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Outcomes Focused, Child Centred

To all key stakeholders including: Parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen
Other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the academy have an interest in the proposed admissions
All other admission authorities within the relevant area
The local authority

Dear stakeholder,

Re: Admission arrangements 2027/2028

As the Admission Authority, and in accordance with the School Admissions Code, Northern Education Trust has a statutory obligation to consult on any changes to our admission arrangements.

On behalf of the Trust Board, I am writing to consult formally with key stakeholders for six calendar weeks for the period 5 November to 17 December 2025. You are invited to express your views and any concerns about the admission arrangements at Hetton Academy.

The proposed changes are regarding our oversubscription criterion at section 7 of our admissions policy. The proposals ensure that we have a consistent admissions policy for all Northern Education Trust schools within the Sunderland local authority area. It also ensures our oversubscription criteria are in line with other schools within the Sunderland area.

The proposed oversubscription criteria are:

1. A 'Looked-after' child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residency/child arrangement or special guardianship order – a child that is looked-after' by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Children's Act 1989 and a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so, because of adoption (or become subject to a child arrangements order, residence order or special guardianship order) and a 'Looked-after' child who appears to the Admission Authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as result of being adopted – a child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

2. Attendance in Key Stage 2 (age7 -10+) at a designated cluster junior or primary school:

3. A sibling link - an older brother/sister or older child (including adoptive, foster or step-children) that shares the same parent/carer and lives at the same address, who will still be attending the preferred school at the time of admission.

4. Exceptional medical or social need Parents/carers must submit a supporting medical or psychological report, prepared by a professional. This report should explain why only this academy can meet your child's medical or psychological needs. Common childhood medical conditions such as asthma or giving a child's nervousness at starting new school as a psychological reason for choosing a particular school/academy are unlikely to be accepted as exceptional. If you intend to use this criterion when expressing a preference, please contact the School Admissions Team before completing the application form.

5. Pupils for whom preferences are expressed on grounds other than those outlined above. We have also been made aware that Sunderland Council are proposing to amend the process for the way that the tiebreaker of distances between the home address and school are measured. Under the new proposal, distances would now be measured using a straight-line measurement between the child's home address and the school. Previously, this was measured using the safest shortest walking distance. Due to this change, we are proposing to amend our distance tie breaker criteria to remain in line with Sunderland Council:

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the school's front gates. This is completed using a geographical information system (GIS). This uses Ordnance Survey maps and Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), which provides coordinates for every dwelling.

Please could you send me any comments by email to hetton.enquiries@northerneducationtrust.org by no later than 17 December 2025. Please note that written responses should outline your personal details, including your name, address and relationship to the academy.

At the end of the consultation period, all responses will be carefully considered and the final policy will be approved by the executive principal and noted by the academy council. For further information regarding the consultation process, please refer to our draft admissions policy, a copy of which can be located on the [admissions page](#) on the academy website or in hard copy on request from the academy.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Mrs Pinkney on 0191 5623322.

Yours sincerely



Mrs V Pinkney
Principal