



Secondary schools and academies in Luton Coordinated admission arrangements for September 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper outlines the co-ordinated admission arrangements for secondary schools and academies for the Year 7 intake and the Year 10 intake (Studio School only) in September 2016. It also sets out arrangements for in-year admissions for academic year 2016/17. This scheme excludes admissions to special schools.

2. Background

- 2.1 Co-ordinated admission schemes are intended to simplify the admissions process for parents whilst reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Co-ordination for Year 7 intakes establishes a mechanism that ensures every parent of a child living in a local authority area who has applied to a maintained school or academy is sent one, and only one, offer of a school place by their (home) local authority (LA).
- 2.2 Co-ordinated admission schemes do not affect the rights and duties of the Governing Bodies/Boards of Directors of voluntary aided and foundation schools and academies to set and apply their own admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria.

3. Luton context

- 3.1 There are currently seven maintained secondary schools and six academies in Luton; all are comprehensive.
- 3.2 The following high schools are Community Schools. Responsibility for admission to these schools rests with the LA.

Challney High School for Girls
Lealands High School
Putteridge High School

- 3.3 The following three high schools are foundation schools. Responsibility for admission to these schools rests with the governing bodies.

Ashcroft High School
Lea Manor High School
Stopsley High School

- 3.4 The following six high schools are academies. Responsibility for admission to these schools rests with the governing bodies/Board of Directors:

Barnfield South Academy
Barnfield West Academy
Challney High School for Boys
Denbigh High School
Icknield High School
Studio School (operates for Years 10-13)

- 3.5 The following school is a voluntary aided school. Responsibility for admission to this school rests with its Governing Body:

Cardinal Newman Catholic School

- 3.6 Luton operates a catchment area system. Parents are advised of their catchment area school/academy and of their right to express a preference for any school/academy.

- 3.7 Pupils are admitted to Luton schools/academies up to the published admission number.

- 3.8 Under a buy back arrangement foundation high schools and academies can commission the LA to undertake the allocation of places on behalf of their Governing Bodies/Board of Directors.

Co-ordinated admission arrangements for the year 7 intake

4. Admissions process

Stage 1

Parents will be invited to express three preferences on a 'common application form' (either on-line or hard copy). Parents will be able to apply for schools/academies within and outside the Luton area on this form. Parents who specify Cardinal Newman Catholic

School as one of their preferences will also need to complete a supplementary form attached to the main application form.

Stage 2

All applications are considered using the admissions criteria determined by the relevant admission authority.

Stage 3

If a pupil qualifies for a place at more than one school/academy the highest-ranking school/academy will be offered, and any lower ranking offers will be disregarded.

Stage 4

Those pupils who have not been allocated a place at any of their preferred schools/academies will be allocated a school place at one of the nearest schools/academies to their home address with vacancies.

5. Timetable

Week commencing 7 September 2015	Parents receive information on the transfer to high school admissions process.
September/October 2015	High School/Academy open evenings take place.
31 October 2015	Closing date for submission of application forms.
7 December 2015	Application forms are sent to those admitting authorities that have not purchased the admissions phase transfer 'buy-back' package. Out of borough applications are sent to the relevant LA for consideration.
6 January 2016	Admission authorities opting out of the phase transfer 'buy-back' option provide the LA's Admissions Team with a list of applicants ranked against their admissions criteria.
1-29 February 2016	Exchange of data between LAs: Luton will notify neighbouring LAs of the outcome of applications for out of borough residents requesting a place at a Luton school. Luton LA receives notification of the outcome of applications to schools outside of the borough.
22 February 2016	Provisional lists sent to junior and primary schools for checking.
29 February 2016	Allocation lists sent to high schools and academies. Luton junior and primary schools are sent letters to distribute to parents of Year 6 pupils on 1 March 2016.
1 March 2016	Offer date.
April 2016	Admission appeals take place from April 2016.

- 5.1 If schools/academies receive direct applications they must inform Luton LA of the application and forward it to the Council by the closing date of 31 October 2015, regardless of whether the child resides in the Luton area.

6. Change of address

- 6.1 For the purposes of allocating places, in the initial allocation, where a school is oversubscribed the pupil's catchment area will be determined by their home address as at 31 October 2015.
- 6.2 Children who gain a place at a school because their parents/carers have given the Council a false home address will have their place withdrawn.

7. Late applications

- 7.1 Applications received after the closing date will not be considered in the initial allocation of places, except in very exceptional circumstances.
- 7.2 Where parents have submitted a transfer form before the closing date, but then seek to change their preference after the closing date, this late expression of preference will be treated as a 'late' application and will not be considered in the initial allocation of places.
- 7.3 Late applications and late changes of preferences will be processed as soon as possible after 1 March 2016. Late applications for a Year 7 place must be routed through Luton LA until the end of the Summer Term.

8. Applications for schools outside of Luton

- 8.1 Luton resident parents wishing to apply for a school or academy outside of the Borough must apply using Luton LA's Application Form. The Council will ensure that applications for a place at schools outside of the Borough are sent to the relevant local authority (LA) for consideration. Application forms submitted by Luton parents, direct to other LAs, will not be accepted.
- 8.2 The Council will have regard to whether a place can be offered at a school outside of the Borough. If a pupil qualifies for a place at more than one school, and the highest ranking offer is for an out of borough school, this place will be offered and any lower ranking offers will be disregarded.
- 8.3 Parents will also be advised to check with the out of borough school to see if they need to complete any supplementary forms.

8.4 Luton LA will liaise with neighbouring LAs over the outcome of applications for Luton pupils. Luton Borough Council will send the decision letter to the parent.

9. Applications for Luton schools from parents residing outside of the LA area

9.1 Parents living outside of Luton must apply to their home LA for a place at a Luton school or academy. Their home LA will pass the application to Luton Borough Council for processing. Luton LA will then notify the applicant's home LA as to whether a place can be offered. The applicant's home LA will inform the parent of the outcome of their application.

9.2 Where a family is moving to Luton they may apply direct to Luton Borough Council for a school place when they have documentation to confirm that contracts are signed on a purchase of a new house in Luton or a rental agreement is signed.

Year 10 intake into the Studio School

10. Admission Arrangements

10.1 Pupils enter the Studio School at the start of year 10. Parents of pupils born between 1/9/2001 and 31/8/2002 who would like their child to attend the Studio School in September 2016 must apply for a place on the application form provided by the LA between September 2015 – 31 October 2015. The LA will send decision letters to parents on 1 March 2016. The admission timescales will mirror the timetable set out in paragraph 5 for the Year 7 intakes.

In-year admission arrangements

11. In-year admissions

11.1 In-year admissions are applications that are submitted during the academic year for entry to school outside of the normal admission round/intake point.

12. Mandatory requirements for in-year admissions arrangements

12.1 The requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in-year admissions for all of Luton's schools (including academies, foundation and voluntary aided schools) has been revoked. The Admissions Code sets out the following requirements with regard to the co-ordination of in-year admissions:

2.21 *There is no requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in-year applications, but they **must** provide information in the composite prospectus on how in-year applications can be made and will be dealt with. Local authorities **must**, on request, provide information to a parent about the places still available in all schools within its area, and a suitable form for parents to complete when applying for a place for their child at any school for which they are not the admission authority. Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school outside the normal admissions round. They can do this by applying directly to admission authorities, except where other arrangements are in place locally (e.g. the local authority coordinates all in-year admissions).*

2.22 *Own admission authority schools **must**, on receipt of an in-year application, notify the local authority of both the application and its outcome, to allow the local authority to keep up to date figures on the availability of places in the area. The admission authority **must** also inform parents of their right to appeal against the refusal of a place.*

13. Luton's scheme for in-year admissions

13.1 The Council will co-ordinate in-year admission arrangements for community schools and other own admission authority schools/academies that 'opt-in' to these arrangements. For these schools parents will be asked to complete one application form stating three preferences. The Council will liaise with the schools/academies on the application form to ascertain the highest preference that can be offered and will send the decision letter to the parent. Where higher ranked preferences are refused, parents will be advised of their right of appeal and the waiting list procedure. Where the parent does not qualify for a place at any of their preferred schools they will be asked to apply for a place at an alternative school with vacancies.

13.2 Own admission authority schools that 'opt-in' to the in-year co-ordinated scheme can, if they wish, commission the LA to rank application forms against their School's admissions criteria, maintain waiting lists and check proof of address.

13.3 The Council will provide an alternative application form for parents wishing to apply for schools/academies 'opting out' of the in-year co-ordinated admission scheme. Own admission authority schools must accept applications made on the form supplied by the LA. Parents can use this form to apply directly to these schools and will be able to make individual applications to all of the schools that interest them. Own admission authority schools will be responsible for:

- (a) giving parents the opportunity to make a formal written application, even if the year group is full. This will ensure that where a place cannot be offered at the preferred school(s) the pupil's name is placed on the relevant waiting list(s) (where these operate) and the parent will be advised of their right of appeal.
- (b) informing the Council that they have received an application (within three school days) and providing brief details of the application (e.g. name, address, date of birth, previous/current school).

- (c) sending a decision letter, either offering a place or refusing the application and advising the parents of their right of appeal and the waiting list procedure. Where a pupil is without a school place the school must refer the parents to the LA. A copy of the decision letter and application form must be sent to the Council's Admissions Team for their records.
 - (d) processing applications in a timely manner e.g. within 10-15 school days.
- 13.4 Where the LA receives an application for a school that has 'opted out' of the co-ordinated in-year scheme, the application will be sent to the School and the parent will be advised that the School will let them know the outcome of the application.
- 13.5 All Headteachers/Principals of schools and academies must nominate a member of their staff to provide the Admissions Team with the number of pupils on roll in each year group on a fortnightly basis. If vacancies occur in the interim the nominated representative at the school/academy must notify the Admissions Team.
- 13.6 The in-year application forms can be completed by Luton resident parents and those living outside of the Borough wishing to apply for a Luton school. Luton parents wishing to apply for a place at a school outside of Luton should use that LA's In-Year Application Form.
- 13.7 Parents applying for a place at a voluntary aided school within Luton will also need to complete a supplementary form.

14. Children in care

- 14.1 The admission of children in care follows a separate process. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, local authorities must admit children in care to a school that is considered to be in the child's best interests, even if this would exceed the School's admission number. The Council may direct admission authorities to admit a child in care to the school.

15. In-year fair access protocol

- 15.1 Some pupils will be placed in a school/academy using Luton's In-Year Fair Access Protocol. Such placements override the normal admission arrangements; this includes admitting children above the published admission number to schools/academies that are already full.

16. Waiting lists

- 16.1 Each Luton admission authority has set out whether it will operate waiting lists in its published admission arrangements. Waiting lists must be ranked using the admissions

authority's published admissions criteria; not the date the pupil's name was added to the waiting list.

- 16.2 The Council will maintain waiting lists for community schools and other admission authorities 'buying back' the in-year admissions service.

General information for year 7 intakes and in-year admissions

17. Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need

- 17.1 Luton provides a range of facilities and services for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and aims to meet those needs within the local mainstream schools as far as possible.
- 17.2 For children with a Statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan, the LA acts as the admission authority.
- 17.3 Where a school is proposed to be named in a child's Statement of SEN/EHC Plan the LA, in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice, will consult with the 'named' school on the proposal.

18. Publication of admission arrangements

- 18.1 The LA will publish an information booklet for parents of pupils transferring into Year 7 in September 2016 and for parents seeking a Year 10 place at the Studio School in September 2016.
- 18.2 An information booklet will also be available for parents of pupils seeking admission outside of the normal admission rounds (in-year admissions).
- 18.3 Assistance for parents with English as an additional language can be arranged through the LA's Translation and Interpretation Service.