



Cabot
Learning
Federation

Digitech Studio School
Academy Admissions
Policy for the
2026/2027 academic
year

Date: February 2025, Cabot Learning Federation

History of most recent Policy changes

Date	Page	Change	Origin of Change e.g. TU request, Change in legislation
Date	E.g. Whole Document	Detail of change	Reason for change
October 2016	Whole Document	Adoption by the Cabot Learning Federation and Implementation	To ensure a clear and consistent approach to admissions across the federation
November 2016	P7 In Year Admissions	Amended to reflect in year admission applications are made on the Academy application form, not the CAF	Review
September 2017	Whole document	Amended to reflect recommendations from BCC Admissions	Review
October 2018	Oversubscription Criteria	Adjusted language to ensure compliant with S.Glos	Advice received from LA
August 2021	Whole document	Updated to reflect School Admissions code 2021	
August 2022	Whole Document	Annual review	
January 2023	Whole Document	Annual review	
February 2024	Whole Document	Annual review	
February 2025	Whole Document	Annual review	

Equalities Impact Assessment

An equalities impact assessment for this admissions policy has been completed and can be obtained from the Operations Manager.

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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, 2021], 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 maintained non-denominational secondary and primary schools.
- 1.4 More information about the CLF can be found on the website as follows: <https://clf.uk/>
- 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 2026 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 LA;
- c. The Admission Forum for South Gloucestershire LA (where this exists);
- d. Any other admission authorities for primary and secondary schools located within the relevant area for consultation set by South Gloucestershire 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.

Table 1 Admissions Timetable

	Admission in September 2024	Admission in September 2025	Admission in September 2026
Consultation period for changes to the Admissions Policy	6 weeks between 1 October 2022 and 31 January 2023	6 weeks between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2024	6 weeks between 1 October 2024 and 31 January 2025
The CLF must determine admission arrangements by	28 February 2023	28 February 2024	28 February 2025
The CLF must publish the appeals timetable by	28 February 2023	28 February 2024	28 February 2025
The CLF must notify the LA of the arrangements and publish them on the website by	15 March 2023	15 March 2024	15 March 2025
Applications from parents/carers close	Secondary 31 October 2023 Primary: 15 January 2024	Secondary 31 October 2024 Primary: 15 January 2025	Secondary 31 October 2025 Primary: 15 January 2026
Offers made to parents/carers on National Offer Day*	Secondary: 1 March 2024 Primary: 16 April 2024	Secondary: 1 March 2025 Primary: 16 April 2025	Secondary: 1 March 2026 Primary: 16 April 2026
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

*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 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 southglos.gov.uk Alternatively, parents/carers can contact the Academy who will provide them with a copy of the form.

4 Published Admissions Number

- 4.1 Digitech Studio School has a PAN of 90 places in Year 10 leading to a total number of 360 places across Years 10 to 13 when at full capacity.
- 4.2 Digitech Studio School has a PAN of 90 places in Year 12 leading to a total number of 180 places across Years 12 to 13 when at full capacity.
- 4.3 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 LA will consider all application for places. Where fewer than 90 applications are received, the LA will offer places to all those who have applied.
- 5.2 Children of UK Serving Personnel are excepted pupils for Infant Class Size outside the normal round of allocations.

6 Students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities

- 6.1 Children with 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 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 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 (PAN), 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.

- i. Children in care or children who were previously in care.
 - To a Local Authority in England and immediately after being in care who became subject to an adoption, child arrangement order, or special guardianship order.
 - Those children 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.

Previously looked after children are children 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).

2) Local Siblings - defined as siblings that:

- Live within the area of prime responsibility; or
- Where there is no area of prime responsibility, local siblings will be deemed to be those living up to a maximum of 2 miles from school by straight line measurement; or
- Where the distance is over two miles but the school is still the nearest school;
- AND
- They are full or half brother or sister; or
- They are adoptive brother or sister; or
- They are children of the same household;
- AND
- The older sibling is already in attendance at the preferred school and will be in attendance in the September of the younger sibling's admission year.

3) 3a) Geographical considerations – those living within the Academy's Area of Prime Responsibility – those living closest to the Academy will be given priority. A map showing the academy's area of Prime Responsibility is included at Annex B {enter page number}.

- a. 3b) Geographical considerations – those living outside the Academy's Area of Prime Responsibility – those living closest to the Academy will be given priority [please refer to notes on page XX for further details and arrangements for measuring distance].

4) 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 South Gloucestershire Admission Scheme.

9 In Year Admissions

- 9.1 Applications for Academy places from parents/carers resident in, or with a confirmed move to the local area must be made on the in-year application form available from the following website

southglos.gov.uk. The Academy will consider each application at the time it is made. 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 Appeals

- 11.1 When an offer of a place is not 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.
- 11.2 The arrangements for appeals will be in line with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals.
- 11.3 Parents will normally have 20 school days after notification of a place not being offered to lodge an appeal.
- 11.4 Parents/carers wishing to appeal against an admission refusal 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.
- 11.5 Parents/carers will be given 10 school days' notice of the appeal hearing, unless they agree to a shorter period of notice.
- 11.6 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 who are in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. In South Gloucestershire, these children are referred to as children in public care.
 - 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 or special guardianship order³), and those children 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.
 - Documentation will need to be provided to South Gloucestershire Council as proof of care status.
 - Under the terms of the Adoption Act 1976 and the Adoption and Children's Act 2002.
 - Under the terms of the Children Act 1989 and Children and Families Act 2014.
 - Section 14A of the Children Act 1989.
2. **Local siblings:** Children are defined as local siblings if:
 - they live within the APR; **or**,
 - where there is no APR, local siblings will be deemed to be those living up to a maximum of two miles from school by straight line measurement; **or**,
 - where the distance is over two miles but the school is still the nearest school

AND

 - they are full or half brother or sister; **or**
 - they are adoptive brother or sister; **or**
 - they are children of the same household

AND

 - the older sibling is already in attendance at the preferred school and will be in attendance **in September 2024** (statutory school age only)

For the purposes of the local sibling criterion, a paired infant and junior school will be treated as one school.

3. Geographical considerations: Where there are more applications for children living within an Area of Prime Responsibility than places available, priority will be given to applications from within the defined area who live closest to the preferred school. After places have been allocated from within the Area of Prime Responsibility, any remaining places will be allocated to those children living 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 the local authority's computerised mapping system.

In the case of South Gloucestershire infant and primary schools which do not have Areas of Prime Responsibility, places will be allocated to those children living 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 the local authority's computerised mapping system.

Home address – Where a child regularly lives at more than one address the Local Authority will have to reach a conclusion about which should be counted as the main address when allocating places, taking relevant evidence into account. Normally this will be the address where the child is registered with a medical GP. Where parents or carers are living separately and do not agree on the child's home address, they are urged to reach an agreement. If this does not happen evidence may be required by providing court documents or other legally binding documentation such a sworn affidavit confirming where the child resides for the majority of the school week. Where satisfactory evidence cannot be provided the Local Authority will determine the address be used for allocating a school place.

4. **Tie breaker:** Where it does not prove possible to resolve allocations to an over-subscribed school by the application of criteria 1-3, any remaining places will be awarded by random allocation. This process will be supervised by an independent person to the Local Authority and the academy.

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



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- 13. Hanham Woods Academy
- 14. Sir Bernard Lovell Academy
- 15. John Cabot Academy (not included in the Area of Prime Responsibility)
- 16. Digitech Studio School is 14-19 in age range. It admits children in Year 10 and is therefore not included in the Area of Prime Responsibility for Year 7 admissions

Hanham Woods Academy and the Sir Bernard Lovell Academy normally serve the area south of the A420 road. Addresses on the southern side of the A420 road itself are included in this area.

- a The Sir Bernard Lovell Academy has a First Area of Responsibility for the parishes of Wick and Abson, Doynton, Cold Ashton, Marshfield and part of the parish of Bitton.