**Charles Darwin School**

**Admission Arrangements for 2020/21**

**1. Admission Numbers**

1.1The published admission number for September 2020 will be:

Years 7 – 11: 224

1.2The published admission number is inclusive of students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that are admitted to the School pursuant to the School being named in their Statement or EHC Plan. Children will a full Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) are dealt with under a separate process by the Special Educational Needs team.

1.3 Children directed via the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child already on the school waiting list and this includes admitting children over the published admission number.

**2. Application Procedures**

2.1 Each year, the Local Authority will publish the date by which applications for admission at the start of the following school year must be received. Applications for the new Year 7 intake must be made in accordance with Local Authority admission arrangements and must be via the Common Application Form provided and administered by the Local Authority. The School will comply with the locally agreed application procedures and timetables.

**3. Over subscription**

3.1 If the number of applications exceeds the number of places, places will be allocated according to the following criteria, listed in order of priority:

**(i) Children Looked After (CLA)**

[A child looked after is a child who is:

(a) in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions. These children must still be “CLA” when the child starts school unless (b) applies.

(b) or a child who was previously looked after by an English or Welsh local authority and immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children’s Act 2002.]

**(ii) Sibling – children who have a brother or sister at the school at the beginning of their first term**

[Sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer’s partner, and in every case the child must be registered as living in the same family unit at the same address. The elder sibling must still be on roll at the school when the younger child starts school. Sibling applications will only be accepted for siblings of pupils in Years 7 to 10, siblings of pupils in Year11 whose parents have confirmed their commitment to the pupil continuing into Year 12 (written confirmation will be required) and siblings of Year 12 pupils who are attending a 2 year course.

[A “Parent” is any person who has parental responsibility or care of the child.]

**(iii) Children of Staff at the School**

Charles Darwin School may give priority in the oversubscription criteria to children of staff directly employed at the school in either or both of the following circumstances:

* Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
* The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

**(iv) Children who at the time of application are attending one of the following primary schools:**

Biggin Hill Primary School

Chelsfield Primary School

Churchill C of E Primary School

Cudham C of E Primary School

Darrick Wood Junior School

Downe Primary School

Fairchildes Primary School

Farnborough Primary School

Green Street Green Primary School

Oaklands Primary Academy

Pratts Bottom Primary School

Tatsfield Primary School

The Highway Primary School

Tubbenden Primary School

Warren Road Primary School

**(v) All other applicants**

In the event of oversubscription in any category the basis of selection shall be

proximity of home in relation to the school as measured in a straight line from the front door of home to the front door of the school.

[Distance will be measured (in a straight line) from the front door of the child’s home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school building, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system that identifies the unique national grid reference (Easting and Northing) for the property. Those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The furthest distance reached is checked to confirm it is unique. Where the next applicant measures the same the system will go to further decimal places within a measurement to qualify who is nearer. Where applications are received from flats that have the same “easting and northing” measurements, places will be allocated by door number; the lower the number the higher the priority. If there are two identical distance measurements for different addresses of separate applicants, the tiebreak will be alphabetical.]

["Home" being where the child normally resides as their only or  
principal residence. Addresses involved in child minding (professional or  
relatives) will not be considered. Parents will be asked to provide documentary evidence to confirm an address and parental responsibility. Change of parental responsibility, unless exceptional circumstances through a court order, will not be accepted during the co-ordinated admission process.

It is expected that the applicant and pupil will still be resident at the same address when the child starts school unless exceptional circumstances apply. Permanent address does not include short-term rental or lease of a year or less. Charles Darwin School is willing to accept leases from parents of new Year 7 students that are significantly over one year in length. Documentary proof may be required. Places may be withdrawn if address details do not match the information given on the application form.

3.2 Any child not offered a place has the statutory right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. The Independent Appeal Panel will be determined by the Governing Body on an annual basis and will, usually, consist of two lay members and one person from the community, independent of the school. The decision of the Independent Appeal Panel will be binding on the Governors and the parents. Full details of the Appeals process are available from the Clerk to Governors c/o the school.

3.3 Students not allocated a place will automatically be placed on a waiting list held in criterion order. The waiting list will be maintained throughout the academic year.

3.4 Late applications during transfer from Year 6 to Year 7 will be dealt with as outlined in the co-ordinated scheme for Bromley.

**4. In-Year Admissions Years 8 - 11**

4.1 Whenever an application is received for a student to join a year group at a time other than when joining Year 7, the child’s position on the Local Authority waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Parents have a statutory right of appeal.

**5. Proof of Residence**

5.1 Original proof of residence must be submitted if requested. Advice will be sought from the Local Authority as to acceptable documentation.

**6.** **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

6.1 The school will consider applications outside of the child’s normal age group on an individual basis taking into account any information about the child’s academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. Parents wishing to apply for a place outside of the normal age groups should contact the Headteacher in writing in the first instance.

**7. Admission to Year 12**

7.1 The capacity for Year 12 students is 155 places. Places will be automatically offered to current Charles Darwin students who wish to continue to the Sixth Form who meet the general Sixth Form entry requirements of at least five 9–5 grades in separate subjects at GCSE (including English Language and/or English Literature and Mathematics at grade 5 and above), or equivalent under the new GCSE framework - these students do not need to complete an application form.

7.2 There will be a minimum of 25 places available for external candidates. Where

the number of students in Charles Darwin taking up a place in Year 12 falls below the usual figure additional places will be offered to external candidates up to the planned Year 12 capacity of 155. Students must satisfy the general Sixth Form entry requirement of at least five 9 – 5 grades in separate subjects at GCSE (including English Language and/or English Literature and Mathematics at grade 5 and above), or equivalent under the new GCSE framework.

7.3 Some of the courses offered may require a higher GCSE grade in a particular subject or subjects. This will be shown in the Sixth Form Prospectus which lists entry criteria for individual courses. Students studying other qualification should contact the school for guidance.

7.4 Students wishing to complete GCSE resits in Mathematics and English will need a minimum of grade 4 together with at least four 9 – 5 grades at GCSE in other subjects (or equivalent under the new GCSE framework).

7.5 In the event of over subscription, the criteria set out in 3 above (admission criteria for Year 7) will apply.

7.6 Students and their parents have a statutory right of appeal against the decision to refuse them admission to the Sixth Form. Those wishing to appeal should register their intention to do so, by sending a letter addressed to the school c/o the Clerk to the Independent Appeals Panel within 30 days of the GCSE results day.

*Agreed by the Charles Darwin School Governing Body on 3rd December 2018*

*and formally approved by the CDAT Board on 8th February 2019*

*JAH/doc/govs/admissions policy 2020*