

The Trustees of the Gosforth Group have made this Final Determination of admissions arrangements for entry into Year 5 in 2025 and in-year admissions to all years.

GOSFORTH JUNIOR HIGH ACADEMY ADMISSION POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 ENTRY

Admissions Policy for Gosforth Junior High Academy (Year 5)

Gosforth Junior High Academy (the "Academy") has a co-educational comprehensive intake. The Academy is part of the multi-academy trust known as The Gosforth Federated Academies Limited ("Gosforth Group").

Gosforth Group is the Admission Authority for the Academy and is responsible for determining and applying this policy. This Admission Policy has been formally adopted by the Trustees, amended in accordance with determination under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The Academy has a published admission number ("PAN") of 150 for Year 5 admissions. If there are more places at the Academy than applicants, every child who wants a place will be offered a place.

Applications for school places are co-ordinated by the local authority in accordance with the published time scales in the co-ordinated admission scheme. Key dates can be found here. <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place>.

In this policy, reference to parent shall be defined as set out in section 576 of the Education Act 1996, to include: all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or a young person.

Parents wishing to apply for a place at the Academy, for 2025, should complete the common application form provided by the local authority and return it by the required deadline date of 31 October 2024. The common application form, co-ordinated scheme and further information can be found here.

- <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/legal-information-school-admissions>
- https://www.newcastlelea.org/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en (common application form)

Parents living within the boundaries of a different local authority (outside of Newcastle City Council) may still choose the Academy as a preferred school but must complete the common application form provided by their home local authority, which will subsequently be passed onto Newcastle City Council for processing.

If admission is not granted due to oversubscription, the local authority will offer the student a place at another school where the pupil would otherwise be left without a school place and there are places available.

If a parent wishes their child to be placed on the waiting list, they must request this. Details of how to do so will be included in communications from the local authority to parents on national offer day; and following this for late applications. The waiting list for the Academy will be maintained until 31 December in the year of entry. Offers up until 31 August 2025 will be made by the local authority; from 1 September 2025, offers will be made by the Trust. If a place becomes available, the oversubscription policy will be freshly applied at that time. The parents of the highest-ranking pupil will be contacted with view to admission of the student. Beyond 31 December, parents seeking admission should apply for a place via their local authority by completing the common application form for in-year admissions.

In-year admissions may be made above the PAN but not when it would prejudice the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

Late applications, outside of the normal admission deadline, will be considered only after all applications received by the closing date have been processed and considered.

Parents who are unsuccessful in obtaining a place have a statutory right of appeal. Parents should contact the Academy for an Appeal Form. Information about the appeal process can be found here.

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/about-our-schools/appeals-school-places>

The completed appeal form and any accompanying statement setting out grounds for appeal should be returned to the Academy and marked "For the attention of The Clerk of Appeals Panel".

If a student has an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** which specifically names the Academy, a place will be offered. Any child admitted on this basis will be counted against the Academy's published admission number.

When you apply, you are confirming you have the consent of all other persons with parental responsibility to make the application. Where parents are in disagreement about which school the child shall attend, and it is not possible for the parents to resolve the dispute, the parents should pursue the matter through the family court system.

If there are two conflicting applications from parents, then both applications will be placed on hold (and school places may have to be offered to other applicants) until the local authority has received (either):

- written evidence that everyone holding parental responsibility agrees the application; or
- a Court Order specifying who should apply.

Where an offer of a place is found to be based on a fraudulently or intentionally misleading application which may have denied a place to another child, the offer of the place may be withdrawn at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees of Gosforth Group. In determining whether to withdraw the offer of a place, the Board of Trustees will consider

the circumstances of the individual application and information submitted, along with the length of time, if any, which the child has been attending the Academy. If the decision is taken to withdraw the offer of a place, then parents will have the right of appeal.

The Academy may accept hard-to-place pupils onto the school admission roll in accordance with the Local Authority Fair Access agreement and protocol. This is a statutory requirement which falls outside of this admissions policy.

The Oversubscription Criteria for the Academy

Where there are fewer applicants than the PAN, all applicants will be offered a place at the Academy.

Where there are more applicants than places available (i.e. more applicants than the PAN), places will be offered to pupils in the following strict order of priority:

1. Oversubscription Criteria 1

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (see explanatory note 1 below).

2. Oversubscription Criteria 2

Students without an ECHP, who have a specific medical reason or needs which can only be met at the Academy. (See Explanatory Note 2 below).

3. Oversubscription Criteria 3

Children or stepchildren of members of staff employed directly by Gosforth Group, who work at the Academy on a part- or full-time basis where either or both of the following circumstances apply: -

- a) the member of staff has been employed for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and / or
- b) the member of staff has been recruited to fill a vacant post at the Academy, for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

(See Explanatory Note 3 below).

4. Oversubscription Criteria 4

Where, at the time of the application being made, the pupil attends one of our three designated feeder schools: *Archibald First School, Regent Farm First School or Brunton First School*.

5. **Oversubscription Criteria 5**

Priority will be given to the siblings of pupils attending the Academy at the time the application is received. Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister or child of a parent or carer's partner where the children live at the same address.

6. **Oversubscription Criteria 6**

Children living nearest to the Academy as measured in a straight-line distance ('as the crow flies') from a single fixed point at the Academy to fixed point on the home of the child (see explanatory note 4 below).

Tie-breaker

In the case of a tie in any of the above oversubscription criteria, random allocation will take place to determine priority (see explanatory note 5 below).

Explanatory Notes

1. Explanatory note 1 – Looked after children

A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time the application for admission to school is made and whom the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the date of admission. This also includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

An Adoption Order is an order made under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

A Child Arrangement Order is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989.

A Special Guardianship Order is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians.

Evidence to confirm eligibility under priority 1 (as stated above) must be submitted before the closing date for applications.

If you require any support providing the above information, please contact the Academy at admin2@ga.newcastle.sch.uk

2. Explanatory note 2 – Medical needs

This priority will be given to children based on their exceptional medical or social needs that can only be met at the Academy. An example would be a student who suffers visual impairment – the Academy is the regional VI-ARP.

This priority request for admission must be supported by professional evidence. All schools in Newcastle local authority have experience of supporting a wide range of social and medical needs; however, in exceptional cases, there may be compelling reasons why a child needs to attend our Academy. This priority can be requested in these cases, and applicants will need to clearly demonstrate the connection between your child's need, our Academy and how our Academy can meet your child's needs in a way that no other school can. Our Board of Trustees will review your request for this priority and cases will be considered individually on a case-by-case basis. A request would not be granted where a parent wishes for their child to attend the Academy based on the child's abilities, because their friends attend the Academy or due to childcare arrangements. Any request for this priority must outline in writing why the circumstances are exceptional, and why only our Academy is suitable.

You must provide the following information before the closing date for applications:

- Your child's name, date of birth and address
- What precise support your child requires due to their specific medical needs
- Why only our Academy can provide the support needed to meet your child's needs and why other school(s) can not
- What extra support or funding your child currently receives
- You must attach supporting evidence from an independent professional, such as a medical specialist, which confirms exactly what your child's needs are and why, in their professional opinion, only our Academy can meet that need. Without this evidence, your child's needs cannot be considered under this oversubscription criteria.

If you require any support providing the above information, please contact the Academy at admin2@ga.newcastle.sch.uk

3. Explanatory note 3 - Children of employees of Gosforth Group who work at the Academy

This forms part of the Academy's commitment to maintaining and improving high standards of teaching and learning within the Academy. This applies to staff (both teaching and non-teaching support staff) who are employed by Gosforth Group, who work at the Academy.

A 'demonstrable skill shortage' relates to difficulties filling vacancies in job roles at the Academy, evidenced where (1) there are fewer than four applicants for any advertised position, or (2) there is only one suitable applicant following the recruitment process, or (3) where the job role and advertisement has needed to be re-advertised on one or more occasion(s) as part of the recruitment process.

Staff may contact the Academy directly via admin2@ga.newcastle.sch.uk to enquire if they meet the requirements of this oversubscription criteria.

4. Explanatory note 4 – Distance and definition of home address

To calculate the distance from home to school, we use a straight-line distance system calculated and provided by the Newcastle City Council admission team. The program measures the straight-line distance from a defined LLPG point on the main school building to a defined point on your home address. The measurement points are set using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), which provides coordinates for every property. If we are not able to match your address with the LLPG then we will identify a point at the centre of your home (physical building).

If the Academy must move to a temporary site for any reason, such as the building being damaged by a fire or structural issues, we will base our distance measurements on the Academy's permanent site rather than any temporary site.

Only one address can be used on your application for a school place, and this should be the address where the child lives for the majority of the week. In cases of shared care, both parents should agree which address will be used on the application. For applications made in the normal round, if there is no agreement, the address used for the application will be based on where the child spends the majority of the school week. If the child spends equal time with each parent, the local authority will use the address where the child is registered with their doctor / GP. For the purposes of the application, this address will be used as the home address.

5. Explanatory note 5 – Random Allocation

Where random allocation is used as a tie-breaker, this process will be undertaken and supervised by the Local Authority (a body which is independent of Gosforth Group and the Academy).

The Local Authority will place all of the relevant applicants into a software tool, which will produce a numbered list of randomly allocated pupils. Priority will be determined based on the descending rank order of this randomly allocated list.

A fresh round of random allocation will be used if subsequent places become available and a pupil is to be offered a place from the waiting list.

If random allocation results in a pupil from a multiple birth (two or more children born at the same birth / same pregnancy) being successful, then the Academy shall offer places to the multiple birth siblings of the successful pupil. By way of example, if one twin is successful under the random allocation process, then the unsuccessful twin shall also be offered a place at the Academy. In such cases, the Academy will exceed the PAN to allow admission.

General Information

Principal of School: C Swain

Address: Gosforth Junior High Academy,

Regent Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1EE

Tel Number: 0191 2851000 option 1

Email: admin2@ga.newcastle.sch.uk

Type: Academy

Age Range: 9-13 (Year 5 to Year 8)

PAN: 150

Expected number on roll: 600

Please see Newcastle City Council website for timetable of dates:-

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-transfer-places/key-dates>

Revised policy approved by the Board of Trustees, on 4 October 2024, incorporating amendments made due to the determination of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, reference ADA4317