

The LeAF Studio

Admissions Policy and Arrangements from 2021-22

The LeAF Studio will adopt fair practices and arrangements that are in accordance with the School Admissions Code, the School Admissions Appeals Code and admissions law.

Admission Number(s)

LeAF Studio accepts admissions from 13 – 19 years and provides a variety of specialist educational opportunities, which include a Stage, Screen and Music Academy and Athlete Development Academy.

LeAF Studio has the following planned admission numbers for the Year 2021-22 as detailed below:

LeAF Studio admits a total of 500 students, of which, there are the following places allocated in each year group:

- 80 places allocated for Year 9
- 80 places allocated for Year 10
- 80 places allocated for Year 11
- 260 places allocated for Sixth Form

In any specific year, the LeAF Studio may set a higher admission number than the agreed admission number for an applicable year group. Before setting an admission number higher than its agreed admission number, the LeAF Studio will consult with local admitting authorities and parents in the catchment area.

If the LeAF Studio admits a total of 30 pupils in excess of its admission number in any three year period it will determine a higher admission number, after consulting with local admitting authorities and local parents.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents of gifted and talented children, or those who have experienced problems or missed part of a year, for example due to ill health, can seek places outside their normal age group. LeAF Studio will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case, informing parents of their statutory right to appeal. This right does not apply if they are offered a place in another year group at the academy.

Process of Application

Arrangements for applications for places at the LeAF Studio at year 9 will be made in accordance with Bournemouth's LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements.

In the first instance, interested applicants should register their interest with LeAF Studio direct to allow completion of a performance assessment based on aptitude to sport or performing arts due to the nature of the curriculum offered within the school.

LeAF Studio will take all reasonable steps to inform parents of the outcome of the performance assessment before the closing date for secondary applications in October so as to allow parents time to make an informed choice of school – though this will not guarantee students a place at LeAF Studio.

Applications are to be made on the Common Application Form and submitted to the Local Authority by the October deadline following a Performance Assessment.

The LeAF Studio will use Bournemouth's LA's timetable for applications to the LeAF Studio each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year). This will fit in with the timetable for the co-ordination of admission arrangements within Bournemouth's LA as agreed by the Bournemouth Admissions Forum, Bournemouth LA, local schools and Academies.

Timeline

The LeAF Studio will provide information to the LA for sign posting to enable parents to view the determined arrangements.

September: The LeAF Studio will publish in its prospectus information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September. This will include details of open evenings and other opportunities for prospective students and their parents to visit the studio.

September / October: The LeAF Studio will provide opportunities for parents to visit the Studio.

31st October: Application Form to be completed and returned to the LeAF Studio by the published closing date.

Mid December: LeAF Studio sends list of students to be offered places to Bournemouth LA.

March: LeAF Studio makes offers to parents.

The LeAF Studio will ensure its application processes enable parents to apply before these deadlines.

Consideration of Applications

The LeAF Studio will consider all applications for places at the LeAF Studio.

The LeAF Studio will not:

- a) Place any conditions on the consideration of any application, other than those in the oversubscription criteria;
- b) Take into account any previous schools attended, unless it is a named feeder school;

- c) Give extra priority to children whose parents rank preferred schools, in a particular order, including 'first preference first' arrangements;

Where fewer than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year groups are received, the LeAF Studio will offer places to all those who have applied. In the event of over application, the following over-subscription criteria will apply:

Category 1

Looked after children and all previously looked after children. Children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted; (see note 1).

Category 2

Students will be admitted on the basis of aptitude to sport or performing arts due to the nature of the curriculum offered within the school. This will involve a Performance Assessment in the identified specialism. Up to 10% of students of the PAN will be admitted on the basis of aptitude to sport or performing arts. (see note 2)

Category 3

Brothers and sisters of children attending the school at the point the second child enters the school will receive priority over applicants without siblings (see note 4).

Category 4

Children living in the designated catchment area, which is defined as Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset.

The home address is considered to be the child's main and genuine principal place of residence at the time of the allocation of places. Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes will be required (see note 7).

Category 5

Children living outside the designated catchment area of the academy who will have a brother or sister (see note 5) attending the academy at the time of admission.

Category 6

Children living outside the catchment area of the academy who live closest to the academy as measured by straight-line distance. In the event of a tie-break those who live closest to the academy as measured by the straight-line distance calculated by the Authority's Geographical Information System (GIS) in use at the time of allocation. The system at the time of setting the policy takes the measurement from the centre of the building of the home address to the centre of the building of the academy. If distances are equal, as calculated by the GIS system, for example a flat in a block of dwellings with the same front entrance, a random allocation system will be used to determine the allocation.

Year 12

Applicants will normally only be considered for admission into the sixth form if the following criteria are met

- a) A course suited to their ability and aptitude is available in their year of application
- b) Prior qualification requirements listed below are met:
 - Level 3 courses – 5 GCSE passes, including English and Maths, at Grade 5 or above, with GCSE Grade 6 achieved in the subject of choice.
 - BTEC Level 3 – 5 GCSE grade qualifications at Grade 5 or above.

The Academy will apply the above categories to applicants subject to the following exceptions:

Final Tie-Break Allocation Process

If there are insufficient places to accommodate all applicants and after using all tie break criteria applicants for the final place(s) cannot be split the remaining place(s) will be allocated using a random allocation process. The process will be electronically administered through an independent provider.

Late Applications

Where an applicant is seeking admission for the September entry of the academy entry year, applications received before the closing date will initially be given priority over those received after the closing date. Under exceptional circumstances a late application may be considered as received on time. Exceptional circumstances could be illness, involving hospitalisation or a bereavement.

In Year Fair Access

All the admission authorities in Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch have established an In-year Fair Access Protocol. The purpose of the Protocol is to ensure that – outside the normal admissions round – unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. Cases are considered by a Panel comprising Headteachers and/or their representatives. Decisions of the Panel may mean that the Academy might have to admit young people which could result in the Published Admission Number being exceeded

Special Educational Needs

Where a child has a statement of special educational needs and for whom there is a legal requirement to admit to a particular academy named in the statement.

Waiting Lists

The LeAF Studio operates a formal waiting list for those refused a place. The waiting list is ranked according to the over-subscription criteria. Any places that do become available, if not required for a child with a statement of special educational needs, are allocated in

accordance with these criteria. The waiting list does not give priority to those that have been on the list longest or to those that applied after the closing date.

Waiting Lists will automatically cease on 31 December, of the determination year. Previous applicants wishing to continue on a waiting list must re-apply to the LeAF Studio between 1 and 31 December.

Academy Admission Appeals

If your son or daughter is not offered a place at The LeAF Studio you have the right to appeal. You must write to the LeAF Studio stating you wish to appeal and the forms will be sent to you directly. Your letter must be sent to:

The LeAF Studio
Holloway Avenue
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH11 9JW

The LeAF Studio will arrange for an Independent Appeals Panel to consider the Studio's reasons for refusal and your reasons for wanting to attend the LeAF Studio.

The panel will consist of three people (two will have education experience and one will be an independent person with no education experience).

The panel will consider the case put forward, it must consider the admission arrangements for the Studio and the reasons why you want to attend this particular academy. The panel must exercise its discretion by balancing the weight of arguments.

The LeAF Studio will provide Parents / Carers with the right to attend the Appeal Panel meeting in person, notification of the appeal date will be sent at least fourteen days prior to the hearing. Appeals will be held at the LeAF Studio, in June or the beginning of July.

The decision of the Independent Appeals Panel is binding on the admissions authority and the parents.

The LeAF Studio will not consider repeat appeals by the same applicant in the same academic year unless the applicant is able to prove that there have been material changes in their circumstances since the previous admission appeal. The final decision as to whether the material changes warrant a fresh appeal will be determined by the LeAF appeals board.

Withdrawal of an offer of a place

The LeAF Studio may withdraw an offer of a place where a parent fails to respond to an offer within a reasonable timescale or the place was offered on the basis of a fraudulent or misleading application.

Admission Criteria - Notes

In the case of over subscription in categories 1 – 5 priority will be given to these children:

1. Looked After Children

- I. A “Looked After Child” means any child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. A child who was “previously a Looked After Child” means a child who after being Looked After became subject to an Adoption Order under the Adoption Act 1976 or under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, a Residence Order or Child Arrangement Order under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 or Special Guardianship Order under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify the previously looked after status of a child. It is at the discretion of the Academy what evidence is required. The final decision will be made by the Academy. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the Academy to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Academy may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.
 - II. live closest to the school as measured by the straight-line distance calculated by the Authority’s Geographical Information System (GIS) in use at the time of allocation (the system at the time of setting the policy takes the measurement from the centre of the building of the home address to the centre of the building of the school). If distances are equal, as calculated by the Council’s GIS system, for example a flat in a block of dwellings with the same front entrance a random allocation system will be used to determine the allocation.
2. In the case of over-subscription in category 2, priority will be given to applicants in the main admission category order, sub-divided by the priorities in Note (1) (i) and (ii) above.
 3. LeAF will apply the above criteria to applicants subject to the following exceptions:
 - (i) Where an applicant is seeking admission for the September entry of the school entry year, applications received before the closing date will initially be given priority over those received after the closing date. Under exceptional circumstances a late application may be considered as received on time. Exceptional circumstances could be illness, involving hospitalisation or a bereavement or as prescribed within the co-ordinated admission arrangements.
 4. Where a child has a statement of special educational needs and for whom there is a legal requirement to admit to a particular school named in the statement.
 5. Brothers and sisters are defined as half or full brother or sister, adoptive brother or sister and the children of parents who are married or cohabiting, where the parents and children live together in the same household.
 6. When considering twins, triplets or other multiple births, places will be offered above the published admission number to the other twin, triplet or multiple birth children whose twin, triplet or multiple birth sibling was offered a place within the admission number. Twins, triplets and multiple births will be given a priority over other sibling links and other applicants.
 7. Only one application can be considered for each child. Where parents/carers are separated it is essential that agreement is reached by both parties concerning the nominated preferred schools. Where a child spends part of their week with one

parent and part with the other, only one address can be used. This must be the address at which the child spends most of their time during term time. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify addresses and/or other details provided. It is at the discretion of the Academy what evidence is required (evidence may include, but is not limited to, Child Benefit, GP registration, evidence of home ownership/tenancy etc.). The final decision on the home address of a child will be made by the Academy. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Academy may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.