

Sixth-form Admissions Policy – 2016-17

NSETC vision and objectives

The North Somerset Enterprise and Technology College (NSETC) is a 14-19 academy offering a unique educational opportunity to students from local communities in North Somerset. The focus is on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects delivered in partnership with businesses and universities.

Young people need more than just high quality academic and vocational qualifications; they need to develop the confidence, self-belief and other transferable skills demanded by universities and employers.

The NSETC will:

- Inspire and motivate students to be the best they can be
- Offer academic, vocational and technical learning enabling each student to learn and achieve in a style best suited to them
- To be an inclusive centre of excellence.
- Combine the highest academic standards and levels of expertise with entrepreneurship and enterprise.

This Admissions Policy reflects these objectives.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The North Somerset Enterprise and Technology College (NSETC) is a new and unique 14-19 academy offering a unique educational opportunity to students from local communities in North Somerset and the wider region. There is a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and these will be delivered in partnership with businesses and universities.
- 1.2 The NSETC's Admissions Policy is written to ensure that it is open to all students from all backgrounds within the region and that there are no barriers to success.
- 1.3 The NSETC will provide school places for young people aged 14-19 and the admissions arrangements for the Year 12 (Sixth-form) intake are set out below.
- 1.4 The NSETC is committed to straightforward, open, fair and transparent admissions arrangements. The NSETC will act fully in accordance with the School Admissions Code, the School Admissions Appeals Code and admissions law as they apply to academies.
- 1.5 The NSETC will not discriminate between students on grounds of gender, disability, faith, ethnicity, or sexual preference.

2.0 Responsibility for admissions

- 2.1 The responsibility for the admissions to the NSETC rests with the Inspirational Futures Trust, delegated to the governing body of the NSETC.

3.0 Admission number

3.1 The Admission Number for 2016/17 is 200.

3.2 Students, who have a statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) or Education, Health or Care Plan, where the NSETC is named in the student's statement or plan, will be admitted, providing that the entry criteria for the sixth-form are met. In this event, the number of places that remain available for allocation will be reduced.

3.3 Application for places within NSETC's 16-19 Sixth Form should be made directly to the NSETC by 31 August 2016.

3.4 There may be a limit on the number of places available on any particular sixth-form course.

4. Application process and timeline for September 2016 entry

4.1. The NSETC will accept application forms from students and their parents which will be available from the NSETC from 1st September 2015

4.2 The closing date for receipt of applications to be considered in the first round of allocations will be 18 December 2015.

4.3 All application forms must be returned to the NSETC

4.4 All applicants will be required to attend an advice and guidance meeting. The purpose of the advice and guidance meeting is to discuss the application and to assess if it offers the student the best opportunity to succeed and meet their personal ambitions. Parents/carers are encouraged to attend this meeting with their child. The meeting is not a formal interview for a place.

4.5 Offers for those who applied by the closing date and who qualify for a place will be made by **18 March 2016**

4.6 Applications received after the closing date for the first round of allocations will continue to be considered. The NSETC will accept applications up to the start of the school year and subject to places being available. If at any one time there are more applications than places are available the over-subscription criteria will be applied.

4.7 Applications may be made by students or by their parent(s). Parents includes all of those people, including carers, who have parental responsibility for the student as set out in the Children Act 1989

4.8 There are a variety of sixth-form courses on offer, each with different entry requirements. Full details will be published annually in the NSETC sixth-form prospectus and applicants can contact the school for information.

4.9 When the Year 12 is not over-subscribed all applicants assessed for an appropriate course will be admitted if they meet the entry criteria.

4.10 For entry to Year 12 in year (after the start of the school year), if there are places available, applications from students who meet the entry criteria would normally be accepted but such applicants should be aware that they would be expected to catch up with work already covered on the course.

5. Over-subscription

5.1 In such circumstances that a greater number of applications were received than the Admission Number that met the academic entry criteria for the school for the relevant courses, the NSETC would make every possible effort to accommodate the extra numbers. Where this is not possible, after the admission of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan which names NSETC and who meet the entry criteria, the following over-subscription criteria, given in order, will be used to allocate places:

1. Children in Care at the time of application or children who were previously in Care but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order, immediately following having been in Care.
2. 50% of the places available to students living within the first geographical areas of the four existing Weston secondary schools (Broadoak Mathematics and Computing College, Hans Price Academy, Priory Community School – an Academy Trust and Worle Community School) as defined by these schools.
3. 50% of the places available to students living in all other areas.
 - i. Where there are more applications within any of the geographical areas than there are places available, places will be determined by random allocation and this process overseen by someone independent of the school.
 - ii. Where there are spare places, these will be determined randomly. This process will be overseen by someone independent of the school.
 - iii. In the event of two or more applications that cannot otherwise be separated, the NSETC will use random allocation. This will be overseen by someone who is independent of the NSETC as a tie-break.

Additional Information

Home Address

A student's home address is considered to be the place where the student permanently and ordinarily resides for the majority of the time. This would normally be the same address as the person who has parental responsibility for the student as their main carer. Where parents do not live together and the student spends equal amounts of time with both parents/carers the NSETC will consider the home of the parent/carers who made the application to be the student's home. The NSETC may undertake rigorous residency checks and reserves the right to request independent confirmation of the student's place of residence. Parents may be asked to supply such

documentation to support their application as deemed appropriate by the NSETC, for example a Child Benefit book may be required. If the Child Benefit is shared between parents, the address to be used will be determined by drawing lots.

For those moving house they will be considered from their proposed address in the first round of allocations if they are able to confirm independently by the closing date that they will be moving to an address before the start of the school year. Examples of independent confirmation are a solicitor's letter confirming the exchange of contracts with a completion date, or a tenancy agreement signed by both parties. Applicants may also be required to provide proof that they have left the previous property, for example by supplying a final account utility bill. Proof of residency received after the allocation of places is determined will normally only be taken into account in any subsequent rounds of school place allocation.

Withdrawal of a place

The NSETC will withdraw an offer in limited circumstances. An example may be where it can be shown that the offer was obtained on the basis of a fraudulent or an intentionally misleading application such as a false claim to residence at a particular address, which effectively denied a place to a student with a stronger claim. Where before offers are made, an application is deemed to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading the application will be considered on the basis of the correct information. Where applicants do not respond to an offer of a place within 21 days, the offer may be withdrawn and the place offered to another applicant.

If students do not commence attendance at the NSETC at the start of term 1 and the NSETC is not given a satisfactory reason for the absence the place may be withdrawn and if applicable will be offered to other applicants.

Late Applications

Applications submitted after the closing time and date will be treated as a late application and so will not be considered in the first round of allocations except where both of the following are the case:

- Such late applications are received before North Somerset Council has sent details of applications to other councils.
- The applicant's home council has accepted them as if they had been submitted by the closing time and date.

All other late applications will not be considered until after the first round of allocations; this may mean that all of the places have been allocated.

All applications will be considered equally regardless of the ranking of a parent's preference for the school. On-time applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by NSETC.

Children in Care

'Children in Care' are children who are (a) in the care of a local council or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local council in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

For Children previously in Care: 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 Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders)

Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replaced residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

In accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989, a Special Guardianship Order is defined as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

Parent

This includes all of those people, including carers, who have parental responsibility for a child as set out in the Children Act 1989.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan.

There is a different procedure for Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan. Their parents should apply for a place via the service dealing with Special Education Needs in their home council.

Admissions of children outside their normal age group

The governors will consider applications for delayed or accelerated entry in cases where parents would like their child to be admitted to a year group either side of the chronological age year group. The reasons for the request must be fully explained in writing and included with the school place application form (or submitted separately where applying via an on-line service).

Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child, taking into account, as appropriate, the following:

the views of the parent, information about the social, emotional and academic development of the child as often supported by education and other professionals, the views of the Principal, where relevant the child's 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 they were not born prematurely.



Where a request for a child to be admitted outside their normal age group is agreed, that enables a child to be included as part of the Year 12 allocations, the application will then be processed in accordance with these arrangements and over-subscription criteria where applicable.

Contact details for NSETC

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