Limehurst Academy

A Specialist Sports College

Limehurst Academy Policy Document

Admissions 2028-29 (DRAFT)

Date Approved by Governors: tbc

Review Date: tbc

Headteacher's signature:

Chair of Governors' signature:

Reviewer - ML

Limehurst Academy

Admissions Policy
For entry in August 2028 and in-year 2028-29

The admission authority for Limehurst Academy is East Midlands Education Trust. The Trust is also responsible for arranging an independent appeal against refusal of a place at the school.

Purpose of this policy

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that places at Limehurst are allocated and offered in an open and fair way.

Applying for a place

A parent can apply for a place for their child at any state-funded school in any area. Parents apply to the local authority in which they live (for Limehurst this is usually Leicestershire) for a place at Limehurst and any other preferred schools. The annual closing date is 31 October for a place the following August.

The decision

The Pupil Admission Number for entry in August 2028 (i.e. academic year 7) is 130. The capacity in all other year groups is also 130.

Limehurst will accordingly admit at least these numbers if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if these numbers or fewer apply.

If Limehurst is undersubscribed, any parent that applies will be offered a place. If oversubscribed, oversubscription criteria (outlined below) will apply unless the application meets the needs of the Fair Access Protocol.

Oversubscription criteria

When there are more applications for Limehurst than there are places available, the following criteria will be used to allocate places in the order listed:

1. A '**looked after child**' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption order, child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. 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).

   The definition includes previously looked after children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order), including those children who the admissions authority determine, based on the evidence provided, that were in state care outside of England, but who were then adopted. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014.Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a

child arrangements order. 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).

2. Children with a **sibling** attending Limehurst at the time of application. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

3. Children living permanently in the Limehurst **catchment area**, with priority for admission given to children who live nearest to Limehurst as the crow flies. A map is available at the end of this policy.

4. Children currently attending a **feeder primary school** who do not live in the catchment area. Priority for admission will be given to those who live nearest to Limehurst as the crow flies. Those schools are:

    - Rendell Primary School
    - Cobden Primary School
    - Robert Bakewell Primary School
    - Loughborough Church of England Primary School

5. Children of **staff**, where the member of staff has been employed at Limehurst on a permanent contract for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to Limehurst is made.

6. Children who **live nearest to Limehurst** as the crow flies.

Tie Break criteria

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, children will be put in priority order by using a combination of the highest criterion and distance. Distances are measured in a straight line from the centre point of the property to the school's main designated front gate, using a computerised mapping system.

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and Limehurst is the same.

Some admissions authorities use other criteria when allocating places. For the purposes of clarity, Limehurst **does not** allocate places on the basis of faith, ability or aptitude.

Limehurst may need to ask for proof of the following when applying the oversubscription criteria:

- Address
- Child's date of birth
- A copy of an adoption order, residence order or special guardianship order and a letter from the local authority that last looked after the child confirming that he or she was looked after immediately prior to that order being made.

All preferences are collated. Parents then receive an offer from the local authority at the highest preference school at which a place is available on **1 March** or the first working day thereafter in the year in which the child will be admitted.

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan where Limehurst is named in the Plan will be allocated a

place before any oversubscription criteria are applied.

Right to appeal

Parents, and in some circumstances children, have the right to appeal against Limehurst's decision to refuse admission.

The local authority, on behalf of Limehurst, will set out the reasons for the decision, confirm that there is a right of appeal and explain the process for hearing such appeals. An independent appeals panel will be established to hear the appeal. The panel will decide whether to uphold or dismiss the appeal. Where a panel upholds the appeal, Limehurst is required to admit the child.

When a parent is informed of a decision to refuse their child a place at the school, the correspondence will include:

- The reason why admission was refused.
- Information about the right to appeal.
- The deadline for lodging an appeal.
- The contact details for making an appeal.

Parents will be informed that, if they wish to appeal, they must set out their grounds for appeal in writing.

Withdrawing an offer or a place

Limehurst will withdraw an offer if:

- It has been offered in error.
- A parent has not responded within a reasonable period of time (the parent will be notified that the offer may be withdrawn and given an opportunity to respond and explain).
- It is established that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

Limehurst will not withdraw a place once a child has started at Limehurst, except where that place was fraudulently obtained.

Waiting list

If Limehurst is oversubscribed, the local authority – on behalf of Limehurst – will maintain a clear, fair and objective waiting list for children in Year 7 up until 31st December. Priority will continue to be based upon the oversubscription criteria. A waiting list will not be maintained after 31st December in Year 7, or in Years 8-11.

Priority will not be given to children based on the date their application was received or their name was added to the list.

Out of age group applications

Parents wishing to seek a place for their child out of their normal age group at Limehurst for any other year group than Year 7, or for Year 7 after the start of the new school year in August/September, must put their request in writing to the academy in the first instance, giving some information about their child and explaining why they would like to apply for a place out of the normal age group.

Parents should also indicate in their request whether the child has been educated out of their normal age group at the current/previous school.

The Local Governing Body will then consider the request and make a decision on the appropriate year group for the child on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

Parents will receive a response in writing, letting them know the reasons for their decision about the year group the child should be admitted to. Once the year group has been agreed, an application for that year group can be processed.

Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces)

For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to this area, Limehurst will:

- Allocate a place in advance, if accompanied by an official government letter which declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address for considering the application against the oversubscription criteria.
- Ensure that arrangements support the Government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children.

Children from overseas

Applications from children living overseas will be dealt with in accordance with UK immigration law and the School Admissions Code.

In year applications

Limehurst will, on receipt of an in-year application:

- Allocate a place if one is available.
- For applications to join Year 7, if a place is not available, add the child to the waiting list held by the local authority and consider the application against the oversubscription criteria.
- Inform parents of their right to appeal against the refusal of a place.
- Notify the local authority of both the application, and its outcome, to allow the local authority to keep up to date figures on the availability of places in the area.

Children with challenging behaviour

- Limehurst will not refuse to admit children in the normal admission round on the basis of their poor behaviour elsewhere except where the child has been permanently excluded from two or more schools.
- Limehurst will participate in the Fair Access Protocol in order to ensure that unplaced children are allocated a school place quickly. However, there is no duty for Limehurst or other admissions authorities to comply with parental preference when allocating places through the Fair Access Protocol.
- Where the governing body does not wish to admit a child with challenging behaviour outside the normal admissions round, even though places are available, it will refer the case to the local Fair Access Protocol panel. This will normally only be appropriate where a school has a particularly high

proportion of children with challenging behaviour or previously excluded children.

- Limehurst will not refuse to admit a child thought to be potentially disruptive, or likely to exhibit challenging behaviour, on the grounds that the child is first to be assessed for special educational needs.

Human Rights Act 1998

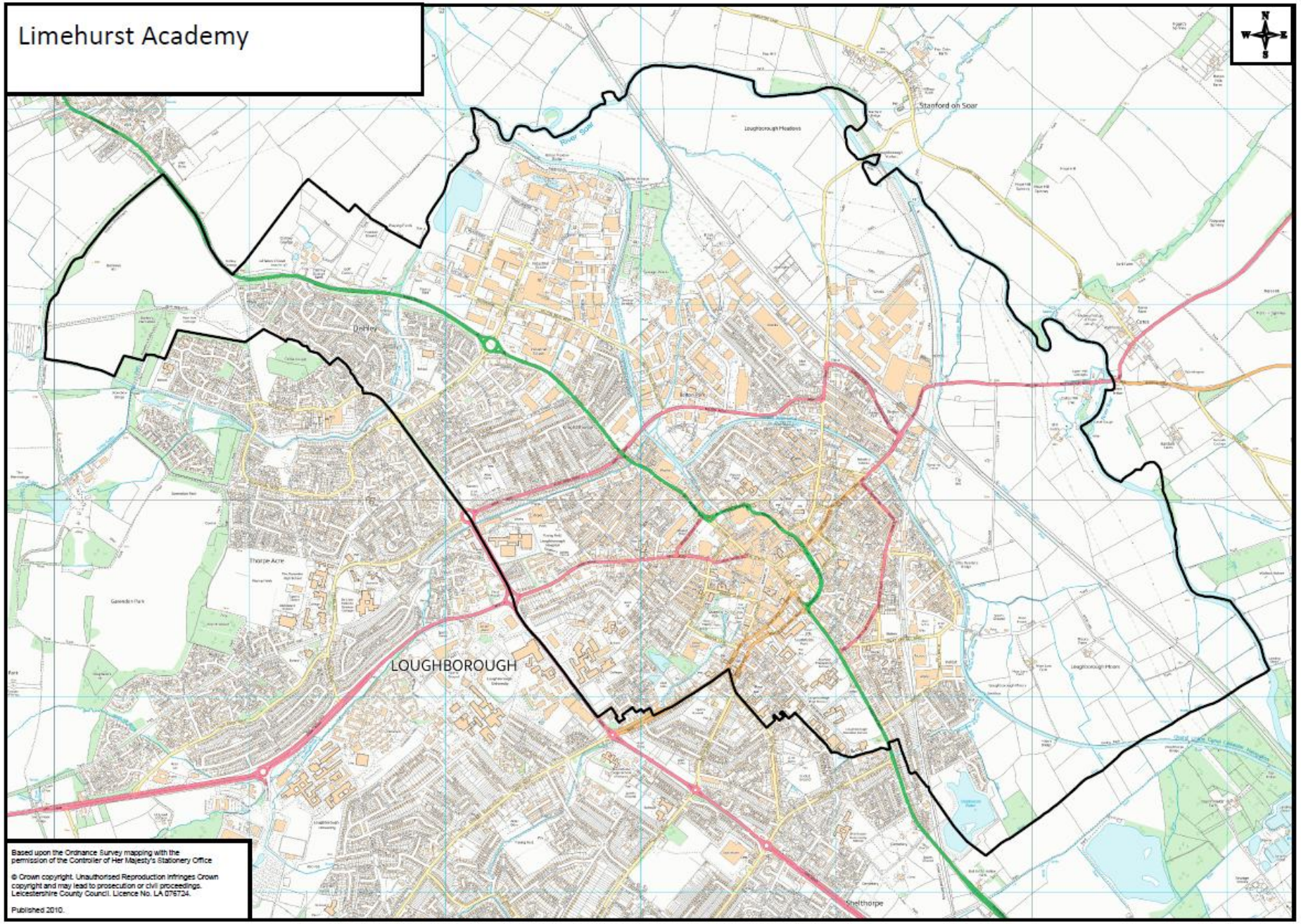
The Human Rights Act 1998 confers a right of access to education. This right does not however extend to securing a place at a particular school. Limehurst will consider parents' reasons for expressing a preference when making admission decisions, though this may not necessarily result in the allocation of a place.

The Admissions Timeline

31 October 2027	Closing date for applications to the Local Authority
28 February 2028	Publication of Limehurst appeals timetable on website
1 March 2028	National offer day for secondary school places.
April and May 2028	Appeals process and outcomes These dates will be confirmed when they are known, both within this policy and on the school website.
August 2028	New intake starts at school (exact date to be confirmed).

Anyone who considers that Limehurst's arrangements are unlawful can make an objection to the Schools Adjudicator. Objections must be referred to the Adjudicator by **15th May 2027**. Further information on how to make an objection can be obtained from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator

Limehurst Academy



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