



Cabot
Learning
Federation

Digitech Studio School
Admissions Policy for
the 2019/2020
academic year

Date: March 2018, Cabot Learning Federation

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1 Policy Statement

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to make clear the admissions process to Digitech Studio School.
- 1.2 The Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) adheres to the statutory requirements and the principles outlined in the School Admissions Code [DfE December 2014], which all academies are required to adhere to via the Funding Agreement between Digitech Studio School and the Secretary of State.
- 1.3 The CLF has agreed that the admission arrangements will remain in line with the agreed arrangements for South Gloucestershire Council maintained non-denominational secondary and primary schools.
- 1.4 More information about the CLF can be found on the website as follows:
www.cabotlearningfederation.net.
- 1.5 The policy covering admissions for Post 16 students is not contained in this document. Please visit the Cabot Learning Federation Post 16 website to view the Post 16 Admissions Policy:
<http://www.clfpost16.org/>

2 The Admissions Timetable

- 2.1 Consultation
 - 2.1.1 The Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) sets out admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the federation will first publicly consult on those arrangements. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, the Academy admissions policy will be consulted on at least once every 7 years.
 - 2.1.2 For admission arrangements for entry in September 2018 and all subsequent years, consultation will be for a minimum of 6 weeks and will take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply. An illustration of these timeframes is contained in Table 1 below.
 - 2.1.3 As their own admission authority, CLF academies are not required to consult on their Published Admission Number (PAN) where they propose either to increase or keep the same PAN; however where a PAN is increased the Academy will notify the LA and publish details on the Academy website.
 - 2.1.4 When consultation is required, the CLF will consult the following parties on the proposed admission arrangements:

2.1.5

- a. Parents/carers of children between the ages of 2 – 18;
- b. South Gloucestershire Council LA;
- c. The Admission Forum for South Gloucestershire Council LA;
- d. Any other admission authorities for primary and secondary schools located within the relevant area for consultation set by South Gloucestershire Council LA;
- e. Any other governing body/Academy Council for primary and secondary schools (as far as not falling within paragraph c)) located within the relevant area for consultation;
- f. Affected admission authorities in neighbouring local authority areas.

2.2 Determination

2.2.1 Once feedback from the consultation has been considered the CLF must determine the admission arrangements and must notify the Local Authority (LA) of these and publish them on the relevant Academy website.

2.3 Offers and Acceptance of Offers

2.3.1 Offers are made and need to be accepted by the dates set out at Table 1 below.

	Admission in September 2018	Admission in September 2019	Admission in September 2020
Consultation period for changes to the Admissions Policy	6 weeks between 1 October 2016 and 31 January 2017	6 weeks between 1 October 2017 and 31 January 2018	6 weeks between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2019
The CLF must determine admission arrangements by	28 February 2017	28 February 2018	28 February 2019
The CLF must publish the appeals timetable by	28 February 2017	28 February 2018	28 February 2019
The CLF must notify the LA of the arrangements and publish them on the website by	15 March 2017	15 March 2018	15 March 2019
Applications from parents/carers close	Secondary: 31 October 2017 Primary: 15 January 2018	Secondary: 31 October 2018 Primary: 15 January 2019	Secondary 31 October 2019 Primary: 15 January 2020
Offers made to parents/carers on National Offer Day*	Secondary: 1 March 2018 Primary: 16 April 2018	Secondary: 1 March 2019 Primary: 16 April 2019	Secondary: 1 March 2020 Primary: 16 April 2020
Appeals must be made by	20 school days following offer of place	20 school days following offer of place	20 school days following offer of place

Table 1 Admissions Timetable

*National Offer Day is on the date specified or the next working day where the specified date is a weekend or bank holiday.

3 Process of Application

- 3.1 Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with South Gloucestershire Council Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements, and will be made on the Common Application Form (CAF) provided and administered by the Local Authority. The CAF can be found by visiting www.southglos.gov.uk. Alternatively, parents/carers can contact the Academy who will provide them with a copy of the form.

4 Published Admissions Number

Digitech Studio School has a PAN of 90 places in Year 10 and a PAN of 90 in Year 12, leading to a total number of 360 places across Years 10 to 13 when at full capacity.

- 4.1 The policy covering admissions for Post 16 students is not contained in this document. Please visit the Cabot Learning Federation Post 16 website to view the Post 16 Admissions Policy: <http://www.clfpost16.org/>

5 Consideration of Applications

- 5.1 The South Gloucestershire Council/Digitech Studio School will consider all application for places. Where fewer than 90 applications are received, the South Gloucestershire Council/Digitech Studio School will offer places to all those who have applied.

6 Students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities

- 6.1 Children with Statements of SEND or an EHC Plan are placed in schools/academies through the arrangements set out in the SEND Code of Practice and not through these admission criteria. All admission authorities are required by Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit to the academy a child with a Statement of SEND or an EHC Plan that names the academy. Academies must admit such children whether they have places or not. Any appeal concerning the statement of the admission is to the independent First-Tier Tribunal (Health, Education and Social Care Chamber). Parents/carers of children with Statements of SEND or an EHC Plan should contact their child's lead professional for any further information.

7 Oversubscription Criteria

- 7.1 Where the number of applications for admissions is greater than the Published Admission Number 90, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. These are listed in priority order and will be applied to all applications received by the published closing date. Notes/definitions to the oversubscription criteria are set out in Annex A (Page 9). A map showing the academy's area of Prime Responsibility is included at Annex B (Page 10).

- 1) Children in Public Care and Previously in Public Care
- 2) Local Siblings living within the Academy's Area of Prime Responsibility and who have named the Academy as a preference.
- 3) Geographical considerations – those living within the Academy's Area of Prime Responsibility – those living closest to the Academy will be given priority.

- 4) Geographical considerations – those living outside the Academy’s Area of Prime Responsibility – those living closest to the Academy will be given priority.
- 5) Tie breaker – where it is not possible to distinguish between applicants within a particular oversubscription criteria, places will be awarded by random allocation. This process will be supervised by an independent person to the Local Authority and the academy.

8 Late Admissions

- 8.1 Late applications will not be considered until offers have been made to on time applicants and in accordance with the dates set out in the [enter Local Authority if appropriate] Admission Scheme.

9 In Year Admissions

- 9.1 The Academy is part of the South Gloucestershire Council coordinated in year admissions arrangements. This scheme applies to all applications for places in existing year groups from parents/carers resident in South Gloucestershire or with a confirmed move to South Gloucestershire at the time of the application.
- 9.2 Applications for Academy places from parents/carers resident in, or with a confirmed move to South Gloucestershire must be made on the Academy application form available from the following website www.digitechstudioschool.co.uk of the Academy. The Academy will consider each application. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria shall apply. Parents/carers whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.

10 Waiting List

- 10.1 Where the Academy has been oversubscribed in the normal admissions round and places have been refused to some applicants, a waiting list will be maintained for any vacancies which subsequently occur in the Academy.
- 10.2 The waiting list will be prioritised according to the admission criteria and not by reference to the date of joining the waiting list.
- 10.3 Any waiting list will be maintained until the end of Term 2 (December term) and then discarded.

11 Feeder Schools

- 11.1 The CLF does not operate a feeder primary academy policy for admissions to a secondary academy and therefore attendance at a federation primary academy does not guarantee a place at a particular federation secondary academy. The exception to this is King’s Oak Academy which is an all-through provision.

12 Appeals

- 12.1 When an offer of a place is made, the reasons for the decision will be set out, together with details of how the parent/carer can lodge an appeal against the decision by the deadline for doing so. The Academy must establish an independent appeals panel to hear the appeal. The

panel will decide whether to uphold or dismiss the appeal. Where a panel upholds the appeal the Academy is required to admit the child.

- 12.2 The arrangements for appeals will be in line with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals.
- 12.3 Parents will normally have 20 school days after notification of a place not being offered to lodge an appeal.
- 12.4 Parents/carers wishing to appeal against an admission appeal should send a completed appeal form to the address detailed on the offer letter. Other documents may be submitted in support of an appeal and should be lodged not less than 5 school days before the appeal hearing.
- 12.5 Parents/carers will be given 10 school days' notice of the appeal hearing, unless they agree to a shorter period of notice.
- 12.6 The decision of the Appeal Panel will be communicated in writing as soon as possible after the hearing has been concluded and within 5 school days. In the case of unsuccessful appeals the Appeal Panel will give the parents/carers their reasons for not upholding the appeal.

Annex A Notes/definitions to the oversubscription criteria

1. **Children in Public Care*** are those looked after by a local authority within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

Children Previously in Public Care* are those who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted¹ (or became subject to a residence order², Childs Arrangement Order or special guardianship order³).

* Documentation will need to be provided as proof of care status.

1. Under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002
2. Under the terms of the Children Act 1989
3. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989

2a. Geographical considerations (for those living within a school's Area of Prime Responsibility):

Priority will be given to those children who live within the Area of Prime Responsibility for the school. Where a school also has a First Area of Responsibility, children living in this area will be given the highest priority.

If in any year there are more children living within the Area of Prime Responsibility than the number of places available at the school, priority will be given to those children who live closest to the school. Distances from home to school are measured in a straight line between the address point of the child's home and a central point within the main school building using South Gloucestershire Council's computerised mapping system.

2b. Geographical considerations (for those living outside a school's Area of Prime Responsibility):

After places have been allocated from within the Area of Prime Responsibility, any remaining places will be allocated to those children who live closest to the school. Distances from home to school are measured in a straight line between the address point of the child's home and a central point within the main school building using South Gloucestershire Council's computerised mapping system.

Annex B – Map showing the Academy’s Area of Prime Responsibility



The Grange School and Sports College, Hanham High School and the Sir Bernard Lovell Consortium Area of Prime Responsibility

- 13. The Grange School and Sports College
- 14. Hanham High School
- 15. Sir Bernard Lovell School
- 16. John Cabot Academy