



## GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

### Admissions Policy

This document sets out the admission arrangements for Great Heights Academy Trust and complies with Annex B to the Funding Agreement which is an agreement between the Trust and the Secretary of State. Any changes to the arrangements set out in the Funding Agreement must be approved in advance by the Secretary of State.

The Trust will comply with all relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice (the School Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice) as they apply at any given time.

The Trust Board is the Admissions Authority and therefore any reference in the codes to admission authorities shall be read as the Trust Board. In particular, the Trust will take part in the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme run by Calderdale Local Authority – please see schedule 2 at the back of this policy for the 2020/2021 timetable.

### Calderdale Schools within the Trust

The Greetland Academy  
[www.greetlandacademy.org.uk](http://www.greetlandacademy.org.uk)

West Vale Primary School  
[www.westvale.calderdale.sch.uk](http://www.westvale.calderdale.sch.uk)

#### 1 Application for Places

Parents can register with either school of their choice at any time following the birth of a child to be sent admission information. Parents are asked to apply for a place at either school online directly with Calderdale Council  
[www.calderdale.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/admissions).

#### 2 Allocation of Places

There are 60 reception places available at The Greetland Academy and 26 places available at West Vale Primary School each year. **Admissions for each school will be treated in their entirety separately. If an application is made for one school within the Trust consideration cannot be given for a place at any other schools in the Trust.** Allocation of places is made using the following criteria:

2.1 Where fewer applications than the figure quoted above are received, the Trust will offer a place to all those who have applied.

2.2 Where the number of applications for admissions exceeds the above figures, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below and in the priority order stated:

- 2.2.1 Pupils who are in public care (children 'Looked After'), or pupils who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after.
- 2.2.2 Pupils who have a brother or sister (including step/half brothers and sisters) permanently resident in the same household and currently attending the school and who will be at school at the start of the academic year, in other words, excluding pupils in their final year.
- 2.2.3 Proximity of the pupil's permanent home address to the school. This will be calculated using a 'straight line' measure of distance from the front door of the child's permanent home address to the front gate of the respective academy. For The Greetland Academy: Key Stage 1 site at Sunnybank. Proof of residence can be requested at any time throughout the admissions process and an offer withdrawn if misleading information is used to gain an advantage (The Local Authority GIS system (Geographical Information System) will be used.

Please see Appendix I for additional information relevant to the oversubscription criteria.

### **3 Notification of Places**

In accordance with the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme run by Calderdale MBC, the local authority will make the formal offer of a place to parents or guardians on behalf of the Trust Board. You will receive notification either by letter or email. The individual schools will also contact parents to either accept or reject the offer of a place. This will in no way affect parents' right of appeal for a place at another school but will allow the school to re-allocate a rejected offer to another child.

### **4 Fair Access Protocol**

As part of the Co-ordinated Admissions arrangements with the local authority each school may accept hard-to-place pupils onto the school role from time to time in accordance with the Local Authority In-Year Fair Access agreement. These are special cases arranged outside the boundaries of this admissions policy.

## **5 Appeals Procedure**

Parents who wish to appeal against the decision not to offer their child a place at the Trust must appeal to Calderdale MBC. If a place has not been offered in the first instance an appeals letter will be sent direct from Calderdale MBC explaining the process of appeal.

The appeals will be heard by an independent appeals panel. The Appeals Panel will take all reasons and the admission authority's admission arrangements into consideration when reaching its decision. The Appeal's Panel's decision will be completely independent of any previous decision taken by the admissions authority. The decision of the independent appeals panel is binding and final. Only one appeal for a school in the same academic year will be considered unless there have been significant changes in the circumstances relevant to the application.

## **6 Re-Allocation (Waiting) list**

Where an application for a place at either school has been submitted and refused as a consequence of insufficient places, then a pupil's name will be retained on a waiting list until the end of the academy year where this has been requested by the parent/guardian.

Waiting lists will be maintained in the order of the published oversubscription criteria.

## **7 In-Year Applications**

In year places will become available when the number in each class falls below 30 (Greetland) or 26 (West Vale). For parents requesting a transfer of primary school the 'In Year Application Form' must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences (up to a maximum of three). This is applicable to parents/guardians resident in the Local Authority area wishing to express a preference for their child to be admitted to a school within the Local Authority area or another Local Authority's area.

## **8 Consultation**

The Trust will consult with local groups and schools if changes to these arrangements have been proposed. They will consult on the full admission arrangements every seven years even if no changes are proposed. Admission information will be made available on the Trust website.

## **9 Record Keeping**

Any parents who apply for a place for their child at any of the Trust schools will have their information on the school's records during the admissions process. If the child

successfully receives a place at the school then their personal information will be kept and input to the child's school file. If the child is unsuccessful then the details will be placed on a waiting list. A parent can request for their child to be removed from the waiting list at any time. The school will keep the parent and child's details on the waiting list and review the list annually, if you are happy to remain on the list then your personal details will be held securely until a place becomes available or until you ask to be removed from the list. If you no longer wish to remain on the waiting list, please notify the school so that your information can be confidentially and securely destroyed.

## SCHEDULE 2

### Timetable of Co-ordinated Scheme

19 November 2020	Admission to Primary School Leaflet available for parents/carers. Applications must be made online from this date.
15 January 2021	<b>CLOSING DATE:</b> Deadline for submitting online applications.
16 April 2021	<b>NATIONAL OFFER DAY.</b> Notification to parents.
30 April 2021	Last date for initial round of re-allocation and appeal requests
14 May 2021	Parents/carers notified of the outcome of reallocation requests.
June/July 2021	Appeals will take place

## Appendix I

### Additional information relevant to the oversubscription criteria:

#### **Tie Break**

Where the offer of places to all the applicants in any of the categories listed above would lead to over-subscription, the available places will be offered to those living nearest to the school. 'Straight Line Distance)' will be used as a measure.

#### **Pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs**

The admission of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs is dealt with as a completely separate procedure. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice January 2015 provides statutory guidance on the duties, policies and procedures relating to children and young people with SEN and disabled children and young people.

**Looked After Child** has the same meaning as in section 22 of the Children Act 1989, and this means any child in the care of the local authority or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents). This also applies to previously looked after children but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order.

**Siblings (Brothers and sisters)** include children with brothers and sisters (including step-brothers or sisters) of statutory school age, living at the same address, in attendance at the same school, or a school on the same site, on the date of admission.

**Twins or Triplets** – where a family of twins or triplets request admission and there is only one school place available, it will be left to the family to decide whether or not they wish to take up the place for one of their children, and appeal for the second or third child in the same year group, or to decline the place.

**Live** – in all categories 'live' means the child's permanent home address. A child is normally regarded as living with a parent or guardian and we will use the parent or guardian's address for admissions purposes. You cannot lodge a child with a friend or relation to gain a place at a school. For admission purposes only one address can be used as a child's permanent address. When a child lives with one or more parent/carer, at different addresses, we will use the preference expressed by the parent/carer, at the address where the child lives the majority of time during the school week as the main place of residence.

Where there is more than one application from a postal address contained within a block of flats, places will be decided by random allocation. If two or more pupils live equidistant from the school, the distance each pupil lives by road from the preferred school will be measured and the place offered to the pupil who lives the nearest by this means. In the event of this being equal, places will then be decided by random allocation.

**Direct/Straight Line Distance** – Distance will be calculated using a straight line measurement from the pupil's home to the closest designated school gate.

Distances will be calculated using the Local Authority's GIS system (Geographical Information System). To ensure consistency applies, all measurements will be carried out by the Local Authority's GIS system and no other method of measuring distance will be considered. Each property has a coordinate taken from Ordnance Survey ADDRESS-POINT data. This is the point from which distance measurements will be taken.