

## Middlesbrough Co-ordinated In-Year Admissions Scheme

### Primary and Secondary Schools 2025/26

#### Introduction

1. This scheme is made by Middlesbrough Local Authority (LA) under the (Co-ordination of In-Year Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008 and applies to all primary and secondary schools in the Middlesbrough area who are co-ordinating with Middlesbrough School Admissions Team in respect of In-Year Transfers.
2. The in-year co-ordinated scheme is for the academic year 2025/26 and shall apply to every primary and secondary school in the Middlesbrough LA area who is co-ordinating with Middlesbrough Admissions Team in respect of In-Year Transfers. Schools who are not co-ordinating will publish information on their websites as to how they will process In-Year Transfers.
3. The scheme is determined in accordance with the provisions set out in part I and admissions will be processed in accordance with parts II and III.

#### Interpretation

4. In this scheme –

“the LA” means Middlesbrough Council acting in their capacity as local authority;

“the LA area” means the area in respect of which the LA are the local authority;

“secondary education” has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“secondary school” has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“primary education” has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“primary school” has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“school” means a Community, Foundation, Voluntary Aided (VA) school or Academy (but not a special school);

“admission authority” in relation to a Community school means the LA and, in relation to a Foundation, Academy or Voluntary Aided (VA) school means the governing body of that school;

“the specified year” means the school year beginning at or about the beginning of September 2025;

“admission arrangements” means the arrangements for a particular school or schools which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school;

“in-year admission” means any application for a place in a school in any year of education that is received on or after 1 September 2025.

“nearest appropriate school” is defined as a school closest to the home address that has places available”.

## **PART I - THE SCHEME**

1. There will be a standard application form known as the In-Year Application for a School Place form (IYASP) supplied by the LA for parents/guardians resident in Middlesbrough, who wish to express a preference(s) for a school in the Authority area or to a school(s) in another LA area. (Schools that are managing their own transfer process will have their own application form and process).
2. The IYASP will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into any year group of secondary education in the specified year other than at the normal year of entry into Y7.
3. The IYASP will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into any year group of primary education in the specified year other than at the normal year of entry into reception class.
4. The normal year of entry for admission into reception class and Y7 will cease at the end of the August of that application year. Following this, all applications for entry into this year will be deemed as an in-year transfer and dealt with accordingly i.e from 1 September onwards.
5. The IYASP must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents/guardians wishing to express a preference for their child:
  - a) To be admitted to a school within the LA area (including Community, Voluntary Aided, Foundation schools and Academies);
  - b) To be admitted to a school located in another LA's area (including Community, Voluntary Aided, Foundation schools and Academies).
6. The IYASP will invite the parent/guardian to express up to three preferences and give their reasons for each preference. The parent/guardian will receive no more than one offer of a school place and:
  - a) All preferences expressed will be considered on an equal weighting basis. Where a pupil is eligible for more than one place they will be offered the highest preference school for which they are eligible by the LA as the admissions authority, or on behalf of another admission authority i.e. another LA, Voluntary Aided, Foundation school or Academy (i.e. if a pupil is eligible for a place at both their 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> preference school they will be offered a place at their 1<sup>st</sup> preference school);

- b) If a place cannot be offered at a preferred school, then the parent/guardian will be advised of the nearest alternative school that has places available (if applicable).
- 7. All preferences expressed on the IYASP are valid applications.
- 8. Parents/guardians moving into the area seeking a place in a school in Middlesbrough will be directed to the LA who in turn will send out an IYASP for completion with a required response within 5 school days to the LA. Parents/guardians can then be contacted again if no IYASP is returned, and the Children Missing from Education Officer (CME) will be informed.
- 9. Parents/guardians wishing to transfer their child(ren) between schools within Middlesbrough will be directed to the LA, who in turn will send out an IYASP for completion with a required response within 5 school days back to the LA.
- 10. Where a school receives an IYASP in error, it should forward the form to the LA for processing.

### **Processing of In-Year Preference Forms**

- 11. IYASPs will be issued by the LA to all parents/guardians requesting a school place.
- 12. Completed IYASPs are to be returned to the LA.
- 13. On receipt of the IYASP the LA will ascertain the availability of places for a stated preference including for a school maintained by another admission authority, either in Middlesbrough or in another LA area.

### **Determining offers in response to the IYASP**

- 14. The relevant admissions criterion will be applied if there are more applicants than available places.
- 15. The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the IYASPs. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the IYASP where it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority or an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent/guardian has expressed a preference for.
- 16. Where a pupil is eligible for a place at more than one school, then a place will be provisionally offered at the highest preference school for which they are eligible.
- 17. Where the pupil is not allocated a place at any of the preferred schools, the pupil will be advised of the nearest appropriate school/schools with a vacancy (if applicable), or consideration will be given to whether the application fits one of the criteria in the Fair Access Protocol and if so the pupil may be admitted under the protocol.
- 18. The offer/refusal letter will be issued by the home LA within 15 school days of the receipt of the application. The letter will give the following information:

- a) The name of the school at which a place is provisionally being offered or where places are available whether it be an offer by the LA or on behalf of another admission authority (if applicable); or
  - b) The reasons why the pupil is not being offered a place at each of the other schools nominated on the IYASP;
  - c) Information about their statutory right of appeal against the decision to refuse places at the other nominated schools;
  - d) Details of the school and LA (and those nominated Academies, Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools) where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal.
19. Upon receipt of a school offer, should the parents/guardians not wish to accept the school place they should contact the LA's School Admissions Team to advise what alternative arrangements are being made for the child's education. The LA reserves the right to withdraw the school place offered.
  20. The procedure of waiting lists for community schools is discouraged as it is the Local Authority only that must offer the school place.
  21. Where a Voluntary Aided/Academy/Foundation school holds a waiting list, the Local Authority will liaise with the school regarding ranking on the list.
  22. Waiting lists, when held, must be ranked in order of a school's oversubscription criteria.

## **PART II – IN-YEAR TRANSFERS**

1. If a pupil moves into the area or has moved house and this necessitates a school transfer, their parent/guardian should immediately contact the School Admissions Team to enquire about available school places. An IYASP will be made available to the parent/guardian and should be returned within five school days. Parents/guardians can then be contacted again if no IYASP is returned, and the Children Missing from Education Officer (CME) will be informed.
2. If a pupil already attends a school in Middlesbrough and wishes to transfer to another, the parent/guardian should in the first instance discuss the transfer with the current school that the pupil attends as it is not always in the child's best interest to change schools. If they still wish the transfer to proceed, they should then contact the School Admissions Team to request an IYASP. The parent/guardian must then forward the IYASP to the School Admissions Team within five school days.
3. A parent/guardian must sign the transfer application. In the case of parents/guardians who are separated, the parent/guardian requesting the school transfer must consult all persons with parental responsibility and sign the declaration confirming that they have consulted and that all persons agree to the transfer request. If parents/guardians with parental responsibility cannot agree on the transfer request, then this is a matter for the parents/guardians to decide, the child will have to remain at the current school until parents/guardians resolve the issue. If they cannot resolve it themselves, they will need to obtain separate legal advice.

4. The school must confirm to the LA if a place is available. The school must also provide a start date once agreed, and inform the LA once the child has been placed on roll.
5. Should the school that the pupil wishes to transfer to have reached or exceeded its admission limit, then the parent/guardian have the right to appeal against the decision to refuse a place at the school. The LA will inform the parent/guardian of their right to appeal.
6. Should the preferred school refuse to accept the pupil and the Authority considers that there is no valid reason for refusal, the parent will be offered the right to appeal against the refusal of a place even if the school is not full.

Please note that it is the parent/legal guardian's responsibility to ensure that the pupil attends their current school until a new place has been agreed.