



BROADWAY SCHOOL

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Admission to Secondary Schools

Notes for Parents and Appeals Panels

Broadway School and City Learning Centre

1. **Appeal Arrangements**

Section 94 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended requires the Local Authority (LA) to make arrangements for enabling the parent of a child to appeal against any decision made by the Authority refusing the child admission to a school. This appeal is being heard under those arrangements.

2. **Parental Preference**

2.1 Section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended requires the Local Authority to make arrangements for parents to express a preference as to the school at which they wish education to be provided.

2.2 It is the duty of the Local Authority to comply with any preference expressed unless compliance with the preference would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

3. **Local Authority Policy for the Admission of Pupils**

3.1 The Authority has a general duty to secure the economic, efficient and effective use of its resources, and must make provision for children of school age in this context.

3.2 Section 92 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended requires the Authority to publish each year the number of pupils that it is intended to admit to each school in the age group in which pupils are normally admitted. The Authority is obliged to assess the capacity of each school based on its available accommodation and according to a formula set by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This then becomes the indicative admission number for the school. An annually published admission number can be no lower than the indicative admission number. The net capacity for Broadway School is 1195 including the sixth form. This breaks down into 1100 in the school and 200 places in the sixth form.



BROADWAY SCHOOL

3.3 When the admission number was determined, the Authority had regard to the indicative admission number, alternative places available at other schools and its general responsibilities in the use of its resources. The Published Admission Number (PAN) for Broadway School is 210.

3.4 Admission numbers are normally based on multiples of 30 (subject to the capacity assessment for the school) and it is within this framework that schools are required to plan detailed arrangements for timetabling etc. Any increase in the number of pupils admitted is likely to lead to excessive class sizes creating additional strain on resources and staff. It is also possible that specialist facilities such as science laboratories, home economics areas and craft rooms could become overcrowded giving particular concern to levels of safety.

4. Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme

Birmingham Local Authority has co-ordinated with other admission authorities in Birmingham and with surrounding local authorities.

As part of these arrangements, in order to decide those who best met the criteria of each school, individual admissions authorities were required to rank all applicants in accordance with their admission criteria.

5. Admission Criteria for Birmingham Community Schools

5.1 Where there are more applications for places than the school can accommodate, the procedures set out in the parents' information booklet "Secondary Education - Opportunities for your child in Birmingham 2008" were applied. These required each preference put forward to be considered equally with those of other applicants and assessed against the individual admission criteria of the school concerned. The oversubscription is as follows:

Any child with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) is required to be admitted to the school that is named in their statement. This gives any such child overall priority for admission to the named school. The remaining places are then offered to:

1. Looked after Children (In Public Care)
2. Children with a brother or sister already at the school who will still be in attendance in the September entry is sought.
3. Children who live nearest the school.



BROADWAY SCHOOL

5.2 In each category priority is given to applicants who live nearest to the school, measured in a straight line.

5.3 Where it is necessary to distinguish between applicants by distance, the following procedures are followed:

5.3.1 Applicants are accurately located using a computerised mapping system. The distance between the applicant's home and the school concerned is then measured, by computer, to the nearest metre.

5.3.2 It is important to note that an absolute distance is not necessary. The distance is significant only in relation to other distances measured on the same basis.

6. Waiting Lists

Parents whose children have not been offered their preferred school will be informed of their right of appeal and will be added to that school's waiting list. Waiting lists for community schools will not be fixed following the offer of places. They are subject to change. This means that a child's waiting list position during the year could go up or down. Any late applications accepted will be added to each school's list in accordance with the order of priority for offering places.

7. In Year Fair Access Policy

The Birmingham Schools Admissions Forum (representing all admission authorities of maintained schools in the City) has agreed to ensure that access to education is secured quickly and sympathetically for children who have no school place, and to ensure that all schools in an area admit their fair share of children with challenging behaviour by the use of Fair Access Sharing Panels.

8. Broadway School

Broadway School is an 11-18 comprehensive school with specialist languages college status. It is located on two sites, approximately one kilometre apart. The Aston Campus is over 105 years old.

The indicative admission number for the school is 210 in any year group.



BROADWAY SCHOOL

Classes are taught in numbers varying between 14 and 30, averaging 24, for the following reasons:

- Many classrooms are small and cannot physically take 30 pupils, particularly at the Aston Campus;
- Other rooms have specialist facilities and could become overcrowded, thus creating a health and safety hazard;
- A very high proportion of pupils have significant barriers to learning, often multiple barriers, and these pupils are taught in smaller groups and withdrawal groups in separate rooms within the school. These groups are full relative to their purpose and the specific educational needs of those pupils.
- There is a significant imbalance in all year groups between boys and girls – with a majority of boys. This can lead to serious curriculum and timetable constraints.

The Head Teacher of the School has asked that members of the Appeals Panel and parents are made aware that the school is full in some year groups. The admission of extra pupils could reduce the quality of education being provided for other pupils within the school.

9. The Authority is unable to comply with parental preference because all the available places at the school have been properly allocated in accordance with the Authority's published admission criteria. To comply with parental preference would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources. However, the Authority is able to fulfil its requirements as places are available in reasonable alternative schools and the parents have been notified about all of these.