



CHANTRY MIDDLE SCHOOL



NEWMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL



THE KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL



## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

on

**Admission Arrangements**

to

The Three Rivers Learning Trust Limited  
for the academic year **2018-2019**

All views or comments to be received no later than  
**4.00pm on Tuesday 21 February 2017**

By email to  
[paula.reeves@the3rivers.net](mailto:paula.reeves@the3rivers.net)

Written comments to  
Paula Reeves  
The King Edward VI School  
Cottingwood Lane  
Morpeth  
NE61 1DN

# CONSULTATION ON THE THREE RIVERS LEARNING TRUST ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2018/2019

## Background

The Three Rivers Learning Trust consists of Chantry Middle School, Newminster Middle School and The King Edward VI High School. The Three Rivers Learning Trust is the Admissions Authority for each of the three schools. Following an annual review, the Board of Directors wishes to amend the current arrangements, and held a consultation with our community, which ended on 18 January 2017. This further consultation paper reflects minor changes agreed by the Directors following that initial consultation and the desire of the directors to provide a fair and coherent Admissions Policy, to serve our community.

## Consultation Process

Admission Authorities have a duty to consult on their admission arrangements in advance of the year of intake. Admission arrangements are set according to the School Admissions Code which applies to all maintained schools, which includes Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and 'own admission authority schools'.

Admission Authorities must ensure that their determined admission arrangements comply with the mandatory provisions of the Code. In order to promote fair access to educational opportunities, admission arrangements are subject to scrutiny by the Schools Adjudicator who has the power to impose arrangements on those authorities that do not meet the requirements of the Code.

The Board of Directors of The Three Rivers Learning Trust held an initial consultation period of eight working weeks, closing the consultation on 18 January 2017. This further consultation runs for two weeks, from **Tuesday 7 February and will end at 4.00pm on Tuesday 21 February 2017.**

The following groups are being consulted;

- Northumberland County Council via the Northumberland School Admissions Forum
- Parents of Chantry, Newminster and Dr Thomlinson Middle Schools and The King Edward VI High School
- Parents with children in the First Schools within the Morpeth Partnership and the greater geographical catchment area of The King Edward VI School

- Governors and Headteachers of the schools within the Morpeth Partnership and the greater geographical catchment area of The King Edward VI School
- Co-ordinating neighbouring authorities
- Other relevant groups eg preschool settings

All consultation documents are displayed on websites of The Three Rivers Learning Trust Schools' namely, Chantry Middle School, Newminster Middle School and The King Edward VI High School.

Northumberland County Council also operates a co-ordinated scheme with Voluntary Aided Schools, Trust Schools and Academies by acting as a clearing house for school admissions. The Three Rivers Learning Trust will remain part of these co-ordinated arrangements. Copies of documents relating to Voluntary Aided schools, Trusts, Academies and other foundation schools will be published on the County Council website [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

### **Rationale for the Consultation**

Continuity of Education is a high priority in our admissions policy. However, In recent years a small number of students from within our feeder First School population have not been able to secure a place in the middle schools phase, due to the tie breaker criteria. After careful consideration of the existing admissions criteria, and in particular that of the tie breaker, the preference of the directors is to amend the criteria to ensure that **continuity of education** through the partnership is strengthened.

### **The Admissions Policy**

The Board of Directors of The Three Rivers Learning Trust is the Admission Authority of the Learning Trust and is obliged to admit all applicants to a particular school within The Three Rivers Learning Trust provided these do not exceed the school's Published Admission Number (PAN).

The Published Admission Number of each school for entry in September 2018 is:

Chantry Middle School: 128 students in each year (Years 5 – 8)

Newminster Middle School: 128 students in each year (Years 5 – 8)

The King Edward VI High School: 320 students in each year (Years 9 – 11)

If applications for places at a particular school exceed the Published Admission Number, priority is given in accordance with the criteria set out below.

1. **Special Educational Need**  
Children with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education and Health Care Plan that names the school on the statement, and where the school is most appropriate to meet those needs, must be given admission to that school before other applicants
2. **Looked After Children**  
Admission authorities must give highest priority to children in care (including “those previously in care”) in their oversubscription criteria
3. **Continuity of Educational Provision**  
Requests on behalf of students which are based on the need to maintain continuity of educational provision within the feeder pattern of The Learning Trust schools (see table overleaf). To meet the criteria “continuity of education” students must have been on the roll of the feeder school for a minimum of two full academic years - i.e, from the beginning of Year 3 for entry into Year 5 at Chantry or Newminster Middle School, and from the beginning of Year 7 for entry into Year 9 at The King Edward VI School.

Likewise, students at Dr Thomlinson Middle School Rothbury, which is also a feeder school of King Edward’s, must also have been on roll for a minimum of two full academic years, and from the beginning of Year 7 for entry into Year 9 at The King Edward VI School.

**Where there are more applicants than places in this criterion, preference is given to:**

- a. Firstly, those who can demonstrate they live in the school’s catchment area at the time of application.
- b. Secondly, where the child does not live in the catchment area at the time of application.

The feeder schools for the Chantry, Newminster and King Edward's are listed here.

<b>Chantry Middle School</b>	<b>Newminster Middle School</b>	<b>The King Edward VI High School</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All Saints C of E First School</li> <li>● Cambo First School</li> <li>● Longhorsley St Helen's C of E First School</li> <li>● Stannington First School</li> <li>● Stobhillgate First School</li> <li>● St Robert's RC First School (part of the Catholic Partnership of Schools')</li> <li>● Tritlington C of E First School</li> <li>● Whalton C of E Primary School (also part of the Ponteland Partnership)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Abbeyfields First School</li> <li>● Morpeth First School</li> <li>● St Robert's RC First School (part of the Catholic Partnership of Schools')</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Morpeth Chantry Middle School</li> <li>● Morpeth Newminster Middle School</li> <li>● Dr Thomlinson Middle School*</li> </ul>

**\*For information only** - please note the feeder first schools for entry to Dr Thomlinson Middle School are Harbottle, Rothbury, Netherton Northside, Swarland (part) and Thropton Village. Details of the admission arrangements for Dr Thomlinson can be found on both the school and the NCC websites.

4. Students who have an older brother or sister who already attends the Learning Trust Schools including Sixth Form and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.  
For the purpose of admissions siblings are deemed to be brothers and sisters, stepbrothers and sisters, adopted brothers and sisters and other children who reside permanently in the household and are treated as siblings.
5. Students living within the catchment area of the school and those on whose behalf firm evidence is presented that they will be living in the catchment area by the appropriate admission date.
6. Students who are currently attending one of the named feeder First Schools of the wider Morpeth Partnership as identified on the previous page.
7. Students on whose behalf evidence of exceptional medical or exceptional social need is presented. For example, where one or both parents of the child have a disability that may make travel to a school that is further away difficult. Evidence must be supported by a written statement by a professionally involved third party, such as a doctor or a social worker.
8. Students on whose behalf preferences are expressed on grounds other than those outlined above.

### **Oversubscription**

The Three Rivers Learning Trust welcomes applications from all students and we are obliged to admit all students provided our Published Admission Number (PAN) for each school is not exceeded. However, where there are places for some, but not all applicants, and when all remaining applicants fall within the same criteria then a tie – breaker (deciding factor) will be implemented.

### **Tie Breaker**

Where there are places available for some but not all applicants within a given criteria, priority will be given to those who live nearest the school, measured in a direct line (“as the crow flies”) from the front door of the home to the main gate of the school. The distance checker is contained within the school admissions software using GIS data. Distance checking is an integral function within the schools admissions software ensuring consistency in measurement.

## **Proof of Residence**

In instances where it is demonstrated that a place in a preferred school has been obtained on the basis of a false statement of address, The Three Rivers Learning Trust reserves the right to discount the clause covering attendance at a feeder school when considering an application for a place on transfer to the next stage of schooling.

## **Parents will be asked to provide proof of residency in the case of oversubscription**

The Three Rivers Learning Trust also reserves the right to withdraw a place at a school if information relating to address or any other matter is found to be false.

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

### The Three Rivers Learning Trust:

**Admission Policy (consultation) for entry to Chantry Middle School, Newminster Middle School and The King Edward VI High School, for the academic year 2018 – 19**

**Name** (Optional).....

**Consultation Group** (i.e. KS3 Parent; First School etc).....

The significant change to the policy is the tie breaker, where preference is given to a student living nearest to the school of application

I agree/disagree with the proposed admission policy

Comments:

Do you have any alternative suggestions or ideas

Completed forms can be returned to Paula Reeves The King Edward VI School  
Cottingwood Lane Morpeth NE61 1DN, by **4.00pm Tuesday 21 February 2017**

Admission arrangements for Northumberland County Council schools and for schools that are their own admission authorities are available on the Northumberland County Council website [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



