

**Determined In-Year Scheme for Admissions to  
Schools in Oxfordshire for children in year groups  
Reception to Year 11  
for the 2021/22 academic year**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This scheme will operate from 7 June 2021.
- 1.2 A glossary of key terms used in the scheme is shown at Annex A.
- 1.3 The scheme covers admissions for entry to all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Oxfordshire outside the normal admissions rounds for children transferring between phases of education (see the Coordinated Admissions Scheme for more details) for entry to year groups Reception through Year 11 (inclusive).
- 1.4 The scheme also covers all state-funded mainstream Own Admission Authority (OAA) schools in Oxfordshire that have not opted to withdraw from the Scheme.
- 1.5 A state-funded mainstream OAA school in Oxfordshire may opt to withdraw from the Scheme. The school must inform the LA in writing by the last working day in February 2020 so that details can be published in the Scheme and online by 15 March 2020.
- 1.6 A state-funded mainstream OAA school in Oxfordshire that has withdrawn from the Scheme must adhere to the requirements set out in Part 4 of this Scheme.
- 1.7 A list of state-funded mainstream OAA schools in Oxfordshire that are not part of the Scheme will be published online by 15 March 2020 and as part of the determined Scheme (see Annex C).
- 1.8 Applications outside the normal round of admissions (see the Coordinated Admissions Scheme) will be referred to in the Scheme as “in-year applications”.
- 1.9 The Local Authority (LA) has delegated the responsibility for admissions to Sixth Form (Years 12 and/or 13) to schools to administer locally. Admissions to Years 12 and 13 are not included in this scheme. Parents should apply direct to schools for Sixth Form places.
- 1.10 The LA will coordinate in-year admissions to all state-funded mainstream schools in Oxfordshire that are part of the Scheme. Therefore, applications from both residents and non-residents of Oxfordshire for places in schools in Oxfordshire that are part of the Scheme must be made to the LA.
- 1.11 The LA will offer or refuse places at all state-funded mainstream schools that are part of the Scheme. Where the state-funded mainstream school is an OOA school, the offer or refusal will be on behalf of the Admissions Authority for the school. Schools within the Scheme **must not** write direct to parents before the LA has sent a letter.
- 1.12 The Governing Bodies or Academy Committees and/or Directors of state-funded mainstream OAA schools that are part of the Scheme remain responsible for setting admission rules, applying them and determining the offer of places. The LA **will not** make admissions decisions on behalf of state-funded mainstream OAA schools.
- 1.13 Parents resident in Oxfordshire wanting to apply for a state-funded mainstream school that is not in Oxfordshire cannot apply using this Scheme and cannot apply to the LA. Parents are advised to contact the LA where the school is located or the school direct to find out about arrangements for applications and in-year admissions

for that school or area.

1.14 The LA will publicise the Scheme. This will be done by:

- publishing a composite prospectus online by 29 May 2021 called “Changing School”; and
- publicising the Scheme on the LA public website; and
- making arrangements enabling parents to apply online or on paper.

## **2. The Application**

2.1 The LA will make arrangements enabling parents to apply online. Online will be the principal means of application.

2.2 It will also be possible to apply on paper.

2.3 The ‘School Admissions in-Year Transfer’ form will be used for in-year applications to all state-funded mainstream schools that are part of the Scheme.

2.4 The application form (whether online or paper) and/or the accompanying notes will:

- state where and to whom the completed form should be sent/returned; and
- allow the parent to express preferences for (up to three) schools ranked in order of preference where the first preference is the school most wanted; and
- explain that, usually, the parent will receive a maximum of one school place offer per child in response to the application; and
- explain that, subject to the availability of places and the application of the oversubscription criteria, parental preference will be complied with (i.e. a place at the highest preference school will be offered unless it cannot because no places are available or there are too many other applicants with a higher criterion or living closer to the preferred school); and
- enable the parent to give reasons for their preference(s) for the school(s) listed; and
- enable parents who wish to, to state whether their child belongs to a particular faith, for example the Catholic Church or the Church of England, or have other reasons of faith for requesting a particular school; and
- enable parents to provide other reasons for their preference(s) where relevant (e.g. that they work at a school where priority is given to ‘children of staff’ within the oversubscription criteria).

2.5 Parents will be able to request a maximum of 4 preferences on their application (online or paper). These preferences can be for any state-funded mainstream school in Oxfordshire that is part of the Scheme.

2.6 A model approach for how applications will be processed, inclusive of intended timescales, is set out at Annex B. A timetable for in-year admissions for 2021/22 will be published on the LA website.

2.7 Normally an application can be made no more than 6 school weeks before the intended start date.

2.8 However, applications for children to start at the beginning of a term or half term can be made from the beginning of the preceding term or half term:

- Applications for the first half of the Autumn Term 2021 (September/October 2021) can be made from the second half of the Summer Term 2021 (June 2021);

A high volume of applications is expected during June, July and August. Therefore, the Council will operate phased arrangements to process applications as follows:

#### Phase 1

- Applications received by 5pm on Thursday, 17 June 2021 (Closing Date)
- Aim to send outcome notification by 9 July 2021.  
*(The notification may be later where an OAA school has not responded)*

#### Phase 2

- Applications received by 5pm on Thursday, 8 July 2021 (Closing Date)
- Aim to send outcome notification by 23 July 2021.  
*(The notification may be later where an OAA school has not responded)*

#### Phase 3

- Applications received by 5pm on Thursday, 22 July 2021 (Closing Date)
- Aim to send outcome notification by 10 September 2021.  
*(The notification may be later where an OAA school has not responded)*

#### Phase 4

- Applications received by 5pm on Thursday, 9 September 2021 (Closing Date)
- Aim to send outcome notification by 1 October 2021.  
*(The notification may be later where an OAA school has not responded)*

- Applications for the second half of the Autumn Term 2021 (November/December 2021) can be made from the beginning of the Autumn Term 2021 (September 2021);
- Applications for the first half of the Spring Term 2022 (January/February 2022) can be made from the beginning of the second half of the Autumn Term 2021 (November 2021);
- Applications for the second half of the Spring Term 2022 (February/March 2022) can be made from the beginning of the Spring Term 2022 (January 2022);
- Applications for the first half of the Summer Term 2022 (April/May 2022) can be made from the beginning of the second half of the Spring Term 2022 (February 2022);
- Applications for the second half of the Summer Term 2022 (June/July 2022) can be made from the beginning of the Summer Term 2022 (April 2022);

- 2.9 The LA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that parents are provided with information on the key features of the Scheme. This will include making arrangements for parents to apply (online or by making a paper form available) and explaining the admissions process and the admission rules for all state-funded mainstream schools in Oxfordshire. The principal means of providing this information will be online.
- 2.10 The Governing Body or Academy Committee or Directors of any state-funded mainstream OAA school that is part of the Scheme may request parents who wish to list, or have listed, that school on the application to provide additional information to the school on a Supplementary Information Form (SIF). When this is requested, the details and procedural arrangements must be consistent with the requirements of the 2014 School Admissions Code, statute and case law and the Scheme. Information cannot be requested on the SIF that is specifically prohibited by the 2014 School Admissions Code. The SIF will be accessible online on the school's own website. Schools must also make arrangements to provide a paper version of the SIF to parents on request.
- 2.11 If parents complete an application and have listed a state-funded mainstream OAA school on the form but they have not completed any SIF for that school, the application will still be valid. However, if a parent does not complete a SIF this may affect the criterion under which their child is considered.
- 2.12 If a parent completes a SIF for a state-funded mainstream OAA school but does not request a place at that school on the application, the SIF on its own cannot be considered as an application for a place and the child cannot be considered for a place at that school. The SIF is a device to collect additional information not covered by the LA application process to enable the Admissions Authority of the state-funded mainstream OAA school to make an admissions decision based on its oversubscription criteria.
- 2.13 If a parent directly approaches a state-funded mainstream school that is part of the Scheme requesting a place for a child, and the child is within the age range of the school, the parent will be asked to complete an application irrespective whether the school has a vacancy in the relevant year group. If the school receives a completed paper application, the school will pass the application to the LA for processing. If the school asks a parent to complete an application but does not receive the application, the school will notify the LA that a direct approach was made so that the LA is aware that an application is due.
- 2.14 If a parent applies for a place at a state-funded mainstream OAA school that is not part of the Scheme, the LA will notify the parent that this preference/application cannot be processed and ask the parent to approach the relevant school direct. The LA will also notify the relevant school that an application was received and that the parent was asked to apply direct to the school so that the school is aware that an application is due.

### 3. Processing Applications and Offering Places

- 3.1 A model approach for how applications will be processed, inclusive of intended timescales, is set out at Annex B. A timetable for in-year admissions for 2020/21 will be published on the LA website.
- 3.2 The Admissions Authority of a state-funded mainstream OAA school in Oxfordshire that is part of the Scheme may choose to ask the LA to act as its agent and process in-year applications on its behalf. However, the final responsibility for admissions decisions will remain with the Admissions Authority for the state-funded mainstream OAA school. This responsibility cannot be delegated to the LA. Such an arrangement will be termed “agency”.
- 3.3 When reaching an admissions decision, Admissions Authorities **must** comply with Paragraph 2.7 of the 2014 School Admissions Code which states that the decision must not be made by one individual. For state-funded mainstream OAA schools whether they are part of the Scheme or not, the decision must be made by the whole Governing Body or Admissions Committee or all Directors or an admissions committee established to make the decisions.
- 3.4 Where the LA does not have agency, relevant details of a preference for a state-funded mainstream OAA school that is part of the Scheme will be forwarded by the LA to the school concerned so that a decision can be made by the Admissions Authority. The Admissions Authority will then be responsible for determining whether a place can be offered and for notifying the LA of the outcome of the preference. At the time the application is sent by the LA to the school, the LA will not provide the school with any of the following information which is specifically prohibited by Paragraphs 1.9 and 2.4 of the 2014 School Admissions Code:
- details about whether the school is listed as first, second or third preference (prohibited by Paragraph 1.9); or
  - details about a parents’ or child’s disabilities, special educational needs (where the child does not have an Education, Health & Care Plan – EHCP) or medical conditions (prohibited by Paragraphs 1.9 and 2.4); or
  - details of the current/previous school, unless it is a feeder or partner school (prohibited by Paragraph 1.9); or
  - information provided by previous school about past behaviour, attendance, attitude or achievement or that of any other child in the family (prohibited by Paragraph 1.9); or
  - the first language of the parents or the child (prohibited by Paragraph 2.4).
- 3.5 Where the LA does not have agency, schools will hold admissions meetings as necessary (see 3.3 above) to ensure that the timescales set within the Scheme can be met. In practice, all larger schools and some smaller schools that receive a high number of applications are likely to need to arrange meetings to make admissions decisions on a weekly basis. The Department for Education (DfE) advises that decisions of this kind can be taken by a minimum of two appointed representatives (Governors or Directors) and the meeting can be virtual.
- 3.6 When considering whether a place is available the decision will normally be made on the basis of whether the number on roll in the particular year group is less than the

Published Admission Number for the particular school and/or the Published Admission Number for the school when that year group started at the school in the year of entry (if different).

- 3.7 If there are places available in the relevant year group and the number of applications is fewer than the number of available places, the Admissions Authority (which may be the LA or the LA acting on behalf of a state-funded mainstream OAA school that has asked the LA to act as its agent and process applications on its behalf) **must** comply with Paragraph 2.8 of the 2014 School Admissions Code and offer a place to every child who has applied for one without condition or the use of any oversubscription criteria.
- 3.8 If there are places available in the relevant year group but the number of applications exceeds the number of available places, the Admissions Authority (which may be the LA or the LA acting on behalf of a state-funded mainstream OAA school that has asked the LA to act as its agent and process applications on its behalf) **must** decide to whom the place or places are to be offered by prioritising the applications according to the determined and published over-subscription criteria. The Admissions Authority **must not** offer a place to one child ahead of another, where both applications are being considered simultaneously, due to the fact that one application was received at an earlier date or time.
- 3.9 If there are no places available in the relevant year group, the Admissions Authority (which may be the LA or the LA acting on behalf of a state-funded mainstream OAA school that has asked the LA to act as its agent and process applications on its behalf) **must** prioritise the applications according to the determined and published over-subscription criteria but will be unable to offer a place to any of the applicants.
- 3.10 Where the LA does not have agency, the Admissions Authority for a state-funded mainstream OAA school in Oxfordshire that is part of the Scheme **must** communicate the decision that has been made (see 3.7 to 3.9 above) to the LA so that the parent can be sent written notification in a timely manner.
- 3.11 Where the LA has provided information to a state-funded mainstream OAA school as set out in 3.4 above and the LA has received no response from the school after 15 school days from sending the information, the LA will contact the school to request an update. If the school does not provide a satisfactory update or response, the LA will proceed on the basis that the school has decided a place will not be offered. The LA will inform the parent accordingly (see 3.20 below) together with information about how the child's name can be added to the Continued Interest List (see Section 5 below) and information about School Appeals (see Section 6 below).
- 3.12 Where the LA has agency, the LA will apply the admissions criteria determined and published for that school to determine which children should be offered a place as set out in 3.7 to 3.9 above. However, before the LA sends notification to the parent in writing, the LA, acting as agent, will inform the Admissions Authority of the decision that has been reached and the reasons for it so that the Admissions Authority can agree that the decision is correct and that the child or children identified should be offered a place.

- 3.13 The LA is responsible for establishing, in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme, whether a child is eligible for a place at more than one school, or is not eligible to be offered a place at any preferred school or any school in Oxfordshire. The LA then determines whether the child is to be granted or refused admission to a school.
- 3.14 Where the LA processes an in-year application and it is not possible for a place to be offered at any of the preferred schools requested by the parent on the application, and the child is resident in Oxfordshire and the child is at a school within a reasonable distance or the parent has advised of alternative arrangements that have been made or will be made to secure an education for the child that is suitable to his/her age, aptitude and ability (e.g. elective home education), the LA will not offer an alternative school place.
- 3.15 Where the LA processes an in-year application and it is not possible for a place to be offered at any of the preferred schools requested by the parent on the application, and the child is resident in Oxfordshire and the child has no school place (is out of school) or has a school place at a school that is not within a reasonable distance or the parent has indicated that no alternative arrangements have been made or will be made for the child to receive an education suitable to his/her age, aptitude and ability, the LA will determine the nearest school within a reasonable distance that has a place available. The LA will use its measuring policy (see Annex D) to determine the nearest available school.
- 3.16 If the nearest school within a reasonable distance that has a place available (see 3.15 above) is a Community or Voluntary Controlled school or is a school for which the LA has agency (see 3.2 above), the LA will liaise with that school (as set out in 3.12 above) and a place will be reserved.
- 3.17 If the nearest school within a reasonable distance that has a place available (see 3.15 above) is a state-funded mainstream OAA school that is part of the Scheme and for which the LA does not have agency, the LA will approach the school to request a place be reserved on behalf of the child as if an application for a place had been made. The Admissions Authority for the school will consider the application on the same basis as if the LA's notification were an application (or preference) made by the child's parent falling within Section 86 of the 1998 School Standards & Framework Act (see 3.4 above).
- 3.18 If the nearest school within a reasonable distance that has a place available (see 3.15 above) is a state-funded mainstream OAA school that is not part of the Scheme, the LA will approach the school to request a place be reserved on behalf of the applicant as if an application for a place had been made direct to the school by the parent. The Admissions Authority for the school will consider the application on the same basis as if the LA's notification were an application (or preference) made by the child's parent direct to the school falling within Section 86 of the 1998 School Standards & Framework Act (see 3.4 above). The LA will notify the parent that the nearest school within a reasonable distance that has a place available is a school that is not part of the Scheme and advise the parent to make a direct application for a place at that school.
- 3.19 For all schools that are part of the Scheme, the LA will send formal written notification of the offer and/or refusal. Individual schools **must not** contact the

parent in writing or by any other method until the LA has sent formal written notification. Where a place is offered at a Community or Voluntary Controlled school, this offer is made by the LA as Admissions Authority. Where a place is offered at a state-funded mainstream OAA school, the offer is made by the LA on behalf of the Admissions Authority of the school.

- 3.20 The formal written notification should always include a school offer at one of the preferred schools for which the parent applied or an alternative nearest school within a reasonable distance that has a place available or reasons why no alternative school has been offered (e.g. where the child is already on roll at a school within a reasonable distance or the parent has advised of alternative arrangements that have been made or will be made to secure an education for the child that is suitable to his/her age, aptitude and ability). The formal written notification will also always include a date by when the child will be expected to start at the new school (if applicable) and information about whether the child is eligible for free home to school transport. Where a place is not offered at one or more preferred schools for which the parent applied, the formal written notification will also include information about Continued Interest Lists (see Section 5 below) and School Appeals (See Section 6 below).
- 3.21 On certain rare occasions, the LA may send formal written notification that a place cannot be offered at any of the preferred schools for which the parent applied without sending notification of an alternative school offer and the child has no school place (is out of school) or has a school place at a school that is not within a reasonable distance or the parent has indicated that no alternative arrangements have been made or will be made for the child to receive an education suitable to his/her age, aptitude and ability. This will happen where the LA has not yet been able to identify an alternative nearest school within a reasonable distance that has a place available or the school that has been identified is a state-funded mainstream OAA school that has not yet responded to the approach from the LA (see 3.17 and 3.18 above). The LA will send a further formal written notification letter with a school offer as soon as possible after the first written notification was sent. The first notification will be sent in order to allow the parent to request their child to be added to Continued Interest Lists (see Section 5 below) and/or lodge a School Appeal (see Section 6 below).
- 3.22 If the child lives in England but outside Oxfordshire, the LA will notify the current home local authority that a place has been offered at an Oxfordshire school (or an application was made for a place at Oxfordshire school(s) and no place was offered).
- 3.23 An offer of a school place will normally be available for no longer than 6 school weeks from the date on which the offer is made. The formal written notification will specify the date by when the child should start at the new school (see 3.20 above). The LA will not process subsequent repeat applications for the same child that are clearly intended to reserve a place for a longer period.
- 3.24 All Oxfordshire schools, whether or not they are part of the Scheme, **must** comply with the General Data Protection Regulations and the 2018 Data Protection Act. Schools should not provide information about a child to a new receiving school until they have received formal written notification that the child will join the new school (i.e. an offer of a place that has been accepted or the child has left the

current/previous school and has been taken on roll at the new school).

#### 4. Requirements on state-funded mainstream OAA schools that are not part of the Scheme

- 4.1 There is a legal requirement for schools to notify the LA of any in-year application and its outcome. State-funded mainstream OAA schools that are not part of the Scheme must comply with this legal requirement by notifying the LA of any in-year application and its outcome. This information needs to be sent to the link Admissions Officer at the LA.
- 4.2 State-funded mainstream OAA schools that are not part of the Scheme **must** send a formal written notification to the parent of the outcome of the application. Where an offer is made, the school **must** specify a date by when the child should join the school. This start date *should* not be more than 6 school weeks after the date of the offer. If the school believes the child may be eligible for free home to school transport, the school **must** send a copy of the formal written notification and the original application to the LA so that transport eligibility can be determined. If a place cannot be offered, the school **must** provide details of its Continued Interest (or Waiting) List policy, how a child's name can be added to the list and when the list will be discontinued. If a place cannot be offered, the school **must** inform the parent of their right to a school admissions appeal and how they can lodge such an appeal. If a place cannot be offered, and the child is resident in Oxfordshire and has no school place (is out of school) or has a school place at a school that is not within a reasonable distance or the parent has indicated that no alternative arrangements have been made or will be made for the child to receive an education suitable to his/her age, aptitude and ability, the school **must** provide a copy of the original application and the formal written notification without delay, so that the LA can determine the nearest school within a reasonable distance that has a place available (see 3.14 above).
- 4.3 The LA needs correct information about where places are available. Therefore, all state-funded mainstream schools in Oxfordshire **must** regularly update the LA about the number of children on roll in each year group and/or the number of places available in each year group. Schools that have a data-sharing arrangement with the LA automatically provide this information on a weekly basis during term-time and do not need to make a different arrangement. Schools that have no data-sharing arrangement with the LA **must** provide this information at least once every 10 school days.
- 4.4 If the LA does not receive the information in 4.3 above, the LA will contact the individual school in the first instance to try to resolve the issue. If a resolution cannot be reached, and the school is a Voluntary Aided school, non-compliance will be raised with the relevant Diocese. If a resolution cannot be reached, and the school is a Voluntary Aided school, non-compliance will be raised with the Multi-Academy Trust Board and/or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The LA will also report non-compliance that has not been resolved in its annual report to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.
- 4.5 All Oxfordshire schools, whether or not they are part of the Scheme, **must** comply

with the General Data Protection Regulations and the 2018 Data Protection Act. Schools should not provide information about a child to a new receiving school until they have received formal written notification that the child will join the new school (i.e. an offer of a place that has been accepted or the child has left the current/previous school and has been taken on roll at the new school).

- 4.6 All schools in Oxfordshire (including independent schools) **must** inform the LA if a child leaves and the school does not have confirmation of where the child has gone and is not contacted by a new receiving school for information about or records of the child.

## **5. Continued Interest (or Waiting) Lists**

- 5.1 For Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Oxfordshire and some state-funded mainstream OAA schools in Oxfordshire, waiting lists will be known as Continued Interest Lists (CILs).
- 5.2 For some state-funded mainstream OAA schools in Oxfordshire, waiting lists will be known as Waiting Lists (WLs).
- 5.3 For schools and academies outside Oxfordshire, local arrangements and terminology will be used according to the coordinated scheme of the LA for that area and/or the admission arrangements and rules published by the school.
- 5.4 Parents will be provided with details of how to add their child's name to the Continued Interest (or Waiting) List for any state-funded mainstream school in Oxfordshire where a place could not be offered that was listed as a higher preference on the application than the school offered. This system is known as the 'opt-in' system. A child will not automatically be added to the Continued Interest (or Waiting) List for an Oxfordshire school unless the parent requests this in writing or unless a state-funded mainstream OAA school has determined and published a scheme that includes automatically adding a child's name to a Continued Interest (or Waiting) List.
- 5.5 The LA, acting on behalf of all state-funded mainstream schools in Oxfordshire that are part of the Scheme, will maintain (jointly maintain in the case of OAA schools) the Continued Interest (or Waiting) Lists for any year groups where places cannot be offered. These lists will normally be maintained from 1 August 2021 until 30 June 2022. The only exceptions to this will be state-funded mainstream OAA schools that are part of the Scheme that have formally determined that the Continued Interest (or Waiting) List will be discontinued at an earlier or later date.
- 5.6 State-funded mainstream OAA schools that are not part of the Scheme will need to maintain their own Continued Interest (or Waiting List) according to the arrangements determined and published in their admissions arrangements and inform parents about this when they send formal written notification.
- 5.7 Once added, a child's name will remain on the relevant Continued Interest (or Waiting) List until one of the following circumstances occurs:

- a place becomes available that is offered to the child; or
  - the parent request in writing that the Admission Authority maintaining the list should remove their child's name from the list; or
  - the list ceases to be maintained (see 5.5 or 5.6 above).
- 5.8 In the case of state-funded mainstream OAA schools that are part of the Scheme, the relevant Admissions Authority will liaise with the LA to ensure that the data held by the LA is kept up to date.
- 5.9 The Continued Interest (or Waiting) List will be maintained in order of priority according to the published admission arrangements and rules of the relevant school. Children will not be organised on a list based on the date or time an application was made.
- 5.10 If a place becomes available at a state-funded mainstream OAA school, that school will determine to whom the place should be offered from those listed on the Continued Interest (or Waiting) List. The expectation will be that the place will be offered to the child whose name appears at the top of the list.

## 6. School Appeals

- 6.1 For all state-funded mainstream schools that are part of the Scheme, the LA will provide parents with details when sending the formal written notification of how to lodge a school admissions appeal where a place could not be offered that was listed as a higher preference on the application than the school offered.
- 6.2 Appeals for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Oxfordshire are handled by the Committee Services department of Oxfordshire County Council and parents will receive information about the online appeals process available at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals)
- 6.3 Some state-funded mainstream OAA schools in Oxfordshire that are part of the Scheme have purchased the school appeals service offered by the Committee Services department of Oxfordshire County Council and parents will receive information about the online appeals process available at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals)
- 6.4 Appeals for some state-funded mainstream OAA schools in Oxfordshire that are part of the Scheme are arranged by a different organisation and parents will receive information about the how to lodge a school admissions appeal for that school.
- 6.5 State-funded mainstream OAA schools in Oxfordshire that are not part of the Scheme **must** inform parents when the formal written response is sent about the right to a school admissions appeal if a place is not being offered at the school.
- 6.6 The Committee Services department publishes an online list of schools at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals) where appeals are not arranged by the department.

## **7. Queries about the operation of the Scheme**

7.1 Queries about the operation of the Scheme should be directed to:

School Admissions  
Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
New Road  
Oxford  
OX1 1ND

Email: [admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## ANNEX A

### GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

#### **Academies**

Academies are state-funded independent schools that are directly funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (see below). Academies are self-governing and most are set up as registered charities or operated by other educational charities, and may receive additional support from personal or corporate sponsors, either financially or in kind.

These schools are not controlled by Local Government. However, they **must** participate in the coordinated admissions process and they are subject to the School Admissions Code and the terms of their Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

#### **Admission arrangements and rules**

The arrangements and rules for a particular school or schools that determine the procedures and decision-making for admitting pupils to the school(s).

#### **Admission Authority**

The body responsible for setting and applying admission rules for a school or schools. In the case of schools that are Community or Voluntary Controlled (see below), the responsible body is the Local Authority. However, for any other type of school (i.e. academies, free schools, foundation and trust schools, University Technical Colleges (UTCs), studio schools and voluntary aided schools), the responsible body is the individual school's governing body or academy committee or trust board.

#### **Community Schools**

A state-funded school for which the LA is the Admissions Authority (see above).

#### **Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)**

An executive agency sponsored by the Department for Education:

- accountable for £58 billion of funding for the education and training sector, providing assurance that public funds are properly spent, achieving value for money for the tax payer and delivering the policies and priorities set by the Secretary of State;
- that regulates academies, further education and sixth-form colleges, and training providers, intervening where there is risk of failure or where there is evidence of mismanagement of public funds;
- delivering major projects and operating key services in the education and skills sector, such as school capital programmes, the National Careers Service, the National Apprenticeship Service and the Learning Records Service

#### **Free Schools**

Schools funded by the ESFA, independent of local authority (LA) control, self-governing, registered as a charity (or part of a charity) and usually set up and/or run by parents, teachers, charities or businesses. They have a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education that

stipulates that they **must** participate in the coordinated admissions arrangements and conform to the requirements of the School Admissions Code. The Governors or Directors of a Free School set admissions rules and make admissions decisions.

### **Funding Agreement**

A legal document between the Secretary of State for Education (via the ESFA) and a provider.

### **Infant schools**

A school for children aged 5 to 7 (Years Reception to Year 2) or 3 to 7 (if the school has attached nursery provision).

### **Junior schools**

A school for children aged 7 to 11 (Years 3 to 6).

### **The LA**

In this document "LA" refers to Oxfordshire County Council.

### **Measuring policy**

The LA will measure home to school distance using the straight line distance. See Annex D for more details.

### **Own admission authority (OAA) schools**

This term is used to describe any school which is not Community or Voluntary Controlled (i.e. academies, free schools, foundation and trust schools, University Technical Colleges (UTCs), studio schools and voluntary aided schools). The Local Authority is not the Admission Authority for these schools.

### **Parent**

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' as:

- all natural parents, whether they are married or not;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person (having care of a child or young person means that a person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child, is considered to be a parent in education law).

Having parental responsibility means assuming all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority that a parent of a child has by law. People other than a child's natural parents can acquire parental responsibility through:

- being granted a residence order;
- being appointed a guardian;
- being named in an emergency protection order (although parental responsibility in such a case is limited to taking reasonable steps to safeguard or promote the child's welfare);

- adopting a child (in the case of step-parents) in agreement with the child's mother (and other parent if that person also has parental responsibility for the child) or as the result of a court order.

Where a child's parents are not married to each other, the child's father can gain parental responsibility by:

- registering the child's birth jointly with the mother;
- through a 'parental responsibility agreement' between him and the child's mother;
- as the result of a court order.

In addition, a Local Authority can acquire parental responsibility if it is named in the care order for a child.

### **Primary schools**

A school for children aged 5 to 11 (Years Reception to Year 6) or 3 to 11 (if the school has attached nursery provision).

### **Published Admission Number (PAN)**

This is the number of places the school will offer to start in the relevant year group (Reception year group, Year 3, Year 7 or Year 10) in the allocation year subject to receiving enough applications for places. A school cannot refuse to admit a child if the PAN has not been reached. A school can choose to (or be required to) admit children above the PAN.

### **The Scheme**

The In-Year Scheme for Admissions to Schools in Oxfordshire for children in year groups Reception to Year 11 for the 2020/21 academic year.

### **School Admissions in-Year Transfer' form**

The application form supplied by the LA on paper or electronically which needs to be used by all parents making an in-year application for a transfer to a state-funded mainstream school that is part of the Scheme.

### **Schools**

In this document "school" refers to any state-funded mainstream establishment (see below) for children aged 4 to 18. Special schools are not mainstream schools and are not covered by this scheme. A child can usually only attend a special school if he/she has an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP).

### **Secondary schools**

A school for children aged 11 to 16 (Years 7 to 11) or 11 to 18 (where the school has an attached Sixth Form).

### **State-funded mainstream school**

Any school that is funded by Central Government (whether via the Local Authority or via the ESFA). This is all Academies, Community schools, Foundation schools, Free schools, Studio Schools, Trust schools, University Technical Colleges (UTCs), Voluntary Aided schools and Voluntary Controlled schools. Independent (fee-paying) schools are not state-funded mainstream schools. This scheme does not cover independent schools. Parents will not be able to apply for a place at an independent school using this scheme.

### **Studio schools**

A school for children aged 14 to 18 (Year 10 to 13) that is designed to give students practical skills in workplace environments as well as traditional academic and vocational courses of study. Studio schools are funded by the ESFA. Studio Schools usually run on a business model where students wear business attire and the school day operates business hours.

### **Trust Schools**

A school funded by the ESFA, independent of local authority (LA) control, self-governing, registered as a charity (or part of a charity) and run by a Trust. They have a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education that stipulates that they must participate in the coordinated admissions arrangements and conform to the requirements of the School Admissions Code. The Governors or Directors of a Trust School set admissions rules and make admissions decisions.

### **University Technical Colleges (UTCs)**

A school/college for children aged 14 to 18 (Years 10 to 13) which specialises in technical studies and is sponsored by a university. It offers full-time courses which combine practical and academic studies. Employers are involved from the start in shaping the curriculum. UTCs are funded by the ESFA. UTCs usually run on a business model where students wear business attire and the school day operates business hours.

### **Voluntary Aided schools**

State-funded schools in England and Wales in which a Foundation or Trust (usually a religious organisation), contributes to building costs and has a substantial influence in the running of the school. Such schools have more autonomy than Voluntary Controlled schools. In most cases the Foundation or the Trust owns the buildings. The governing body of these schools is responsible for setting admissions rules and making admissions decisions.

### **Voluntary Controlled schools**

A state-funded school for which the LA is the Admissions Authority (see above).

## ANNEX B

### MODEL PROCESS

#### State-funded mainstream schools in Oxfordshire that are part of the Scheme

Event	Action by	Remarks
Application received	LA	Details added to database within 48 hours to be part of 'batch' of applications waiting to be processed for the relevant week (applications received until 5pm each Thursday during term-time).
Processing	LA	<p>If one or more preferences is for a state-funded mainstream OAA school that is part of the Scheme where the LA does not have agency, relevant details of all preferences in the 'batch' sent to the school by the first working day of the following school week (usually Monday).</p> <p>Preferences for Community or Voluntary Controlled schools or for schools for which the LA has agency collated and the school notified that applications have been received and requested to confirm availability of places.</p>
Decision making	Admissions Authority	<p>Within a maximum of 15 school days from the Thursday in term-time after the application was received for most applications. For state-funded mainstream OAA schools for which the LA does not have agency, the LA receives notification of the decision by the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> day.</p> <p>However, complex cases may take 15 school days or more from the Thursday in term-time after the application was received. For state-funded mainstream OAA schools for which the LA does not have agency, the LA receives notification of the decision by the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> day or as soon after as possible.</p>
Determination	LA	No more than 2 working days after the completion of decision-making for all preferred schools.
Notification	LA	Formal written notification sent on the day of determination or on the next working day.
Start date	Parent and School	No later than date on formal written notification. Usually within 15 school days of notification and no later than the start of the following term or half-term or 6 school weeks whichever is the sooner.

**Model process for State-funded mainstream schools in Oxfordshire that are not part of the Scheme**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Action by</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Application received	School / Admissions Authority	Add details to the 'batch' waiting to be processed. Notify the LA of details of the application that has been received.
Decision making & Determination	Admissions Authority	<p>Within a maximum of 15 school days from the Thursday in term-time after the application was received for most applications. The LA receives notification of the decision / determination by the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> day.</p> <p>However, complex cases may take 15 school days or more from the Thursday in term-time after the application was received. The LA receives notification of the decision / determination by the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> day or as soon after as possible.</p>
Notification	School / Admissions Authority	Formal written notification sent on the day of determination or on the next working day. The LA is sent a copy of the formal written notification or otherwise formally informed of the outcome.
Transport eligibility assessment	LA	Assessment made within 2 working days of the LA receiving formal notification from the school / Admissions Authority. The LA to send a formal written notification if the child is eligible for free home to school transport.
Start date	Parent and School	No later than date on formal written notification. Usually within 15 school days of notification and no later than the start of the following term or half-term or 6 school weeks whichever is the sooner.

## ANNEX C

### STATE-FUNDED MAINSTREAM OAA SCHOOLS THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE SCHEME ON 1 NOVEMBER 2019

The following schools are not part of the Scheme and process their own in-year applications. An in-year application must be made direct to these schools using the form provided by the school:

Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE Primary School  
Bampton CE Primary School  
Bicester Technology Studio  
The Blake CE Primary School, Witney  
Brize Norton Primary School  
Dr South's Church of England Primary School, Islip  
Goring CE Primary School  
Heyford Park Free School, Upper Heyford, Bicester  
John Henry Newman Academy, Littlemore, Oxford  
( Kidmore End Church of England Primary School ) – from January 2020  
North Leigh CE Primary School  
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Oxford  
St Christopher's CE Primary School, Langford  
St Christopher's CE Primary School, Cowley, Oxford  
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame  
St Mary and St John CE Primary School, Oxford  
St Peter's CE School, Alvescot  
Tyndale Community School  
Wykham Park Academy, Banbury

## ANNEX D

### MEASURING DISTANCES FROM HOME TO SCHOOL

#### **The straight line distance calculated by Oxfordshire County Council**

For admissions purposes for all schools where the Local Authority (LA) is the Admissions Authority for the school, and any OAA schools that have adopted the LA's measuring system, the straight line distance from home to school will be calculated.

The start point of the measurement is the “**seed point**” of the home address. The “seed point” is provided by Ordnance Survey from information compiled from Royal Mail and Councils via Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). The seed point normally falls within the bounds of a property. The accuracy of seed points is to the nearest ten centimetres and uses the British Co-ordinate System (Easting/Northing). It is possible to move the location of an individual seed point, but this is not necessary for most addresses. It is not possible to verify the individual location of every seed point prior to measuring due to the number of addresses in Oxfordshire and surrounding areas.

The end point of the straight line distance will be determined by the Admission Authority for each school. Where the LA is not the Admissions Authority, the relevant Admissions Authority will provide the determined end point to the LA.

The calculation of the distance will be made in metres using a Pythagoras calculation. This calculation will be converted into miles by dividing the distance by 1609.344 to achieve a distance in miles accurate to three decimal places.

For addresses outside the British Coordinate System an internet mapping solution will be used to determine a start point using longitude and latitude via [getlatlong.net/](http://getlatlong.net/). A straight line distance will then be calculated to the end point at the school in statute miles using [www.nhc.noaa.gov/gccalc.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gccalc.shtml)

#### **“shortest safe route” for home to school travel assessments**

This is measured from the same start point defined in the straight line distance measuring rules (see above). From the start point the route firstly connects to the nearest point of the digitised network.

The digitised network is constructed from road data supplied by Ordnance Survey called the Integrated Transport Network (ITN). The Integrated Transport Network has been accurately digitised to measure along the centre of roads and takes corners at right angles. This is the same underlying information used by internet-based mapping solutions (e.g. Google Maps). However, the LA has a more accurate start point than internet-based mapping solutions and the ITN has been augmented by the LA to take into account other available public routes (e.g. alleyways, public footpaths, bridleways, etc). The augmented ITN used by the LA is accurate to at least 1 metre.

All 548,000 kilometres of roads in Great Britain are accurately mapped in a consistent and logical network. The network does not include routes that are not defined as public; these include crossing parks with no paths where the park is not open and available all the time, “short-cuts” across patches of open land without paths, or footpaths across private land which are not defined by Ordnance Survey as public routes.

The end point of the route is the nearest open gate of the school first arrived at from the direction of travel that is officially available for use by students for entry and exit to the school site at the start and end of the school day. The location of these gates has been set by the Admissions Authority. The LA consults with each individual school annually to ensure accurate placement of gates and their availability for use.

The shortest safe route is established using an algorithm within the bespoke software used by the LA. This software is called RouteFinder and is produced by Higher Mapping Solutions ([www.highermappingsolutions.com](http://www.highermappingsolutions.com)). This programme integrates with the LA's database (ONE) which is supplied by Capita Children's Services ([www.capitaeducationsoftware.co.uk](http://www.capitaeducationsoftware.co.uk)).

RouteFinder measures in kilometres and the measurement is converted into miles accurate to three decimal places, which gives an accurate reading up to 1.609344 metres.

The shortest safe route is not necessarily a driving route because it may use, in whole or in part, a non-driveable route (e.g. footpaths). The shortest safe route is also not necessarily a walking route because, for example, where the measurement uses a road, the route is along the centre of the road not along the edge (pavement or equivalent) of the road. In calculating the shortest safe route, certain parts of the network of roads and/or paths have been specified as unsafe and the route will use an alternative which will be longer. This longer distance will be used to determine whether a child is eligible for free home to school travel assistance.

Other measuring systems may give a different measurement but the Council cannot take a measurement from another measuring system into account because this would lead to inconsistency in the method used to measure the shortest safe route and determine a child's eligibility for free home to school travel assistance.

## **Determined**

Paragraph 1.46 of the 2014 School Admissions Code requires Admission Authorities (and/or the Local Authority) to determine Admission Arrangements by 28 February each year regardless of whether a consultation has taken place.

[Objections to these arrangements and rules can be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year.](#)

**25/02/2020**

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Date

*Lucy Butte*

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Signature

Director of Children's Services