



Executive Summary

It is a mandatory requirement of the National School Admissions Code that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at an Academy.

The Trustees of the North East Learning Trust are required to determine their school admissions arrangements every year and consult on those arrangements once every seven years.

The purpose of this report is to enable the Trust to consult on the published admission number and over-subscription criteria for Biddick Academy for September 2026 and beyond.

The consultation will take place for a period of seven weeks between Wednesday 16 October 2024 and Friday 6 December 2024.

The Trust are consulting to change the PAN for admission to Year 7 from 224 to 180 with effect from September 2026 and amending the over-subscription criteria to include staff. It is proposed that the over-subscription for Biddick Academy from September 2026 and beyond is:

1. Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after including 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 or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions. (See definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

2. Attendance in Key Stage 2 (age 7 -10+) at a designated cluster junior or primary school:

- Biddick Primary School
- JFK Primary School
- Fatfield Primary Inspire Academy
- Barnwell Primary Academy

- New Penshaw Primary Inspire Academy
- Rickleton Primary School

3. Sibling Link

An older brother/sister or older child (including adoptive, foster or stepchildren) that shares the same parent/carer and lives at the same address who will still be attending Biddick Academy at the time of admission.

4. Exceptional medical or social need

Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement (for example the child or one or both parents/carers has a disability that means the child can only attend one school).

Strong supporting evidence must be provided from a professional body involved with the family or child. A letter from the child's GP, parents/carers GP or other relevant professional **MUST** be submitted with the application. The evidence must relate to the school for which the application is being made and must demonstrate clearly why the Academy is the only school that can meet the child's needs. No assumptions should be made that the submission of the relevant evidence will, in itself be sufficient to allocate a school place.

5. Children of staff employed at the Academy.

Children of all staff employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made and/or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a post at the Academy where there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

6. Pupils for whom preferences are expressed on grounds other than those outlined above.

Tie breaker.

Where the Academy is oversubscribed in any of the above categories, places will be offered based on distance from the centre of the home to the main entrance of the Academy with priority being given to those living closest to the school. Distance will be measured by the shortest safest walking distance, using a Geographical Information System (GIS).

For further information, please see Admissions to Secondary School at www.sunderland.gov.uk

Responses to the Consultation

The North East Learning Trust welcome comments on the proposed change to the published admission number and criteria to be used in the event of over-subscription. You can respond to the consultation [here](#) or by email to schooladmissions@nelt.co.uk or by post to Admission Consultation, North East Learning Trust, Traynor House, Traynor Way, Whitehouse Business Park, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 2RU. The deadline for responses is 5pm on Friday 6 December 2024.