

School Admissions Code 2021

Changes to make to your Admission Arrangements for September 2022

Immediate Steps

All admission authorities should be aware that the 2021 School Admissions Code (“Code”) has received Parliamentary approval and will come into force on **1st September 2021**. Admission authorities will need to take immediate steps to make a formal variation to their published arrangements, however there is no requirement to consult on this change, or obtain consent from the Schools Adjudicator (maintained schools) or the Secretary of State (academies), because the change is necessary to comply with a mandatory requirement of the Code¹.

Who is the admission authority? As a reminder, the governing body is the admission authority for a voluntary aided school or a foundation school. In a single academy trust, it is the trust board which is the admission authority. In a multi academy trust it is the trust board which is the admission authority but please note the trust may have delegated responsibility for amending admission arrangements to the local governing body of a school within that multi academy trust – you will need to check if that is the case.

The change that admission authorities need to make is to expand the meaning of previously looked after children such that it extends to children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care overseas but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted. The additional wording (in bold for ease of reference) to include in your oversubscription criteria is as follows :

Looked After Children or Previously Looked After Children – *A child who is in the care of an LA, or was in the care of an LA but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement, or special guardianship order. **This includes those 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.***

By 1st October 2021

Local Authorities (“Las / LA”) are not required to co-ordinate in-year applications for schools for which the LA is not the admission authority. The LA may, however, coordinate in-year applications for any or

¹ Clause 3.6 of the Code

all own admission authority schools in their area, with the agreement of the relevant admission authorities.

By **1 October 2021** admission authorities must inform the LA in whose area they are based, whether they intend to be part of the LA's In-Year co-ordination scheme for the period to 31 August 2022 (where this is offered). Admission authorities will need to consider the In-Year provisions contained within their determined arrangements (i.e. for 2021-22 and 2022-23) ahead of notifying the LA of their choice.

In all **subsequent years**, the admission authority must inform the LA by **1 August** of each year whether they intend to be part of the In-Year co-ordination scheme for the following academic year. By the same date, for schools that intend to be part of the LA's In-Year co-ordination for the following academic year, they must also provide the LA with all the information that the LA is required to publish on its website, including supplementary information forms.

By 31 October 2021

Admission authorities must publish information on the school's website **by 31 October 2021** setting out how In-Year applications will be dealt with from 1 November 2021 until 31 August 2022. The published information must set out/provide:

- how parents can apply for a school place;
- whether the admission authority manages its own In-Year admissions;
- access to a suitable application form for parents to complete (and a supplementary information form where necessary); and
- when parents will be notified of the outcome of their application and details about the right to appeal

In all **subsequent years**, the above information must be published on the school's website by **31 August** at the latest setting out how In-Year applications will be dealt with from the 1 September until the 31 August the following year.

NB : our model admission arrangements infer that the school / admission authority co-ordinates its own In-year admission applications. If you have adopted our model document and wish to have the LA co-ordinate your In-Year applications you will need to make a further amendment to your admission policy. As this would *not* be a variation to comply with a mandatory requirement of the Code nor is it likely to be viewed as a significant change in circumstance you would need consent from the Schools Adjudicator (maintained schools) or the Secretary of State (academies) to make this change.

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