed at the School
4. "Distance" means 'Nearness of children's homes to school' – we use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG.

The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school. Kent County Council does not specify where the point will be for each property. This means that address points are not necessarily taken from each property's front door, a central point or any other defined point. The address point is the location recorded in our software for your home and it may fall anywhere within your property boundary.

A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from a school. In the unlikely event that two or more children have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

### **Tie Breaker**

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break in category '4' above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the School is the same. This process will be independently verified. If a tie-break is required in earlier categories to decide who has priority for admission between two children, distance from the school will be used to decide as measured above.

Where multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family are tied for the final place, we will admit them all, as permitted by the infant class size rules and exceed our PAN.

### **Deadline for Applications**

Applications for admission into Reception as part of the normal admissions round must be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> January. Applications received by the Local Authority after this date may be considered as late applications.

## **Children with an EHC Plan**

Children with an education health and care plan (EHC plan) are admitted to the School under separate statutory procedures managed by the child's Local Authority, and not under this policy.

Where a child with an EHC plan which names the School will be admitted in the 'normal admission round', they will be allocated places in Reception Year before other applications are processed, which will reduce the number of available places within the PAN. At all other times, the child will be admitted even where this means exceeding the PAN.

## **Deferred entry for Reception places**

Parents offered a place in Reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child takes up the place, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Children reach compulsory school age on 31 August, 31 December or 31 March – whichever of those three dates follows (or falls on) the child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the summer term of the school year for which the offer was made.

## **Admission of children outside their normal age group, including for 'summer-born' children**

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so, they should include a written request with their application, setting out the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place and the reasons for their request.

When such a request is made, the Trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case, based on their professional judgement of what is in the best interests of the child, taking account of the evidence and rationale provided by the parents and the views of the School's headteacher. This decision will be communicated to the parents in writing.

## **Children at the School's Nursery**

Parents should note that children who attend the School's nursery will not automatically transfer to Reception Year at the School. An application for admission to Reception Year must be made in the normal way.

## **Waiting Lists**

Where the school receives more applications for Reception places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until 6<sup>th</sup> June after which parents must re-apply for a place in Year 1.

The waiting list will be maintained by the School 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.

A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria (not by date in which the child's name was added). Where places become vacant, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

## **Appeals**

Parents have a statutory right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel against the refusal of a place at the School for their child. Admission appeal panel hearings are conducted strictly in accordance with procedure and criteria set out in the School Admission Appeals Code 2022, which is accessible on the Department for Education's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code>

For more information on how to appeal please visit [Primary school places - Kent County Council](#)

Academies hear their own appeals. Appeals should be lodged to The Clerk of Governors c/o the school (Copperfield Academy, Dover Road East, Gravesend, Kent DA11 ORB)

### **In-year Admissions**

The school manages its own in-year admissions. Parents will need to complete Kent County Council's In-year admission form [In Year Admission Form \(kent.gov.uk\)](http://kent.gov.uk) and submit to the school office at [office@copperfieldacademy.org](mailto:office@copperfieldacademy.org)

Following a meeting between Senior Leaders and families to ensure we meet your children's needs in the most successful way, through from transition to arrival, a start date will be mutually agreed between the parents, Copperfield Academy and the child's current school.

### **Fair Access Protocol**

Copperfield Academy participates in Kent County Council's fair access protocol. For a copy of Kent County Council's fair access protocol, please visit – [In year fair access protocol - KELS](#)

### **Withdrawing Places**

In certain circumstances the Trust may decide to withdraw a place offered if one of the following circumstances occurs:

- Where a parent has not responded to the offer of a place, even after chasing;
- Where fraudulent or intentionally misleading information is used as part of the application; or
- Where the offer has been made in error.