

Tapton SCHOOL

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Tapton School Admission Consultation November 2019

This proposal is in relation to the 2021/22 and later academic years. Tapton School Local Governing Body (which has the designated authority for Tapton School Academy Trust) is the “Admission Authority” for Tapton School and is consulting on changes to the oversubscription criteria of its admission arrangements which it plans to introduce from September 2021. Sections 1.42 and 1.45 of the School Admissions Code (2014) require all admission authorities to formally consult on any proposed changes to their admission arrangements.

The consultation process is open from 4th November to 16th December 2019. If you wish to give your views you must submit your response during this period. Details of how to submit your views are set out at the end of this document.

Who is involved in the consultation?

- parents of children between the ages of 2 and 18
- other persons in the area who in the opinion of the Admission Authority have an interest in the proposal
- all other admission authorities in the local area
- the local authority

Our Vision

Tapton School prides itself on its ability to deliver a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum to its students. Our motto of ‘valuing everyone, caring for each other and achieving excellence’ guides us and informs all decision making. According to our most recent Ofsted report, Tapton is an outstanding school. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards in education to enable students to achieve their life chances and dreams.

Current Oversubscription Criteria

The school is oversubscribed in all year groups. When this is the case places are allocated using the current oversubscription criteria, as detailed below:

1. Children in care – students who are or have previously been in care.
2. Catchment and Sibling* – students who live in the Tapton catchment area and have an older brother or sister who will be attending the school
3. Catchment - Children who live in the Tapton catchment area.



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4. Siblings* of children refused a place at their catchment school – in circumstances where parents applied on time for, but have been refused a place at their catchment school for older siblings and allocated a place at Tapton School, any younger siblings will be afforded priority sibling status.
5. Sibling* - An older brother or sister who will still be attending the school and lives at the same address.
6. Feeder School – Primary schools with an official link to Tapton School.
7. Other – any student who does not fall into any of the above categories.

*Sibling is defined as a brother or sister who permanently or usually lives at the same address. If the older sibling is in the Tapton School 6th form, they should have attended the school prior to the 6th form and must intend to remain there.

The Admission Authority is consulting on a change to these criteria – it is proposing to insert number 3 as detailed below in bold:

Proposed Oversubscription Criteria for 2021/22 Onwards

1. Children in care – students who are or have previously been in care.
2. Catchment and Sibling* – students who live in the Tapton catchment area and have an older brother or sister who will be attending the school
3. **Children living in the Tapton catchment area and attending a feeder school. The designated feeder schools are Lydgate Junior School, Hallam Primary School and Netherthorpe Primary School**
4. Catchment - Children who live in the Tapton catchment area.
5. Siblings* of children refused a place at their catchment school – in circumstances where parents applied on time for, but have been refused a place at their catchment school for older siblings and allocated a place at Tapton School, any younger siblings will be afforded priority sibling status.
6. Sibling* - An older brother or sister who will still be attending the school and lives at the same address.
7. Feeder School – Primary schools with an official link to Tapton School.
8. Other – any student who does not fall into any of the above categories.

*Sibling is defined as a brother or sister who permanently or usually lives at the same address. If the older sibling is in the Tapton School 6th form, they should have attended the school prior to the 6th form and must intend to remain there.



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In the event of oversubscription within category there are two tie-breakers:

- i) Where exceptional medical, social or special educational needs are demonstrated and supported by third party professional evidence, a child may be prioritised within their admission category
- ii) If there are no exceptional circumstances demonstrated applications will be prioritised first by admission category and then by distance from the home address to a designated point at the school, measured in a straight line.

The Tapton catchment map can be found in appendix 1.

Rationale for the Proposed Change

Over recent years Tapton's catchment population has grown steadily and this has resulted in a corresponding increase in demand for places at the school. The school has responded to this by increasing the number of places offered to local children. We increased our Pupil Admission Number (PAN) from 226 students per year to 256 students per year on a permanent basis from September 2015 at the same time as opening a new building. The school have also taken additional pupils in 2017, 2018 and 2019 to accommodate catchment demand.

Tapton's growing catchment population in appendix 2 suggests this increased demand for places at the school will continue in the longer-term. The school is working collaboratively with all local secondary schools and Sheffield City Council to ensure all pupils in both the Tapton catchment area and broader area have access to a good local school place. Please see the following link to a consultation also taking place at King Edward VII Secondary School www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolcatchment

The Governing Body and Leadership Team are committed to Tapton's core values and to delivering high quality education for all pupils who attend the school. To ensure we achieve this we must give careful consideration to how we balance best meeting the needs of the school community, the breadth of our curriculum and the structure and capacity of our school buildings.

Tapton School has a strong and longstanding relationship with its feeder schools, Hallam, Lydgate Junior and Netherthorpe. We regularly engage in cross-phase work and learn from and with each other. Staff from Tapton deliver sessions to children as early as year 1 and our transition activities begin in year 5.

The children who attend these feeder schools are part of our wider community and have built close relationships with other children in their year group at primary school. Without the proposed change to the oversubscription criteria, the Governing Body believes that a number of these children will be at significant risk of not securing a place at Tapton, despite living in the Tapton catchment area. We therefore feel it is appropriate to give them priority when applying for a place at Tapton.



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In summary, in light of the increasing level of demand in our catchment area, the Governing Body believes strongly that it must be pro-active in planning for the future and must provide a level of certainty for parents and students with regard to accessing places at Tapton School.

How to Respond to the Consultation

The consultation runs from 4th November to 16th December 2019. You are invited to send any responses to the above proposal to our dedicated email admissions@taptonschool.co.uk

or directly in writing to the school at

Admissions Consultation
Tapton Secondary School
Darwin Lane
Sheffield S10 5RG

We will be providing a frequent question and answer document which will be updated throughout the consultation. This and other associated documents will be available on the dedicated website (Address)

What happens next?

At the end of the consultation the Tapton Local Governing Body will consider all responses to the proposal and will determine its admission arrangements for 2021/22 by 28 February 2020, at which time the proposal will be published on the school website.



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