NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
Communities

Qualifying Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme
for Secondary Schools
in North East Lincolnshire

Applicable to admission arrangements for the academic year
2021 - 2022

This scheme aims, in so far as is practicable, to be compatible with the schemes for North Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire. North East Lincolnshire will co-ordinate arrangements with these two authorities. This means that the dates for transferring information will be compatible. It does not mean that the procedures and rules governing admissions and allocations are the same. These are described in each local authority's published information.
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Qualifying Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Secondary Schools in North East Lincolnshire

Introduction

1 This scheme is made under Section 89B and 89C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Section 40 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and in accordance with the Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Secondary Schools) (England) Regulations 2002 and 2008 and The School Admissions (Alterations and Variation of, and Objections to Arrangements (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007.

The Scheme

2 Pursuant to section 89B of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and in accordance with The Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Secondary Schools) (England) Regulations 2002 and 2008, this scheme is made for the purpose of co-ordinating the arrangements for the admission of pupils to secondary schools in the LA area (“the scheme”).

3 The scheme referred to in paragraph 3 shall be determined in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 1 and processed in accordance with the timetable set out in Schedule 2.

4 The scheme shall apply to every secondary school in the LA area, (including community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, trust, foundation schools and academies) except special schools, and shall apply to the admission arrangements for the specified year. Schools to which the scheme applies are set out in Schedule 4.

5 The Director of Children and Families is authorised to make minor amendments to this scheme in consultation with admission authorities affected in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the procedures described.
SCHEDULE 1

PART 1 – THE SCHEME

1 North East Lincolnshire Council will have an online facility and Common Application Form (CAF) available for all parents/carers of pupils who reside within North East Lincolnshire and whose child is due to transfer to secondary school.

2 The online facility / CAF must be used as a means of expressing up to three preferences for the purpose of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents/carers resident within North East Lincolnshire wishing to express a preference for their child.

   a) to be admitted to a school within the local authority (LA) area (including voluntary aided, trust, foundation schools and academies);

   b) to be admitted to a school located in another LA’s area (including community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, trust, foundation, grammar schools and academies).

3 The Online facility / CAF will –

   a) invite the parent/carer to express up to three preferences including, where relevant, any schools outside the LA’s area, in rank order of preference.

   b) invite parents/carers to give their reasons for each preference.

   c) together with the Authority’s booklet, Your New School – A guide for parents, explain that the parent/carer will receive no more than one offer of a school place and how that place will be allocated.

   d) specify the closing date and where it must be returned to.

4 The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:

   a) that the CAF together with the booklet are available online and on request, to all parents/carers who reside within North East Lincolnshire.

   b) That all relevant information explaining the co-ordinated admissions scheme is available on request and wherever possible distributed through primary schools to all parents/carers who reside within North East Lincolnshire.

   c) special arrangements exist for children living in neighbouring authorities to be able to attend a designated North East Lincolnshire school. These villages are Tetney, Holton le Clay, Waiithe, Grainsby, North Thoresby and Keelby in Lincolnshire, and East Halton and North and South Killingholme in North Lincolnshire.

   The LA has agreed with the other LAs concerned that it will make available its booklet and relevant information but not its CAF through local schools serving the relevant villages in other LAs.
All preferences expressed on the CAF are valid applications. The governing body of a voluntary aided, trust, foundation, grammar school or academy can require parents/carers, who have named their school as a preference on the CAF, to provide additional information and/or a supplementary form where it is required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria to the application.

Where a school receives a supplementary form it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed either the North East Lincolnshire CAF or, if resident in another area which has a common application form, their home area’s common application form, and the school is nominated on it. Where supplementary forms are received directly by voluntary aided, trust, foundation, grammar schools or academies the school must inform the LA immediately so it can verify whether a CAF or neighbouring area’s CAF has been received from the parent/carer and, if not, contact the parent/carer and ask them to complete one. Under the requirements of the scheme, parents/carers will not be under any obligation to complete an individual school’s supplementary form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.

Any school which operates criteria for selection by ability or aptitude must ensure that its arrangements for assessing ability or aptitude, to enable decisions to be made on nominations, conform to the timing requirements of the scheme as set out in Schedule 2.

Parents/carers who wish to request admission outside of their child’s normal age group must still make an application in line with timescales set out in this scheme for the child’s chronological year group. All requests will be considered taking into account the individual circumstances, relevant professional advice where appropriate, including discussion with the parent/carers, preferred school / academy, decision of the relevant admission authority and the best interests of the child.

Processing of CAFs

Completed CAFs / online applications are to be returned / submitted to by 31 October 2020, so that the LA can keep track of parents/carers that do not complete a CAF. If a child resident in North East Lincolnshire attends a primary school outside North East Lincolnshire they should also forward their CAF directly to North East Lincolnshire Council.

Determining offers in response to the CAFs

The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAFs. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF where:–

a) it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or

b) an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or
c) an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent / carer have nominated.

The LA will allocate places in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 12 of this schedule.

11 **By 4 December 2020** the LA will have provided other LAs and admission authorities with details of every preference from North East Lincolnshire residents for a place in a secondary maintained by those admission authorities and have received from other LAs details of every preference from one of their residents for a place in a North East Lincolnshire secondary school. The LA will also have provided the admission authority of each secondary school with details of every preference that has been made for that school including, where required by the admission arrangements for the school in order to apply their over-subscription criteria and all relevant details received by this date.

12 **By 8 January 2021** the admission authority for each school will consider all applications for their school, apply the school's over-subscription criteria (if appropriate) and provide the LA with a list of those applicants ranked according to the school's over-subscription criteria. Where the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available at the school by a significant amount, the admission authority need only rank as many as it agrees with the LA to be necessary, allowing for the fact that some of those who could be offered a place might be offered a place at another school.

13 **By 13 January 2021** The LA will match this ranked list against the ranked lists of all other schools in North East Lincolnshire and:

- Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the schools preferred on the CAF, that school will be provisionally allocated to the child.

- Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the schools preferred, they will be provisionally allocated a place at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference.

The LA will inform other LAs of the outcome of all parental preferences for places in North East Lincolnshire secondary schools from their residents together with reasons for any unsuccessful preferences.

14 **By 20 January 2021** the LA will, in light of information received from other LAs regarding preferences expressed for places in their secondary schools from North East Lincolnshire residents, again carry out the actions identified in paragraph 12 of this schedule **by 3 February 2021** inform other LAs of those potential offers and of those they will not with reasons. The LA will also notify neighbouring LAs of any consequential potential offers that can now be offered to applicants resident in their areas.

15 **By 12 February 2021**, following any consequential amendments arising from further information received from other LAs under paragraph 13 of this schedule, no further changes will be made to the ranked lists and each child will be offered the potential place applicable at that date. Where a child is not eligible for a place at any of the three preferred schools on his/her CAF the child will be allocated a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy as defined in Schedule 3.
The LA will also inform North East Lincolnshire secondary schools of the pupils to be offered placed at their schools before 1 March 2021.

On 1 March 2021 parents/carers will be notified, on behalf of the relevant Admission Authority, that they are being offered a place at the allocated school. This letter / email will give the following information:-

- The name of the school at which a place is offered;

- Where a child has been refused a place at a school ranked higher on the CAF than the one at which a place has been offered, the reasons why the child is not being offered a place;

- Information about their statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places;

- Contact details for the relevant LA for community and voluntary controlled schools and those voluntary aided, trust, foundation schools and academies where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the governing body responsible;

- Where a child has been refused a place at a North East Lincolnshire school ranked higher on the CAF than the one at which a place has been offered, the child's name will be added to the waiting list of the school (see admission policies).

- Where a child, residing in North East Lincolnshire, has been refused a place at all of their preferences, the Local Authority will allocate a place at the next nearest school in accordance with Schedule 3.

15 March 2021 is the deadline for parents/carers to accept the place offered or request admission outside normal age group. If they do not respond by this date it will be assumed that they have accepted the place.

30 March 2021 the LA reallocates any places that may have become available since 1 March 2021. From 30 March 2021 onwards all further applications are dealt with on an ongoing basis.

Testing

No North East Lincolnshire secondary school currently undertakes a selection test of any kind as part of the school's admission arrangements. Where a parent applies for a school (e.g. in another LA) which does have a selection test (whether a test of ability or aptitude) as part of the school's admission arrangements, the LA would expect the admission authority for the school;

- To make clear to the parent/carer that they are required to express a preference on the CAF lodged with the LA.
PART II – LATE APPLICATIONS

21 The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round is **31 October 2020**. Applications received by North East Lincolnshire after this date and up to **8 January 2021**, where the lateness has been unavoidable, (e.g. parents/carers move into the area) will be considered and included in the offers of secondary school places made on national offer day (1 March 2021).

22 Applications received after **31 October 2020 and before 1 March 2021**, without good reason for the lateness, including changes of preference, will be considered as **late** applications and will be allocated at a second allocation by **30th March 2021**.

23 Applications or changes of preference received after 1 March 2021 and before 1 September 2021, will be processed in order of the date received and an offer/refusal letter sent as appropriate.

No CAF received by 30 March 2021

24 Between **30 March 2021 and 31 August 2021** the LA will allocate places to any North East Lincolnshire child of whom it is aware, or from whom it has not received an application under the scheme. A place will be offered at the nearest school with a vacancy as defined in Schedule 3.

PART III – FALSE INFORMATION

25 Where, under the scheme, the offer of a place is found to be based on a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application which effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim to the place at the school, the offer of the place may be withdrawn where this provision is included in the respective admission arrangements of the respective admission authority.

26 In determining whether to withdraw the offer of the place, account will be taken of whether the child has commenced at the school and, if so, the length of time the child has been attending.

27 Where a place or an offer has been withdrawn, the application will be reconsidered and an independent appeal offered where the child cannot be re-offered a place or re-admitted to the school.

PART IV - APPEALS

Parent/carers have a statutory right of appeal against the decision to refuse admission to any of their preferred schools. Parent/carers who wish their appeal to be heard in the first round of appeals must lodge them within **20 school days** from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful and no later than **29 March 2021**. Appeals must be lodged in writing; the LA will provide information in the refusal letter as to where appeal forms can be obtained. On time appeals for secondary schools will be heard in April/May of the offer year. Appeals submitted late will still be heard but at a later date.
SCHEDULE 2

CO-ORDINATED SCHEME TIMETABLE
(for secondary admissions for the academic year 2021-2022)

By 10 July 2020
Inform other LAs of Y5 pupils who reside within their administrative area and receive details of North East Lincolnshire pupils attending their primary schools

On 6 September 2020
Information issued to all North East Lincolnshire pupils either via schools or posted to home address if they attend a primary school outside the authority which is not able to distribute the form

On 31 October 2020
Closing date for applications

By 30 November 2020
Schools must notify the LA as to whether they propose to admit pupils above their PAN

By 4 December 2020
Last date for exchange of information between other LAs and other admission authorities within North East Lincolnshire

By 13 January 2021
Indication of offers to/from other admission authorities

By 3 February 2021
Firm offer of a place to/from other admission authorities

By 12 February 2021
Final review of places to be offered to/from other admission authorities

On 1 March 2021
Parents informed of allocation
(to be posted on that day if application made on a paper CAF)

By 15 March 2021
Last date for offers to be accepted by parents/carers and for parents/carers to request admission outside of normal age group

On 29 March 2021
Closing date for Second Allocation

On 29 March 2021
Last date for appeals, to be heard in the first round, to be lodged

On 30 March 2021
Second allocation date

April / May
On time appeals heard
SCHEDULE 3

DETERMINATION OF THE NEXT NEAREST SCHOOL

1 When a preference cannot be met the “nearest school” must be one with places available. The “nearest school” means:

- The catchment school, if that has not been named as a preference;

- If there is no place available at the child’s catchment area school the nearest school (with a vacancy) will be determined by measuring the distance between home and school in the way described in the North East Lincolnshire “Your New School – A Guide for Parents”.

2 If the ‘nearest school’ referred to above is an academy, voluntary aided, trust or foundation school, a place will be offered after consultation with the school.
SCHEDULE 4

ADMISSION AUTHORITIES OF NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE SECONDARY SCHOOLS COVERED BY THE SCHEME

Academies: Admission Authority - The Governing Body of the School
Beacon Academy
Cleethorpes Academy
Healing School – A Science Academy
Havelock Academy
Humberston Academy
John Whitgift Academy
Oasis Academy Immingham
Oasis Academy Wintringham
Ormiston Maritime Academy
Tollbar Academy
**Glossary**

In this scheme –

“the LA” means North East Lincolnshire Council acting in its capacity as local authority;

“the LA area” means the area in respect of which the LA is the local authority;

“primary school” has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996;

“secondary school” has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“school” means a community, academy, voluntary controlled or aided, trust or foundation school (but not a special school) which is maintained by the LA;

“appropriate school” means a secondary school proving secondary education;

“admission authority” in relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the LA and, in relation to a voluntary aided, trust, foundation school or academy means the governing body of that school;

“the specified year” means the school academic year beginning at or about the beginning of September for the year of admission;

“admission arrangements” means the arrangements for a particular school or schools which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school;

“late application” means any application for a place in the first year of secondary education that is received after the deadline for application and up to the start of the academic year beginning at or about the beginning of September for the year of admission;

“eligible for a place” means that a child has been placed on a school’s list at such a point which falls within the school’s published admission number.