



LIONHEART
EDUCATIONAL
TRUST

Admissions Policy

2023-2024

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LIONHEART EDUCATIONAL TRUST – ADMISSIONS POLICY

For entry in August 2023 and in-year from August 2023. The admission authority is Lionheart Educational Trust: Namely:

Broom Leys Primary

The Castle Rock School

The Newbridge School

The Trust is also responsible for arranging an independent appeal against refusal of a place at the school. The Trust has appointed the Local Authority (LA) to manage its Admissions on behalf of the Trust. Pupil Admission Number (PAN) is deemed to be the maximum number of children to be admitted in each year group.

Purpose of this policy

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that places at Lionheart Educational Trust academies are allocated and offered in an open and fair way.

Applying for a place

A parent can apply for a place for their child at any state-funded school in any area. Parents apply to the local authority in which they live for a place at Lionheart Educational Trust academies and any other preferred schools.

For standard entry in August to any Lionheart Educational Trust primary academy, the annual closing date is 15 January for a place the following academic year (see below for in year applications).

For standard entry in August to any Lionheart Educational Trust secondary academies, the annual closing date is 31 October for a place the following academic year (see below for in year applications).

Admission numbers

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry in August at Apollo Partnership Trust academies is:

- Broom Leys Primary – Reception **90**
- The Castle Rock School – Year 7 **250**
- The Newbridge School – Year 7 **180**

Lionheart Educational Trust academies will admit this number of pupil to our academies if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if these numbers or fewer apply.

If any Lionheart Educational Trust academy is undersubscribed, any parent that applies to the academy will be offered a place. If oversubscribed, oversubscription criteria will apply unless the application meets the requirements of the Fair Access Protocol.

Infant Class Size

Infant Classes (Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2) must not exceed 30 children per teacher (as defined by the section 4 of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998). Applications for year groups which would cause that number to be exceeded will be refused. That includes where admission would cause the infant class size limit to be breached in the future or any in-year applications which would cause any class size to exceed 30.

Oversubscription criteria

The following criteria will be used to allocate places (in the order listed below). Where there are more applications than places or there is a tie, the next relevant criteria will be used to determine which application should be offered the place, if they still have identical ranking then lots will be drawn:

1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) (c) any 'looked after child' outside of England, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England.
2. Children with a sibling attending the Trust academy at the time of application. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters
3. Children living permanently in the Trust's catchment area. A map is available at the end of this policy.
4. Children currently attending a feeder primary school. The designated feeder schools and joint feeder schools are:
 - All Saints CE Primary School
 - Belvoirdale Primary School
 - Broom Leys Primary School (part of Apollo Partnership Trust)
 - Ellistown Community Primary School
 - Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
 - Hugglescote Primary School
 - Ibstock Junior School
 - Dove Bank Primary School
 - New Swannington Primary School
 - Saint Clare's Catholic Primary School
 - Swannington Primary School
 - Thringstone Primary School
 - Warren Hills Primary School
 - Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School

Criterion 4 only applies to secondary schools within the Trust and NOT Broom Leys

5. Children starting at a primary school with a sibling attending at the same time in the feeder secondary school. The term 'sibling' includes half brother or sister or legally adopted child being regarded as the brother or sister.
6. Children of staff at the academies:
 - where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
 - the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
7. Children who live nearest to Trust academy that they are applying to 'as the crow flies'
8. Where parents have 50/50 custody of children, the School Admissions Service is only allowed to use one address for the purposes of allocating a school place. Parents in these circumstances will be asked to nominate one address which will be used.

Tie Break Criteria

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, children will be put in priority order by using a combination of the highest criterion and distance. Distances are measured in a straight line from the centre point of the property to the school's main designated front gate, using a computerised mapping system (Geocoding).

Random allocation will be used in a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the Trust academy is the same.

Some admission authorities use other criteria when allocating places. For the purposes of clarity, the Trust academies do not allocate places on the basis of faith, ability.

The Trust academies may need to ask for proof of the following when applying the oversubscription criteria:

- Address
- Child's date of birth
- A copy of an adoption order, child arrangement order or special guardianship order and a letter from the local authority that last looked after the child confirming that he or she was looked after immediately prior to that order being made.

All preferences are collated. Parents then receive an offer from the local authority who are the Trust's Admissions Consultants. Parents/Carers will be advised which a place is available on 1 March for secondary academies or 16 April for primary academies or the first working day thereafter in the year in which the child will be admitted.

Children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) (Special Educational Needs and Assessment (SENA))

All applications that have an EHCP will be forwarded to SENA for their consideration and processing. Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the academy will be admitted.

Right to appeal

All Parents have the right to appeal against any decision to refuse admission. The Trust will the Local Authority Appeals process. The decision of an Independent Appeal Panel is binding on parents/carers, the Council and the local governing body of the academy. Details of this process can be found at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-andacademies/school-admissions>

The local authority, on behalf of Lionheart Educational Trust, will set out the reasons for the decision, confirm that there is a right of appeal and explain the process for hearing such appeals. An independent appeals panel will be established to hear the appeal. The panel will decide whether to uphold or dismiss the appeal. Where a panel upholds the appeal, the Trust's academy is required to admit the child.

When a parent is informed of a decision to refuse their child a place at the school, correspondence will include:

- The reason why admission was refused.
- Information about the right to appeal.
- The deadline for lodging an appeal.
- The contact details for making an appeal.

Parents will be informed that, if they wish to appeal, they must set out their grounds for appeal in writing.

Withdrawing an offer or a place

Lionheart Educational Trust will withdraw an offer if:

- It has been offered in error.
- A parent has not responded within a reasonable period of time to accept the offer of a place (the parent will be notified that the offer may be withdrawn and given an opportunity to respond and explain).
- It is established that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

Lionheart Educational Trust will not withdraw a place once a child has started at any Trust academy, except where that place was fraudulently obtained.

Waiting list

If any Trust academy is oversubscribed, the local authority, on behalf of Lionheart Educational Trust, will maintain a clear, fair and objective waiting list. Priority will continue to be based upon the oversubscription criteria until the end of the autumn term, after which the list will be dissolved.

Priority will not be given to children based on the date their application was received or when their name was added to the list.

Parents of gifted and talented children, those with special educational needs or those who have experienced problems or missed part of a year, for example due to ill health, can seek places outside their normal age group. The Trust's academies will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances

of each individual case, informing parents of their statutory right to appeal. This right does not apply if they are offered a place in another year group at any Trust academy.

Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces)

For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to this area, the Trust academies will:

- Allocate a place in advance, if accompanied by an official government letter which declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address for considering the application against the oversubscription criteria.
- Ensure that arrangements support the Government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children.

Children from overseas

Lionheart Educational Trust will treat applications for children coming from overseas in accordance with European Union law or Home Office rules for non-European Economic Area nationals.

In year applications

Lionheart Educational Trust have appointed the Local Authority (LA) as our Admissions consultants who will, on receipt of an in-year application, manage the Trust's In Year application process. Any In year applications should be made via the LA online application system:

- Allocate a place if one is available.
- Inform parents of their right to appeal against the refusal of a place.

Delayed start of school for summer born children

For delayed start requests for primary summer born children Apollo Partnership Trust is fully compliant with the government Admissions code. Parents/carers are asked to contact the relevant academy and Head to discuss any delayed request in writing directly.

Children with challenging behaviour

The Trust will not refuse to admit children in the normal admission round on the basis of their poor behaviour elsewhere except where the child has been permanently excluded from two or more schools.

Lionheart Educational Trust participate in the Fair Access Protocol in order to ensure that unplaced children are allocated a school place quickly. However, there is no duty for any Trust academy or other admission authorities to comply with parental preference when allocating places through the Fair Access Protocol.

Where the Trust does not wish to admit a child with challenging behaviour outside the normal admissions round, even though places are available, it will refer the case to the local Inclusion Partnership under the Fair Access Protocol. A fair access referral is only appropriate when the school is able to demonstrate a high proportion of children with challenging behaviour are already on roll.

The Trust will not refuse to admit a child thought to be potentially disruptive, or likely to exhibit challenging behaviour, on the grounds that the child is first to be assessed for special educational needs.

Human Rights Act 1998

The Human Rights Act 1998 confers a right of access to education. This right does not however extend to securing a place at a particular school. The Trust will consider parents' reasons for expressing a preference when making admission decisions, though this may not necessarily result in the allocation of a place.

The Admissions Timeline

31 October 2022

Closing date for standard applications for August entry applications for a place at the Trust's Secondary academies to the local authority.

15 January 2023

Closing date for standard applications for August entry applications for a place at the Trust's Primary academies to the local authority.

28 February 2023

Publication of Apollo Partnership Trust academies appeals timetable as managed by the LA on website.

1 March 2023

National offer day for secondary school places.

16 April 2023

National offer day for primary school places.

April 2023 onwards

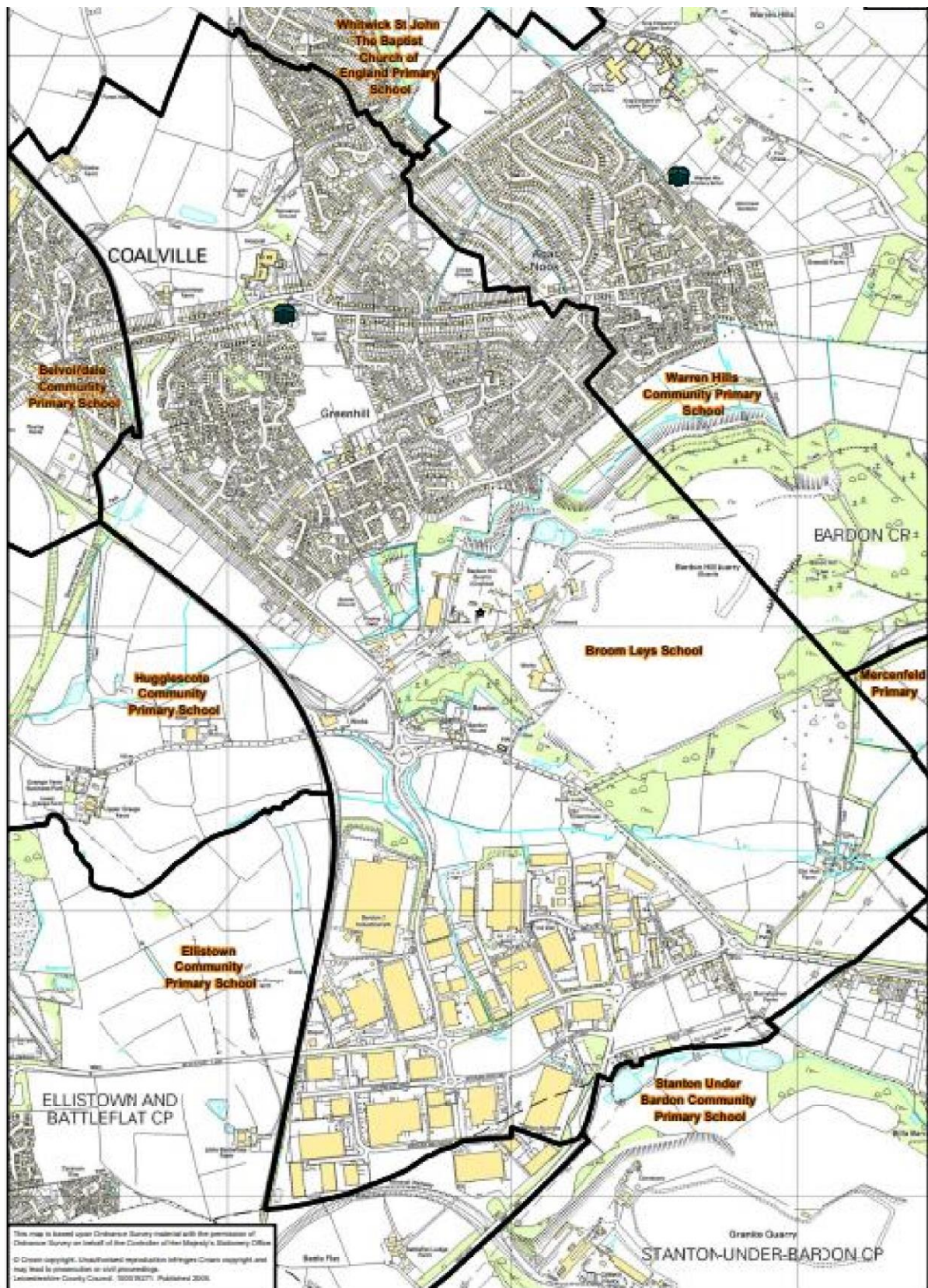
Appeals process and outcomes.

August 2023

New intake starts at school.

Anyone who considers that Lionheart Educational Trust's arrangements are unlawful can make an objection to the Schools' Adjudicator. Objections must be referred to the Adjudicator by 30 June in the determination year. Further information on how to make an objection can be obtained from the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator>



Catchment Area Map for Secondary academies within the Trust

