



Marches Academy Trust

Marches Academy Trust

Admissions Policy

2027/28

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Summary of last revision	Autumn 2025 - Added new schools that have joined the Trust. Amended parent/carer to responsible adult. Amended wording to clarify that Shropshire Council coordinates all the Trust's mid-term/in-year applications for Reception - Year 11 CYP using the same admissions criteria as stated in this policy. Amended definition of sibling. Clarified wording under section 9. Primary school admissions in line with LA guidance for deferred starts.
Policy control survey	Please complete this survey and provide feedback if you have had to use this policy https://forms.office.com/r/HMeZtB29Si

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Part 1

1 Pre 16 Admissions Policy

1.1 Marches Academy Trust's schools are open access comprehensive schools catering for children & young people (CYP) aged between 2 and 18. The maximum admission number for each September intake is:

Cockshutt	15
Criftins	12
Grange Primary School	60
The Grove School and Sixth Form	208
Idsall School	216
Longlands Primary School	30
Lower Heath CE Primary School	15
The Marches School	270
Oakmeadow CE Primary School	60
Selattyn	13
Shrewsbury Academy	237
Sir John Talbot's School	135
Tilstock CE Primary School	10
Woodlands School	The Local Authority (LA) is the admissions authority. The school currently has places for 82 CYP. Occasionally the school may be required to take additional CYP.

1.2 Within this policy, adults responsible for the care of CYP are referred to throughout as **responsible adults**, taken to mean those with parental responsibility for the child or young person and may include parents, carers, kinship carers, corporate parents, or guardians.

1.3 Marches Academy Trust (the Trust) is the admissions authority for all schools within the Trust. During the normal admissions round, the local authority operates the coordinated admissions scheme, which includes all Trust schools. Responsible adults wishing to apply for a place should put the school down as a preference on the common application form submitted to the CYP's home local authority.

1.4 Shropshire Council coordinates all our mid-term/in-year applications for Reception - Year 11 children on behalf of the trust. These will be dealt with using the same admissions criteria as stated in this policy.

1.5 Applications must be made via the Shropshire Council online portal (Synergy - Homepage (shropshire.gov.uk)).

1.6 For transfers to Primary school for the first time into Reception, or Secondary school in Year 7, the Council's Admissions Team co-ordinates the admissions process, and all enquiries regarding admissions should be addressed to them. They The admissions team publish a booklet, 'Parents' Guide to Education in

Shropshire', each year, with up-to-date information about schools, and a full explanation of the admissions process. The booklets are available from the Shropshire Council website.

- 1.7 Responsible adults who may wish to speak directly to an Admissions Advisor may also contact them through the Admissions Team. Admissions for any year group, other than Reception or Year 7, will be classed as In-Year or Mid-term applications, and will also be processed by Shropshire Council. (please see Section 7).
- 1.8 A copy of the determined arrangements are available for viewing on the Council's website at www.shropshire.gov.uk
- 1.9 The contact address is: Admissions Team, Shropshire Council, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ. Tel: 0345 678 9008
or email: school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk

Catchment areas for schools can be viewed on Local View which can be found on the above website address.

2 Published Admission Number

- Cockshutt CE Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 15.
- Criftins CE Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 12.
- Grange Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 60.
- The Grove School & Sixth Form has a Published Admission Number of 208.
- Idsall School has a Published Admission Number of 216.
- Longlands Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 30.
- Lower Heath CE Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 15.
- The Marches School has a Published Admission Number of 270 for each Year 7 intake (this number also applies to Years 8 - 11).
- Oakmeadow CE Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 60.
- Selattyn CE Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 13.
- Sir John Talbot's School has a Published Admission Number of 135.
- Shrewsbury Academy has a Published Admission Number of 237.
- Tilstock CE Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 10.
- Woodlands School - the Local Authority (LA) is the admissions authority. The school currently has places for 82 CYP. Occasionally the school may be required to take additional CYP.

The number of preferences received, and places allocated, for the previous year can be viewed on the Shropshire Council website and in the Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire booklet.

3 Children & Young People with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

3.1 Following the School Admissions Code section 1.6 CYP with an Education Health and Care Plan will not be part of an oversubscription process and will all be admitted regardless of intake.

4 Applications

- 4.1 Responsible adults of pre-school CYP, CYP in Early Years Education, or Year 6 CYP, resident in Shropshire, will be required in the autumn term, prior to the school year of transfer to make an application, naming four preferences, via the Shropshire Council website. The online application facility will be available in early September for secondary application and in November for reception.
- 4.2 Where there are more applications than there are places available, allocations will be made in accordance with the schools oversubscription criteria. Full details of these criteria are given in the Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire booklet; therefore, it is recommended that responsible adults read the booklet before completing an application, but, in general terms, they are based upon the following (in order):
- 4.3 CYP who have an Education Health and Care Plan, which names the school the CYP should attend because their needs can be best met by that particular school, will be offered places before other CYP. After that places will be offered up to the admission number in the following priority order:

4.4 Secondary School(s)

4.4.1 Priority 1

A CYP who is 'looked after' or who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, 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 state care as a result of being adopted. 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 functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

4.4.2 Priority 2

Priority will be given to a CYP where medical or social exceptionalities are accommodated, if responsible adults can provide written evidence from a medical professional that attending the school is essential to the medical well-being of the CYP.

4.4.3 Priority 3

Priority will be given to CYP living within the designated catchment area. If there are not enough places for all the CYP in the catchment area, then the following criteria for admission will apply:

- 1) Priority will be given to CYP living within the catchment area who will have another sibling at the school (including sixth form if applicable) on the day they are due to start there.
- 2) Shrewsbury Academy only: After that, priority will be given to other CYP who live within the Shrewsbury catchment area for whom the school is the nearest

Shrewsbury secondary school. For this 'Nearest School Test', a straight-line computerised mapping system is used, to determine the distance between home and the nearest appropriate official entrance gate to the school site.

- 3) After that, any other CYP who live within the catchment area.

4.4.4 Priority 4

CYP who have a responsible adult who is a member of staff, who has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage by the school.

4.4.5 Priority 5

After that any places that are left will be offered to CYP who live outside the catchment area according to the following criteria:

- 1) CYP who have another sibling at the school (including sixth form if applicable) on the day they are due to start and whose homes are nearest to the school.
- 2) (Does not apply to Shrewsbury Academy) Secondly, priority will be given to CYP living outside the catchment area without an older sibling at the school, but who have attended a state-funded primary school that lies within the secondary school's catchment area, for more than a whole academic year immediately prior to transfer.
- 3) After that, priority will be given to other CYP who live outside the catchment area.

4.5 Primary School(s)

As well as being an inclusive neighbourhood school, our Church of England schools have distinctive Christian characters and ethos that reflect the teaching of Jesus Christ and Christian values. We ask all responsible adults applying for a place at these schools to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. We hope that all CYP who come to these schools will be able to participate (as appropriate) in the religious life of our schools (including collective worship and religious education).

4.5.1 Priority 1

A CYP who is 'looked after' or who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, 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 state care as a result of being adopted. 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 functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

4.5.2 Priority 2

Priority will be given to a CYP where medical or social exceptionalities are accommodated, if responsible adults can provide written evidence from a medical professional that attending the school is essential to the medical well-being of the CYP.

4.5.3 Priority 3

Priority will be given to CYP living within the designated catchment area. If there are not enough places for all the CYP in the catchment area then the following criteria for admission will apply:

- 1) Priority will be given to CYP living within the catchment area who will have a sibling at the school on the day they are due to start there.
- 2) After that, any other CYP who live within the catchment area.

4.5.4 Priority 4

CYP who have a responsible adult who is a member of staff, who has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage by the school.

4.5.5 Priority 5

After that any places that are left will be offered to CYP who live outside the catchment area according to the following criteria:

- 1) CYP who have a sibling at the school on the day they are due to start and whose homes are nearest to the school.
- 2) After that, priority will be given to other CYP who live outside the catchment area.

4.6 Notes which apply to the oversubscription criteria

4.6.1 Applicants in each of the categories and sub-categories above will be rank ordered by home to school straight-line distance, where the shortest distance will be given priority. For admission purposes all distances are measured by the School Admissions Team as a straight-line distance on a computerised mapping system between the home address and the nearest appropriate entrance gate of the school by pinpointing their eastings and northings. Where two addresses are within the same block of flats, the lowest number of flat or nearest the ground floor will be deemed to be the nearest in distance.

4.6.2 Very exceptionally, where a CYP has a particular health reason requiring them to attend a specific school, that CYP may be given a place before any of the CYP who qualify under Priorities 2 and 3 above. This will only be allowed if responsible adults

can provide written evidence from a medical professional that attending that particular school is essential to the medical well-being of the CYP. Shropshire County Council reserves the right to check the relevance of the medical condition.

- 4.6.3 Catchment area maps can be viewed on Local View available from 'Maps' at the foot of the website www.shropshire.gov.uk, or individual addresses can be checked by contacting the Admissions Team. Admission numbers can be found in the Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire booklet.
- 4.6.4 The definition of a sibling, is the brother or sister, stepbrother or stepsister, half-brother or half-sister, living at the same address as part of the same family unit, and of compulsory school age (i.e. 5 - 16 years) or in the same school's Sixth Form. Fostered and adopted siblings are also included. Siblings must still be attending the school on the date the other sibling is due to start there. However, cousins or other relatives who take up residence in the home in order to establish an 'in catchment area' address will not be given priority under the sibling criterion.
- 4.6.5 The Trust will endeavour to place siblings born at the same time (e.g. twins, triplets etc.) in the same school. If necessary, the Trust will admit over PAN to accommodate such CYP.
- 4.6.6 All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the CYP. This is normally expected to be with the responsible adult who has care of the CYP for the majority of the time (that is school time during the week in term time) but where care is shared equally, the home address will be determined by which responsible adult receives the relevant Child Benefit.
- 4.6.7 In the event that two individual applications are exactly the same, after all other criteria have been taken into account, a tie breaker will be used. This will be by random allocation, and overseen by an independent party not connected with the admissions process. The Trust will liaise with Shropshire County Council if this is required.

5 Refusals

The Trust schools may refuse admission to applicants who have been permanently excluded from two or more other schools; The ability to refuse admissions runs for a period of two years since the last exclusion.

Exceptions to this will be applied where:

- Exclusions which took place before the CYP concerned reached compulsory school age do not count for this purpose.

5.1.1 A CYP has an Education Health and Care Plan naming the school.

- CYP who have been reinstated following a permanent exclusion (or would have been reinstated had it been practicable to do so).
- CYP whose permanent exclusion has been considered by a review panel, and the review panel has decided to quash a decision not to reinstate them following the exclusion.

6 Appeals Process

6.1 Any applicant refused a place at Marches Academy Trust schools has a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

6.2 To lodge an appeal, you should contact Shropshire Council.

6.3 The school has to ensure that the independent appeal panel is trained to act in accordance with all relevant provisions of the School Admissions Appeals Code published by the Department for Education. The code can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code>

6.4 If, after your appeal, you are concerned that the appeal did not comply with the Code, or was set up wrongly, and that this affected the outcome of your appeal, you can complain to the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The Education and Skills Funding Agency will investigate the complaint on behalf of the Secretary of State.

6.5 If the Education and Skills Funding Agency finds that the appeal arrangements have breached the Code, and affected the outcome of the appeal, the school may be required to establish a fresh appeal.

6.6 Further details can be found on the factsheet:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/692952/Academy_independent_admission_appeal_panel_complaints_factsheet_2018.pdf

7 Mid-Term or In-Year Admissions

- 7.1 Where families wish to change the school their CYP attends at other times of the year, after the start of Reception or Year 7, this is coordinated by Shropshire Local Authority (LA). To apply for a place responsible adults must apply by completing the LA's Online Application Form. This can be found [here](#)
- 7.2 Your application will be processed by the School Admissions Team at Shropshire Council in accordance with our school's oversubscription criteria. You will then be notified via letter of the outcome of your application.
- 7.3 The LA School Admissions Team and staff based in schools, libraries and customer services will support responsible adults who have difficulty applying online. In **exceptional** circumstances, a paper application form will be made available by the LA School Admissions Team upon request, this is not available through the schools and schools will not be responsible for sending applications they receive to the LA School Admissions Team.
- 7.4 If applications are received directly to a school, the school must advise the applicants to complete the LAs online application form.
- 7.5 The LA aims to notify responsible adults of the outcome of applications within 7 working days, however, processing may take up to 15 working days.
- 7.6 Further details of the LA policy for placing of CYP under the in-year applications process, can be found on the LA website.
- 7.7 School applications and waiting lists will be administered and held by the LA Admissions Team. Applications are discussed with the school and a place will be offered if there is a vacancy in the relevant year group or if the school is able to exceed their PAN.
- 7.8 The Headteacher at your chosen school will usually then make an appointment to visit the school.
- 7.9 If there are no places available, unsuccessful applicants have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel. The LA has an established appeals process and will inform responsible adults of the process as needed.
- 7.10 Responsible adults with CYP at any age, prior to beginning school in Reception, or admission to secondary school, who wish to visit a school within the Trust, should contact the relevant Headteacher.
- 7.11 If an application is made for a CYP to be admitted to the school, and the required year group is below the level of the Published Admission Number applicable to the age group, the CYP will be accepted subject to the provisions of Sections 4 and 5. The school may refuse to admit a CYP, where there are places available, on the grounds that admission of such a CYP would prejudice the provision of efficient education, or the efficient use of resources in any year group.

7.12 The Trust will consult and co-ordinate its arrangements, including over the rapid re-integration of CYP, including those who have been excluded from other schools, and who arrive in an area after the normal admissions round, in accordance with local In-Year fair access protocols for securing schools for unplaced CYP.

8 Admissions to Attend out of Cohort

8.1 These will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, to establish whether an out of cohort place is in the best interests of the CYP. For entry into Reception, please refer to the Local Authority online booklet, Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire, for the legal start dates based on age.

8.2 Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Admission authorities must make decisions based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. If a request is refused.

8.3 The process for requesting such admissions is as follows;

With the application, parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group (state which one), and the reasons for that request. Parents will need to submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, headteacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include:

- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

8.4 Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time.

9 Primary school admissions

9.1 When can a CYP start school?

CYP can attend primary education from the September following their 4th birthday. The law requires that CYP attend school from the prescribed day following their 5th birthday. Responsible adults can request that the date the CYP is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year, or until the CYP reaches compulsory school age in that year. They can also request that a CYP attends part-time until they reach compulsory school age. However, the offer of a place cannot be held over until the next academic year. NB: CYP become of compulsory school age on the first prescribed day following their 5th birthday: 31 August, 31 December or 31 March (or on that day if any of these dates are the CYP's birthday). Shropshire Council does not offer the option for a child to start primary school before they are eligible.

9.2 Deferred Transfers

CYP born from 1 April to 31 August - known as summer born CYP - do not need to start school until the September after their fifth birthday, a year after they could first have started school. Most summer born CYP start at age 4 with no issues. Responsible adults of summer born CYP have two options if they feel a CYP is not ready to start Reception with their natural cohort. These are outlined below:

9.2.1 Option 1 - Delayed Start

If a responsible adult of a summer born CYP does start school aged 4, they can, if they wish, agree with the allocated school a pattern of part time attendance or a deferred start until later in that school year for the CYP. You can discuss this with the school. This will require the responsible adult to apply on-time (by 15 January) using the application process provided by Shropshire Council. Once places are allocated on the 16 April the responsible adult can contact the Headteacher to discuss the delayed start.

9.2.2 Option 2 - Defer for a full year

If a responsible adult decides their summer born CYP will start school aged 5 and wants the CYP to start school in reception (not Year 1), they need to make a request to the school's admission authority. This is called requesting admission out of the normal age group - because CYP born from 1 September in one year to 31 August the following year are normally educated together in one year group. A responsible adult cannot defer admission beyond the point at which the CYP reaches compulsory school age.

The responsible adult will need to submit a form requesting a formal deferral and nursery provision (in the case of Reception deferrals) and primary schools (in the case of Secondary deferrals) will need to complete forms and assessments and submit to the School Admissions Team for processing. Deferral requests ideally need to be submitted no later than the deadlines for the respective transfer groups (15 January for Reception). We do appreciate

that in extenuating circumstances, submitting such a request before the closing date does present a challenge. Should this occur, the team will do their best to process prior to the end of the academic year, though there is no guarantee of this.

9.3 Option 3 - admission on part time basis

A parent has the right for their child to be admitted on a part-time basis during the Reception year but not beyond the point that they reach compulsory school age. This can be combined with deferral, if desired (e.g., deferral and then part-time attendance).

9.4 If responsible adults do not make a request for admission out of the normal age group the CYP will start school in year 1. Responsible adults should consider the potential impact of missing the reception year. The admission authority makes the decision in the CYP's best interests. The government believes it is usually not in a CYP's best interests to miss the teaching that takes place during the reception year, and that it should be rare for a CYP to start school in Year 1.

9.5 It is important to advise a responsible adult that, should their summer born CYP defer for a year, they will reach school leaving age at the end of year 10, rather than year 11. The school will not ask them to leave, but they will no longer be required by law to attend school and the school may not be able to enforce their attendance. CYP usually take their GCSEs in year 11.

10 Children & Young People of Service Personnel

The Trust has adopted the Armed Forces Covenant. Applications from service families without a Shropshire address will be accepted by Shropshire Local Authority (LA) if accompanied by a posting order or an official letter with a relocation date to the Shropshire LA area. In these circumstances, a Unit postal address or quartering area address will be used when considering an application against oversubscription criteria. CYP of service families are permitted exceptions to the infant class size restriction of 30 CYP per class.

If applications are received in time for inclusion in the main admissions round, no disadvantage will be incurred, and the application will be considered alongside all other applicants. If, due to the timing of a posting, the application is received too late to be considered for national offer day but the applicant would have been eligible for a place had the application been received on time, a place will be offered at the school. Where application is made for an oversubscribed school that is not the designated catchment school for the service address, it is possible that the application would be declined and responsible adults would be informed of their right to appeal, along with the offer of a place at the catchment school.

Secondary Schools

Shropshire LA works with service families to remove potential disadvantage for service CYP. This is in accordance with Paragraph 2.21 of the School Admissions Code.

Applications from service families without a Shropshire address will be accepted by Shropshire LA if accompanied by a posting order or an official letter with a relocation date to the Shropshire LA area. In these circumstances, a Unit postal address or quartering area address will be used when considering an application against oversubscription criteria.

If applications are received in time for inclusion in the main admissions round, no disadvantage will be incurred, and the application will be considered alongside all other applicants. If, due to the timing of a posting, the application is received too late to be considered for national offer day, but the applicant would have been eligible for a place had the application been received on time, a place will be offered at the school. Where application is made for an oversubscribed school that is not the designated catchment school for the service address, it is possible that the application would be declined, and responsible adults would be informed of their right to appeal along with the offer of a place at the catchment school.

Part 2

11 Post 16 (Sixth Form) Admissions Policy

The Trustees of the Marches Academy Trust are responsible for admissions. It is intended that the school will offer an education particularly suited to the more academic CYP. It is our aim, when considering applications, to accept CYP onto a curriculum which will suit their learning style, and encourage them to flourish academically. Judgments and offers will be made on an appropriate level of prior academic achievement. For success in outcomes, CYP should also have a positive attitude, and aptitude for learning. We will support CYP to strive for standards of excellence, and encourage them to develop a sense of intellectual independence, accompanied by a social and moral responsibility, so as to prepare them for their roles in the wider society of the 21st Century.

12 Post 16 (Sixth Form) Method of Application

- 12.1 All CYP in Year 11 will be invited to our Post 16 Events at The Grove School and Sixth Form, The Marches School, and Sir John Talbot's School; these will take place in October. The events will be publicised locally and on the schools' websites. This will provide an opportunity for all Year 11, and CYP studying in other education establishments, to attend.
- 12.2 Prospectuses will be published, and available for the Post 16 Events. Information, advice and guidance meetings will be arranged for every prospective Sixth Form CYP in Year 11 at the Trust schools, providing expert professional support at a critical time of decision making. All applicants will be required to attend an interview with a member of the Sixth Form team.
- 12.3 CYP will be asked to indicate their provisional preferences in the late autumn term/early spring term, in order to help us construct the curriculum. Timetable blocks will then be created to cater for as many curriculum choices as possible. CYP can alter their preferences, up, until, and including, the start of the A level courses, but they may be constrained by the timetable blocking that has been set based on earlier preferences.

13 Post 16 (Sixth Form) General Entry Requirements

13.1 CYP wishing to continue their studies with us are required to achieve a minimum of a grade 4 in English Language and Maths. In order to secure a place at our Sixth Forms, we ask applicants to achieve a minimum of five grade 5s in their GCSE examinations and at least a grade 5 in the subjects they intend to study. Whilst ideally, we would like a grade 5 in the subject they intend to study, we will assess applications on a case-by-case basis. BTEC and vocational courses require 5 GCSEs of at least a grade 4 to include English and Maths. At Idsall we run a construction course that involves the resitting of Maths and English (if CYP have not achieved a grade 4). Applications are decided on a case-by-case basis.

If they are applying to join us from another school, we also seek a reference from the current school, focusing on predictions to meet the academic criteria.

14 Post 16 (Sixth Form) Course Specific Requirements

14.1 In addition to the general entry requirements, there are course specific requirements which explain what CYP need to achieve, in order to pursue studies in each subject in the Sixth Form. This may entail attaining particular grades in specified subjects, and it is important that CYP check these before making their choices. Details of these course specific requirements will be published in the Sixth Form prospectus, which will be available at the Post 16 Event.

14.2 Where an applicant fails to meet the general entry requirements we will provide them with information, advice and guidance to support them in continuing their learning or work-based training at an alternative institution. If a CYP fails to meet the course specific requirements but achieves five grade 5s at GCSE, we will strive to approve a new course offer which will allow the CYP to take up a place at a Trust Sixth Form. This will be dependent primarily on the number of CYP on the course, and the CYP having achieved the course entry requirement as published.

14.3 On the publication of mid-course exam results, we will review each CYP's progress. We will focus on the probability of them being successful if they make the transition to A2. If their results are not a platform for achieving three A*-E grades at A2, they may not be able to continue studying in the Sixth Form.

15 Post 16 (Sixth Form) Courses in Year 12 and Year 13

15.1 All CYP in Year 12 will be required to work towards completing a minimum of three A levels or their equivalent. Alongside this, they will be expected to

play a full and active part in the wider life of the school. This will include a commitment to developing themselves beyond their academic studies.

15.2 In Year 13 it is expected CYP will continue with a minimum of three full level 3 qualifications.

16 Post 16 (Sixth Form) Applicant's Age

Very occasionally, we may offer places to CYP one year ahead or behind their standard year group if we consider, as a matter of professional judgement, that this would be in the best interests of the CYP and the school.

17 Post 16 (Sixth Form) The Integrity of the Admissions Procedure

The Trust's Sixth Forms rely on the veracity of the information provided by the applicant, and their responsible adults in the course of the application procedure. Where any such information proves to be both inaccurate or misleading, the school reserves the right to deny the applicant admission or, where a CYP has already entered Sixth Form, to immediately withdraw their place.

18 Post 16 (Sixth Form) Oversubscription Criteria

18.1 In circumstances where the Sixth Form of a school is oversubscribed, the school would make every possible effort to accommodate extra numbers from beyond our own school's Year 11. Where this is not possible, the following oversubscription criteria, given in order, would be used to allocate places:

18.1.1 Priority 1a

Priority will be given to CYP in public care, usually referred to as 'Looked After Children', and CYP who were previously 'looked after'. These are CYP who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order). CYP within, or from state care, within England.

18.1.2 Priority 1b

CYP who appear (to the admission authority of the Trust) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. *(A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society)*

18.1.3 Priority 1c

Priority will be given to a CYP where medical or social exceptionailities are accommodated, if responsible adults can provide written evidence from a medical professional that attending the school is essential to the medical well-being of the CYP.

18.1.4 Priority 2

CYP who meet the entry requirements, and live within the Trust school's individual Geographical Area of Responsibility for that school.

Our Published Admission Number (external intake) is 35 for Grove School and Sixth Form, 35 for the Marches School, and 35 for Sir John Talbot's School.

19 Post 16 (Sixth Form) Appealing Against Admission Decisions

19.1 If your application is unsuccessful, you will be advised of your right of appeal. Admission decisions may initially be considered by the Governors' appeals panel but if unsuccessful, applicants may also appeal to an independent appeal panel. Responsible adults and CYP are able to appeal jointly or separately against a decision refusing a CYP admission to the Sixth Form. Where they appeal separately, the Trustees of the Trust will make arrangements so that they are heard together.

19.2 Where applicants have been refused admission to the Sixth Form because there are more eligible CYP than places available, and other oversubscription criteria have then been applied, the appeals panel will follow the normal two-stage process of:

- 1) First stage: establishing the facts
- 2) Second stage: balancing the arguments

19.3 In the case of an appeal where the CYP did not meet the specified entry requirements, the panel will not attempt to make its own assessment of the CYP's ability, but will decide whether the school's decision that the CYP was not of the required standard was reasonable, in light of the information available to it. In doing so, it will consider whether any process in place to consider such cases (for example where a CYP had not been studying in England, and therefore did not have GCSEs) was carried out in a consistent and objective way.

20 Post 16 (Sixth Form) Timetable for Appeals

- 20.1 The schools will ensure that appeals lodged by the appropriate deadlines are heard within certain timescales.
- 20.2 Where the offer of a place would not have been conditional upon exam results, appeals must be heard within 10 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals.

- 20.3 Where the offer of a place would have been conditional upon exam results, appeals must be heard within 15 school days of confirmation of those results.
- 20.4 The schools will ensure that appellants receive at least 10 school days' notice of their appeal hearing and that decision letters are sent within five school days of the hearing wherever possible.

21 Post 16 (Sixth Form) General Enquiries

General enquiries about admissions to The Grove School and Sixth Form should be directed to the Head of Sixth Form on: 01630 652121, or Post16admissions@gro.mmat.org.uk Further details about The Grove School and Sixth Form and the admissions procedure can be found on our website: <https://groveschoolmarketdrayton.co.uk/>

General enquiries about admissions to The Marches School Sixth Form should be directed to the Sixth Form on: 01691 664400, or Post16admissions@mar.mmat.org.uk Further details about The Marches Sixth Form and the admissions procedure can be found on our website: www.marchesschool.co.uk

General enquiries about admissions to Sir John Talbot's Sixth Form should be directed to the Head of Sixth Form on: 01948 660600 or Post16admissions@sjt.mmat.org.uk Further details about Sir John Talbot's Sixth Form and the admissions procedure can be found on our website: www.sirjohntalbots.co.uk

General enquiries about admissions to Idsall Sixth Form should be directed to the Head of Sixth Form on: 01952 468400 or info@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk. Further details about Idsall Sixth Form and the admissions procedure can be found on our website: www.idsallschool.org