



**CO-ORDINATED SCHEME FOR ADMISSIONS TO:
LOWER, PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002 and supported by The School Admission (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008, requires Local Authorities to formulate a scheme for co-ordinating admission arrangements for all maintained schools in their area. Academies are required to participate in the co-ordinated scheme.
- 1.2 A school is defined as any maintained community, voluntary controlled, foundation, trust school or voluntary aided school or academy in the Central Bedfordshire Council area.
- 1.3 Central Bedfordshire Council, acting as the Local Authority is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools. The admission authority for foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools and academies is the governing body.
- 1.4 This scheme will apply to all lower, primary and middle schools and academies for admissions in the Central Bedfordshire Council area from September 2015.
- 1.5. Any reference to Central Bedfordshire is a reference to the administrative area of the unitary authority.
- 1.6 Central Bedfordshire Council uses the equal preference system to process admission applications, as outlined below:
 - 1.6.1 Stage 1

All first, second and third preference applications are considered equally against the admissions criteria. At this stage the Council does not distinguish between first, second and third preference applications. For example, if the school has 120 places and there are 150 first, second and third preference applications all are considered equally against the admissions criteria.

1.6.2 Stage 2

If a pupil qualifies for a place at more than one school the parent's highest ranked preference (i.e. first or second preference on the parent's application form) will be offered, and any lower ranking offers will be disregarded. For example a parent's first and third preferences might both qualify for a place, in which case the parent would be offered their first preference, leaving the place at the third preference school available for another pupil.

2. The Scheme

- 2.1. This scheme is for admissions in the normal year of entry for:
 - a) Lower Schools and Academies
 - b) Primary Schools and Academies
 - c) Middle Schools and Academies
- 2.2. There will be a standard form known as the Common Application Form (CAF). Parents of children living in Central Bedfordshire will also be able to apply online for a school or academy place.
- 2.3. The CAF or online application will be used for the purposes of admitting children into the first year of a:
Lower or Primary school/academy (Year R), or
Middle school/academy (Year 5).
- 2.4. The CAF or online application form will enable parents/carers to:
express a preference for up to 3 schools / academies
rank their preferences
give reasons for their preferences
- 2.5. Information will be provided on the admissions process in the form of the admissions booklet and will contain information on:
 - a) the schools and academies in Central Bedfordshire
 - b) dates of open evenings (where applicable)
 - c) Schools and academies admission numbers and admissions criteria
 - d) how to complete an application
 - e) how places are allocated
 - f) timetable for the application and allocation process
 - g) school transport
 - h) who to contact for advice
- 2.6. **Admissions for the normal year of entry into a Lower or Primary School (Year R):**
 - 2.6.1 Parents of all children born between **01/09/10 and 31/08/11** and living in Central Bedfordshire will be able to apply for a school or academy place online or by using the CAF. The CAF will be available from any local lower

or primary school or academy, from the School Admissions Team or it can be downloaded from the Local Authority website.

- 2.6.2 Parents of children living in Central Bedfordshire who wish to apply for a primary or lower school or academy place in another Local Authority must apply online or use the CAF.
- 2.6.3 Parents of children who do not live in Central Bedfordshire but who wish to apply for a place at a Central Bedfordshire school or academy must make their application to their home Local Authority.
- 2.6.4 Deferred Entry: Parents of children offered a place for admission in September may defer the admission until January or April, provided the child is not of statutory school age. Parents cannot defer admission beyond statutory school age nor beyond the academic year for which the place was offered.

2.7. Admission into the normal year of entry into a Middle School (Year 5)

- 2.7.1. Parents of all children living in Central Bedfordshire and attending a lower school or academy in the Local Authority area will receive the details about the transfer process and how to apply.
- 2.7.2. Parents of children attending a lower school or academy, in Central Bedfordshire who do not live in the Local Authority area must make their application to their home Local Authority.
- 2.7.3. Parents of children living in Central Bedfordshire but not attending a lower school or academy, in the Local Authority area and who wish to apply for a middle school or academy place may make their application online or obtain the CAF and School Admissions booklet from the School Admissions Team. The CAF and booklet are also available to download from the Local Authority website.

3. Timetable for admissions into Lower, Primary and Middle schools

Lower/Primary:

- 3.1. In **September 2014**, the Local Authority admissions booklet and the CAF will be available to parents of children living in Central Bedfordshire. Parents of children who do not live in Central Bedfordshire must apply to their home Local Authority.
- 3.2. Completed online applications and CAFs are to be submitted to the School Admissions Team by **15 January 2015**. Parents of children who do not live in Central Bedfordshire must have applied to their home Local Authority by this date.

Middle transfer:

- 3.3. In **September 2014** information is sent to parents of all children attending a lower school or academy in the Local Authority area. Parents of children

who do not live in Central Bedfordshire will be advised to contact their home Local Authority in order to make their application.

- 3.4. Completed online applications are to be submitted and CAFs are to be returned to the School Admissions Team by **15 January 2015**. If the child is attending a lower school in Central Bedfordshire a CAF can be returned via the lower school or academy who will forward it to the School Admissions Team. Parents of children who do not live in Central Bedfordshire must have applied to their home Local Authority by this date.

Lower, Primary and Middle admissions

- 3.5. By **13 February 2015** All preferences will be logged on the database and the School Admissions Team will notify the admission authority for each foundation, trust school or voluntary aided school and academy of every nomination that has been made for that school or academy. Applications for places in other Local Authority schools / academies are sent to those authorities.
- 3.6. By **11 March 2015** the admission authority for each foundation, trust or voluntary aided school and academy will consider all applications for their school or academy, apply their oversubscription criteria and provide the School Admissions Team with a list of those applicants ranked according to their oversubscription criteria. All preferences will be ranked equally against the admissions criteria.
- 3.7. The School Admissions Team will process the ranked lists against the ranked lists of other schools or academies nominated and:
- where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools or academies, that school or academy will be allocated to the child
- where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools or academies, they will be allocated a place at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference
- 3.8. Between **18 March 2015 and 25 March 2015** information will be exchanged with other Local Authorities on potential offers (i.e. a Central Bedfordshire child applying for a place in another Local Authority area or a child from another Local Authority applying for a place at a Central Bedfordshire school or academy) to determine the allocation of a place at the highest ranked preference.
- 3.9. Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools or academies, the child will be allocated a place at the nearest appropriate school or academy with a vacancy, but only if the child is resident in Central Bedfordshire. If the child does not reside in Central Bedfordshire, parents will be invited to request a place at any of the schools or academies that still have vacancies, after the allocation process. Priority will always be given to those parents who have expressed a preference for

a particular school or academy over those who have not.

- 3.10 On **14 April 2015** all middle schools and academies will have access to details of the pupils to be offered places via the web based School Admissions Module.
- 3.11. On **16 April 2015** the School Admissions Team will post letters to parents of children living in Central Bedfordshire notifying them of the outcome of their applications, including those who have applied for a place in another Local Authority school or academy. Parents who have applied online will be able to access the decision online. Parents of children who do not live in Central Bedfordshire will be notified by their home Local Authority on the date determined by that Local Authority.
- 3.12 By **30 April 2015** parents are to notify School Admissions Team of their rejection of the place offered if this is no longer required. If parents do not respond by this date it will be assumed that they have accepted the place.
- 3.13 By **30 April 2015** parents who have applied on time and want to change their preference from their original offer need to have submitted a change of preference by this date.

4. Late Applications

- 4.1 The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round is **15 January 2015**. Applications received after this date will be considered late and will be processed after the initial allocation of places.
- 4.2. Late applications received from 16 January until 16 April will be processed as part of the initial late allocation round and will be logged onto the database by **8 May 2015**.
- 4.3. The School Admissions Team will notify the admission authority for each foundation, trust school and voluntary aided school and academy of every nomination that has been made for that school or academy by **8 May 2015**.
- 4.4. Applications for places in other Local Authority schools / academies will be sent to those authorities by **8 May 2015**.
- 4.5. By **22 May 2015** the admission authority for each foundation, trust and voluntary aided school and academy will consider all their initial late applications for their school or academy, apply their oversubscription criteria and provide the School Admissions Team with a list of those applicants ranked according to their oversubscription criteria. All preferences will be ranked equally against the admissions criteria.
- 4.6. The School Admissions Team will process the ranked lists against the ranked lists of other schools or academies nominated and:

where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools or academies, that school or academy will be allocated to the child

where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools or academies, they will be allocated a place at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference

- 4.7. Information will be exchanged with other Local Authorities on potential offers (i.e. a Central Bedfordshire child applying for a place in another Local Authority area or a child from another Local Authority applying for a place at a Central Bedfordshire school or academy) to determine the allocation of a place at the highest ranked preference.
- 4.8. Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools or academies, the child will be allocated a place at the nearest appropriate school or academy with a vacancy, but only if the child is resident in Central Bedfordshire. If the child does not reside in Central Bedfordshire, parents will be invited to request a place at any of the schools or academies that still have vacancies, after the allocation process. Priority will always be given to those parents who have expressed a preference for a particular school or academy over those who have not.
- 4.9. On **8 June 2015** the School Admissions Team will post letters to parents of children living in Central Bedfordshire notifying them of the outcome of their applications, if part of the initial late allocation round, including those who have applied for a place in another Local Authority school or academy where the result of this decision has been received by the timescales outlined above.
- 4.10. Late applications received on or after the 17 April will be processed from **9 June 2015**.

5. Waiting Lists

- 5.1. Pupils not offered a place at their highest preference school or academy or at any of their preferred schools or academies are kept on a waiting list to be re-allocated if places become available. Waiting lists will be maintained until **the end of the academic year for 2015/16** for Community and Voluntary controlled schools. Waiting lists for schools who are their own admission authority (foundation, trust and VA) and academies may operate different waiting list arrangements.

6. In-year Admissions (applications received on or after 1 September)

- 6.1. An in-year admission is an application made for a child to be admitted outside of the co-ordinated admissions scheme for the normal year of entry or for another year group within an academy/school.

Appendix 1

- 6.2. The local authority will co-ordinate in-year applications for community and voluntary controlled schools as the admission authority for those schools.
- 6.3. The local authority will co-ordinate in-year applications made for academies and own admission authority schools who opt-in to the local authority's scheme for in-year admissions.
- 6.4. The Local Authority will make an application form available to enable parents to apply for an in-year place at any academy or school within the Local Authority area, which will enable parents to express a preference for up to 3 schools or academies and to rank their preferences. The form will be available on the Local Authority website as an e-form or can be downloaded.
- 6.5. The application will be dealt with by the local authority for those schools which are community or voluntary controlled schools or those academies and own admission authority who have opted in to the local authority's in-year co-ordination scheme.
- 6.6. Any application received by the School Admissions Team for an academy or own admission authority school whom has opted out of the local authority's in-year co-ordination scheme will be forwarded to them to process.
- 6.7. All Academies and own admission authority schools who deal with their own in-year admissions (i.e. opted out of the in-year co-ordination scheme) will be required to determine the child's application and notify the parent and local authority of the outcome.
- 6.8. Pupils not offered a place at a community or voluntary controlled school or at an academy or own admission authority school who has opted in to the local authority's in-year co-ordination scheme will be kept on a waiting list which will be maintained for the academic year of admission. Academies and own admission authority schools who have opted out will have their own waiting list arrangements. In all cases where a place cannot be offered parents will have the right of appeal.
- 6.9. If all of the preferred academies and schools are full and the pupil lives in Central Bedfordshire, a place will generally be offered at the nearest academy or school with places available, unless the child is already attending a local school or academy.
- 6.10. Any place offered is usually expected to be taken up by the child within 4-6 weeks or by the start of the next school term.
- 6.11. Details of the community and voluntary controlled schools and those academies and own admission authority schools who have opted-in to the in-year co-ordination scheme and those who have opted out can be obtained from the School Admissions Team at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

**Timetable for Co-ordinated Admissions to:
Lower, Primary and Middle Schools and Academies for academic year 2015/16**

September 2014	Information about the transfer process issued
15 January 2015	Closing date for receipt of applications
13 February 2015	By this date details of applications to be sent to foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools and academies. Applications for places in other Local Authority middle schools and academies sent to those authorities
11 March 2015	By this date foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools and academies provide the School Admissions Team with ranked lists of applicants
18 March 2015 – 25 March 2015	Between these dates information to be exchanged with other Local Authorities on potential offers
14 April 2015	Information on pupils to be offered places will be available to schools and academies via the web based School Admissions Module
16 April 2015	Notification to be posted to parents living in Central Bedfordshire and available online
30 April 2015	Date by which parents reject the offer of a place if not required.
8 May 2015	Late applications received between 16 January and 16 April 2014 will be logged onto the database by this date.
8 May 2015	The School Admissions Team will notify the admission authority for each foundation, trust and voluntary aided school and academy of every nomination that has been made for that school or academy and applications for places in other Local Authority schools / academies will be sent to those authorities
22 May 2015	By this date foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools and academies provide School Admissions Team with ranked lists of applicants in the initial late allocation round.
8 June 2015	Notification to be posted to parents living in Central Bedfordshire who have submitted a late application that qualifies for consideration in the initial late allocation round.
9 June 2015	Late applications received on or after 17 April will be processed from this date.