Ashcroft Technology Academy

THE ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO ASHCROFT TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

1. This document sets out the admission arrangements for Ashcroft Technology Academy (the Academy). These arrangements are without prejudice to the provisions of Annex 3 to this agreement. The document forms an Annex to the Funding Agreement between the Academy and the Secretary of State. Any changes to the arrangements set out in this document must be approved in advance by the Secretary of State.

2. The Academy will act in accordance with, and will ensure that the Independent Appeal Panel acts in accordance with, all relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice (the School Admissions Code of Practice) as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with the law on admissions as it applies to maintained schools. Reference in the codes to admission authorities shall be deemed to be references to the governing body of the Academy. In particular, the Academy will take part in the Admissions Forum set up by Wandsworth Local Authority and have regard to its advice; and will participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by Wandsworth LA.

3. Notwithstanding these arrangements, the Secretary of State may direct the Academy to admit a named student to the Academy on application from a LA. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the Academy.

I: ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS APPROVED BY SECRETARY OF STATE

Process of application

5. Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with Wandsworth LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form (CAF) provided and administered by the Wandsworth LA (the LA). The Academy will also require its own form to be completed and returned directly for the purpose of administering the aptitude tests for those seeking a specialist place for technical aptitude. The Academy will use the following timetable for applications each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year) which, whenever possible, will fit in with the common timetable agreed by the Wandsworth Admissions Forum or the LA:

   a) September - The Academy will publish in its prospectus information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (e.g. in September 2026 for admission in September 2027). This will include details of open evenings and open mornings other opportunities for prospective students and their parents to visit the school. The Academy will also provide information to the LA for inclusion in the composite prospectus, as required;

   b) September – The Academy will provide opportunities for parents and prospective students to visit the Academy.

   c) October – The Academy application form to be returned to the Academy. CAF to be completed and returned to the LA to administer;

   d) November – Aptitude tests held at the Academy for those prospective students who have applied for a specialist place only. Non Verbal Reasoning Test (NVR) held in Wandsworth primary schools and test

centres for all prospective students. It should be noted the aptitude test does not apply to in-year admissions.

e) The LA sends applications to the Academy

f) January - The Academy sends list of students to be offered places to LA

g) February - The LA applies agreed arrangements for own schools, informing other LA's of offers to be made to their residents.

h) 1 March offers made to parents.

Consideration of applications

6. The Academy will consider all applications for places. Where fewer than 240 applications are received, the Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

Procedures where Ashcroft Technology Academy is oversubscribed

7. With the exception of those with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) where the Academy is the named school, all children applying for admission into Year 7 will be required to take the Wandsworth Year 6 NVR Test. All applicants who sit the NVR Test will then be placed in one of five ability bands (A-E), based on their performance in the NVR Test. In addition, those children wishing to be considered for admission under criterion 7(b) below will be required to take an aptitude test in the Academy's specialist subjects of Information Technology and Design and Technology.

Children who have not taken the NVR Test will not be considered for a place at the Academy until offers have been made to those who have taken the NVR Test.

Once places have been allocated to those children with EHCPs and to those for whom the criteria detailed under 7(b) applies, all remaining available places will be allocated from each of the five ability bands and on the basis of the criteria detailed under 7 (a), (c), (d) and (e) so that equal numbers are admitted from each band as best as can be achieved.

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of students with EHCPs where the Academy is the named school in the Plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

a) Children in public care (children looked after) and those who ceased to be children looked after because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order, receive priority for admission to school. A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children

Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. A residence order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989 a section 14 of the Children and families Act 2014. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

b) up to 24 places will be offered to those students with the highest score in the aptitude test;

c) children who have a sibling on roll at the Academy at the time the application is made (i.e. a full brother or sister, a step/half brother or sister living at the same address, a child living as part of the family by reason of a court order, or a child who has been placed with foster carers as a result of being looked after by a local authority);

d) children whose parent(s) has been directly employed by the Academy for a minimum period of two full years at the time of application;

e) Children who live nearest to the Academy, using a straight line measurement from home to the Academy as calculated by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System, from the child's home to the entrance of the Academy. Measurements produced by alternative measuring systems will not be taken into account in any circumstances.

Operation of waiting lists

8. Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in Wandsworth LA's co-ordinated admission scheme, the Academy will operate a waiting list. Where in any year the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available for either consideration for admission under criterion 7(b) above or for a general place, a waiting list for each will operate until a month after the admission date. These will be maintained by Wandsworth LA on behalf of the Academy and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be maintained on the relevant waiting lists, following an unsuccessful application.

9. A child's position on the maintained relevant waiting list will be determined in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in paragraphs 7a - e of this Annex. Where places become vacant for consideration under criterion 7(b) subsequent places are offered to the next highest scoring students and those living nearest where the score is equal.

Arrangements for appeals panels

10. Parents will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they believe any aspect of the admission process has been unfairly administered by the Academy. The Appeal Panel will be independent of the Academy. The arrangements for Appeals will be in line with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals published by the Department for Education) as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel will be made in accordance with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals and is binding on all parties.

Arrangements for admission to post 16 provision

11. Students are admitted to the Academy Sixth Form courses on the basis of an assessment of their ability.

The assessment is carried out by the Academy and consists of: -

- predicted GCSE grades
- reference from their Academy tutor, or head teacher of current school as to the student's ability for the course for which he/she has applied

There will be the opportunity for discussion between student and Academy senior staff as to the student's subject choice.

The Academy will publish specific criteria in relation to minimum entrance requirements for the range of courses available based upon GCSE grades or other measures of prior attainment.

12. There will be a right of appeal to the Independent Appeals Panel for unsuccessful applicants.

Arrangements for admitting students to other year groups, including to replace any students who have left Ashcroft Technology Academy

13. Subject to any provisions in Wandsworth LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the Academy must consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child. If more applications are received that there are places available, the oversubscription criteria shall apply. Parents whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.

Arrangements for admission of students as Ashcroft Technology Academy builds to its full capacity

14. From 1 September 2008, the Academy has a Published Admission Number relating solely to students in Year 7 and, where relevant, Year 12 students.

16. Admission to Year groups without a Published Admission Number will be based upon the size of teaching groups already existing in the Academy and the efficient use of resources.

17. There will be a right of appeal to the Independent Appeal Panel for unsuccessful applicants.

II: ANNUAL PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS Consultation

18. The Academy shall consult each year on its proposed admission arrangements.

19. The Academy will consult by 1 March:

    a) Wandsworth LA;

b) Any other admission authorities for primary and secondary schools located within the relevant area for consultation set by the LA;

c) Any other governing body for primary and secondary schools (as far as not falling within paragraph (b) located within the relevant area for consultation.

Determination and publication of admission arrangements

20. Following consultation, the Academy will consider comments made by those consulted. The Academy will then determine its admission arrangements by 15 April of the relevant year and notify those consulted what has been determined.