

## Consultation Document

Proposal to amend the oversubscription  
criteria for Wingate Primary School with effect  
from academic year 2027/28

### Summary

The School Admissions Code sets out the mandatory requirement that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school.

The Trustees of the New College Durham Academies Trust are required to determine their admissions arrangements annually and consult on those arrangements at least once every seven years unless there are changes proposed.

The purpose of this report is to enable the Trust to consult on the following:

1. The Trust are proposing to amend the over-subscription criteria of Wingate Primary School to align to that of existing schools within the Trust. Children of staff employed at the academy will be inserted as an additional criterion with other criteria being unchanged except for the order of priority.

The proposed over-subscription criteria from September 2027 will be:

### Oversubscription Criteria

If the Academy is oversubscribed, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in the following order of priority:

- 1. Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence/child arrangement, or special guardianship order\* including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England as a result of being adopted.** A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (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).

- 2. Medical reasons or special educational need**

Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.

- 3. Sibling links**

Children who have a sibling\*\* already attending the Academy and who is expected to be on roll at the time of admission.

- 4. Children of staff employed at the Academy.**

Children of all staff employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made and/or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a post at the Academy where there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

- 5. Applications to their nearest school**

Those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address measured by the shortest walking route\*\*\*

## 6. All other applicants

### Tiebreaker

Where the school is oversubscribed within any of the above categories the following tiebreakers will be applied:

- a) For those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address, priority will be given to those living closest to the nearest school measured by the shortest walking route;
- b) For other children, priority will be given to those children who live nearest to the school applied for. Otherwise, if only one final place can be offered and two applicants live equidistant from the school, the LA's system of random allocation will apply. In the unlikely event of the school being oversubscribed within categories 1, 2 or 3 tiebreaker (b) will apply.

*Footnote1 : 'School' means any maintained secondary school or a DFE maintained Academy in County Durham. Distance will be measured by the shortest walking route. Those parents who live in County Durham and have children in year 6 in primary schools maintained by Durham County Council will be provided with information for them to find out which school is nearest to their home address according to the official measuring system. The same information will be provided for any other applicant on request.*

*\* An adoption order is an order under section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976 or section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).*

*\*\* Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half - brothers, or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner. Some schools give priority to siblings of pupils attending another community and voluntary controlled school with which they have close links (for example, schools on the same site). Where this is the case, details will be published in the Local Authority's Admissions Brochure.*

*\*\*\* In assessing home to school distance, the LA uses a Geographic Information System (GIS) to identify and measure the shortest route utilising only the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network (ITN) and Urban Paths Network (UPN) which are national recognised datasets. The LA will not include any other routes or any other method of measurement. Routes are measured from the centre point\*\*\*\* of the child's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point\*\*\*\* of the building, to the nearest school site entrance. In all cases the GIS identifies the route to be measured by connecting in a straight line the centre point\*\*\*\* of the child's house to the closest point on the nearest route on the ITN/UPN.*

The consultation process will commence on 19th November 2025 and will continue until 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Please can responses to the consultation be forwarded to Charna Kay, PA to the CEO, [enquiries@ncdat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ncdat.org.uk)