



Academies Trust

Admissions Arrangements

Academy:	Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent
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Introduction

Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent (the academy) is part of The Co-op Academies Trust (the Trust). The Trust is the admissions authority for the Academy, and is therefore responsible for ensuring that these arrangements are compliant with the Admissions Code 2021.

This document aims to provide information on how to apply for a place at the academy, how places are allocated, and how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place.

This document is based on the following documents from the Department for Education:

- School Admissions Code 2021
- School Admission Appeals Code

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Consultation

These arrangements were consulted on between 17th December 2021 and 31st January 2022. During this consultation, we asked for feedback from governors, parents, staff, the local authority, neighbouring local authorities and other key stakeholders.

In-line with the requirements set out in the Admissions Code, unless any changes are made in the interim, these arrangements will next be consulted on in December 2028.

Education, Health and Care Plan

All children whose Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) names the school must be admitted. These children will be admitted ahead of any oversubscription criteria being applied.

How to Apply for a Place

The next section of the document is separated into the following sections:

- Year 7 Admissions
- In-year Admissions

Year 7 Admissions

General Information

Our Published Admissions Number (PAN) is 210.

This means that we admit 210 children into year 7 each year.

Application Forms

Our academy is part of Stoke-on-Trent City Council coordinated admissions process, and as such, allocation of places for year 7 is completed by them according to the criteria set out below.

All parent/carers are required to apply to their home Local Authority (LA) regardless of where the academy they are applying for is situated.

For example Stoke-on-Trent residents will apply to Stoke-on-Trent City Council, whilst Staffordshire residents will apply to Staffordshire County Council. Our LA will liaise with other Admissions Authorities in Staffordshire and other LAs where required. Your home local authority will inform parents/carers in writing of the outcome of their application on 1st March or the next working day.

Information on how to apply can be found here:

[Stoke-on-Trent City Council](#)

[Staffordshire County Council](#)

If you live in another area find your local council [here](#)

For those applying to via Stoke-on-Trent City Council:

If you choose to make an online application, you will receive an email confirming your allocated place decision on the offer date. Decision letters to parents making paper applications will be issued by second class post.

All children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names our academy will automatically be given a place before any other applications are considered.

Late Admissions

If you apply after the national closing date (usually early November each year), we cannot guarantee to consider your preferences at the same time as those received on time. For applications submitted or changed after the national closing date, we will follow any dates set by the home local authority in their coordination scheme.

Oversubscription

If we receive more applications than there are places available, places will be allocated according to the following criteria:

1. Children in care and children who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order), 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.
2. Children who have older brothers or sisters/ siblings at the academy at the time that the applicant will start on roll.

For admission purposes, an older brother or sister is defined as a child who lives at the same address and who is the brother/sister, half-brother/sister (i.e. share one common parent), or step brother/sister (i.e. related by parent's marriage/civil partnership) of the child for whom the place is being requested. It also includes any other child living at the same residence under the terms of a Residence Order. We do not include cousins within our definition of sibling.

3. Children who live nearest to the academy as determined by a straight line measurement from the child's home address point to the main entrance of the academy on Westport Road.

Within each of these categories, children will be prioritised according to the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school. Distance will be measured by a straight line between the two properties, with those living closer being given a higher priority for allocation of places.

Tie Breaker

In any priority, if multiple children meet the same priority but there are not enough places left for all of them, the places will be allocated based on distance from our school. For example, if there are 4 places remaining at our school and 5 children all live in the priority catchment area, the 4 priority catchment children living closest to the school will be allocated those places.

Stoke-on-Trent City Council uses a Geographical Information system to calculate home to school distances. This determines co-ordinates of the applicant's home address using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and OS Address Point data. The Geographical Information System measures the straight line distance from a defined point on the main school building to a defined point on your home address.

Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school.

A child's home address will be considered to be where he/she is resident for the majority of nights in a normal school week.

If two or more children live exactly the same distance from our school (i.e. in a block of flats) and there are not enough places for both, we will draw lots. This will be witnessed by an independent person.

We will not draw lots for twins or other multiple birth siblings from the same family. Where they are tied for the final place we will admit them all, exceeding the Published Admissions Number for our school.

Waiting List

A waiting list for Year 7 children is maintained by Stoke-on-Trent City Council as part of their co-ordinated admissions process. If your child is not offered a place in year 7 at our academy on offer day, your child's name will automatically be added to the waiting list for our school. Your child's name will remain on our waiting list until:

- A. You are offered a place at a higher preference school,
- B. You are offered a place at our academy,
- C. The end of year 7 (July).

You may re-apply for an in-year admission place in year 8 if you are not allocated a place during Year 7 (please see the next section on In-Year Admissions). If no spaces are available at the time of application, you will be added to the in-year admissions waiting list for the appropriate year group.

Please note:

- Your child's place on our waiting list is decided by the oversubscription criteria listed above.
- Each time a child is added or removed, the waiting list is ranked again and your child can move down if another child meets higher criteria.
- Looked after children, previously looked after children and those allocated a place at the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol take priority over those on a waiting list.

In-Year Admissions

Application Process

You can apply for a place in any year group at any time. This might happen because you are moving to the area and your child has already started school elsewhere, or because you feel our academy would be a better fit for your child.

You can contact us to find out if we have spaces in specific year groups before you apply. If we don't have space in the requested year group, you can still apply. If you apply for a place and there are currently no places available, your child's name will automatically be added to the waiting list. Your child's name will be kept on the waiting list until the end of the academic year.

To make an 'in-year' application for years 7-11, you should complete an 'in-year' application form which you can get from the school. We will then liaise with Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

To apply for a school place outside of the normal September admission round or for other year groups please click [here](#) to download an application form.

Information on how to apply can be found here: [Stoke-on-Trent City Council](#).

We will contact you in writing within 15 days of receiving your application to let you know the outcome. Our Academy Governing Council is responsible for making decisions regarding in-year admissions.

Children with an EHCP that names our academy will be given a place regardless of whether the year group has spaces or whether there is a waiting list.

In-Year Waiting List

The academy and its governors may decide to admit above the stated PAN in any year group, as long as the admittance of additional children does not prejudice the education of those children already in the academy, and as long as those admitted are done so in accordance with the oversubscription criteria shown in these admissions arrangements.

A waiting list for each year group is maintained by the academy in-line with the oversubscription criteria outlined above. If your child is not offered a place at our academy, your child's name will automatically be added to our waiting list. Your child's name will remain on the waiting list until

- A. You are offered a place at our academy,
- B. The waiting list closes (end of summer term),
- C. You request, in writing, to be removed from the waiting list.

After the end of the academic year, you may re-apply for an in-year admission place for the following year. If no spaces are available at the time of application, you will be added to the in-year admissions waiting list for the appropriate year group.

- You will automatically be added to our in-year waiting list if you make an in-year application.
- Your child's place on our waiting list is decided by the oversubscription criteria listed above.
- Each time a child is added or removed, the waiting list is ranked again and your child can move down if another child meets higher criteria.
- Looked after children, previously looked after children and those allocated a place at the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol take priority over those on a waiting list.

Further Information

Which address to use

When you apply you must use the child's permanent address, where they usually live with their parent(s) or carer(s). You must not use any other address on your application.

Using the address of a childminder, a relative or renting a property for a short period of time in order to secure a school place is considered as a fraudulent application. We will investigate all queries about addresses.

If we find out that an intentionally misleading or false address has been given to get a school place, the school place may be withdrawn even if the child has already started at the school.

Only one address can be used on your application for a school place, and this should be the address where the child lives for the majority of the week. In cases of equal shared care, both parents must agree which address will be used on the application.

Admission of Children Outside Their Normal Age Group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

We will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social, and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. Our headteacher's views will also be considered in this decision making process.

If you wish to make an application for your child in these circumstances, please contact the school and arrange a meeting with the headteacher to discuss this further. Following this meeting we will encourage you to apply for a place via the normal application process (via your home local authority) and we will work closely with them to carefully consider your application. Your application, regardless of whether your child is offered a place in their chronological year group or another year group, will be offered based on the criteria used for all applications (e.g. our oversubscription criteria).

Parents/Carers have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school, but it is not in their preferred age group.

Making an Appeal

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. Stoke-on-Trent City Council operates an appeals process for Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent, full details of which are available [here](#).

You can find details of the school's appeals timetable on our website.

Challenging behaviour

We will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8) apply, i.e. where section 87 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 is engaged.

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked-after children, previously looked after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

Fair Access Protocol

All schools have an active role in admitting pupils under the Fair Access Protocol. The protocol operates outside the boundaries of the Admissions policy. It is a statutory requirement. The aim is to make sure the most vulnerable children are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible, and that no school, including those with places, is asked to take a disproportionate number of vulnerable children.

More information can be found [here](#).