



G2a: In-Year Admissions Policy 2021/2022

The Governors will admit students without reference to ability or aptitude. The Published Admission Number (PAN) of intended admissions for each year group commencing 1st September of each year will be 216, the statutory minimum.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the oversubscription criteria will be applied as listed below, and places will be offered in this order.

A child who has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is required to be admitted to the school named on the child's statement or plan. Once a statement reaches the formal proposed stage the administration of the young person becomes the responsibility of Special Needs Assessment Team (SENAT) at which point this policy ceases to apply.

1. A 'Looked After Child' - 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 function defined by Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989.

This also applies to a 'Looked After Child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements¹ or special guardianship order* *including those who appear [to the admission authority] to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted*. If a child has ever been Looked After or Adopted or subject to a residency or special guardianship order evidence would need to be provided and the LA reserve the right to ask the parent to provide this.

2. The School will offer up to 15 places per year, per year group, subject to availability, to any student with a demonstrable aptitude in the performing arts. As places are limited the Governors require completion of The Commonweal Supplementary Application Form (NB – Both the Local Authority and The Commonweal Supplementary Application Forms must be completed before a student can be considered). Invitations to an audition will be sent to the parent/carer and auditions will be held as soon as possible. Please note that if a student is unsuccessful at audition the application for Commonweal will still be considered according to the other oversubscription criteria listed.

¹ Under the provisions of s.14 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amend section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders.

*This change will be introduced for children that appear to be looked after outside of England only as a mandatory requirement under a revised School Admissions Code 2021. We anticipate that the Code will be revised in Spring 2021. If the revision comes into force before this policy is determined, it will be included. If the revision comes into force after determination, it will be absent from the policy and will be added when we are required to do so.

3. Any child who has a sibling at the School at the same time that he/she is due to be admitted (brother or sister). 'Sibling' in this context means brothers or sisters, biological or adopted and also includes children living as siblings in the same family unit. Where a sibling of the child making the application is under assessment for a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan, they will be counted as a sibling from the time that the school is named on the final plan.

4. Any child living within the School's designated area. A map of this area is available for inspection by parents/carers at the School. Priority is given to those living closest to Commonweal School, measured as a straight line between an appropriate web-based tool address point of the applicant's home address and of the school.

5. Children not living in the School's designated area, with priority being given to those living closest to The Commonweal School, measured as a straight line between an appropriate web-based address point of the applicant's home address and of the school.

Decider

If the School is oversubscribed, distance measured as a straight line as described above will be used to prioritise applications within individual over-subscription criteria. If the direct distance measurement does not separate applicants, places will be offered by random allocation.

Children of Multiple Births

In the case of multiple births the school may admit over its PAN to admit all children.

Appeals

Applicants refused a place at a school can appeal against that decision. The appeals procedure involves completing and returning an appeal form available from the school and submitting it to the School's Governing Body, who are the Admitting Authority. The case will be decided by an Independent Appeal Panel at a meeting to which the parent would be invited. The appellant will need to provide evidence of exceptional circumstances to the Appeal Panel to support the appeal. The panel's decision is legally binding on all parties, and can only be challenged if the appeal procedure was not followed correctly.

Unless there are significant and material changes in circumstances, only one appeal may be made for each academic year.

Fair Access Protocol

The Commonweal School recognises the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocols and will adhere to these. In addition, the school will refer any student application with challenging behaviour or deemed 'hard to place' to the Fair Access Panel.