



Is the Fair School Admissions Pledge right for your setting?



How to use this activity

This is a three step activity to gauge whether your school is suited to the Fair School Admissions Pledge or Fair School Admissions Award.

1 - Data

Visit our [School Admissions Dashboard](#) and find your school. Are you recruiting the right number of children eligible for Free School Meals for your area? Share with your SLT and consider the reasons behind the data. It may be worth considering other data sources to give a fuller picture.

2 – Reflective Discussion

Use the following slides to prompt a discussion around where you are in your journey to being a socially inclusive school. Are your admissions processes more in line with 'typical' practice or best practice?

3 – Next Steps

Consider your data and reflections as well as the ethos as a school to identify your next steps. Links are available on the last slide to help.

Cost

Typical practice looks like:

✓ We have reduced the cost of uniform in line with Government guidance. We have a second-hand uniform shop.

✓ Financial support for extra-curricular activities is available on request.

✓ We provide extra learning materials to pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium.

✓ We advertise the free transport to school options.

Best practice looks like:

✓ Our branded uniform is very limited and we widely advertise our pre-loved uniform options and uniform swap services.

✓ We inform parents of financial support during recruitment and at the start of each year so they can plan accordingly.

✓ We automate financial support for pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium for trips and extra-curricular activities.

✓ We track the uptake of free transport and encourage those who qualify to apply for it.

Support for low-income families

Typical practice looks like:

✓ We review our Pupil Premium strategy annually.

✓ Our Pupil Premium strategy is published on our website.

Best practice looks like:

✓ We review the Pupil Premium strategy annually in conjunction with stakeholder feedback.

✓ Our Pupil Premium Strategy is published on our website in a prominent location.

✓ We have a 'parent version' of the Pupil Premium strategy summarising the support we offer.

✓ We use every opportunity to promote our support offer including during pupil recruitment.

Accessibility of Information

Typical practice looks like:

- ✓ All parent facing documents, including those relating to admissions are available online or in hard copy upon request.
- ✓ We utilise emails, texting and social media as appropriate.
- ✓ We have templates and standard formatting procedures for staff to use when writing to parents.
- ✓ If we have a large parent body that speak a different language we will translate our documents.

Best practice looks like:

- ✓ Information is provided in a range of formats and written specifically to suit the format that is being used.
- ✓ Parent facing documents have a reading age between 9-11 year olds or supporting, simplified versions are available.
- ✓ Staff receive training on how best to format a document. Templates and standard formatting supports this.
- ✓ We know which languages are used by our parent body and ensure translated versions are created.

Admissions Policies

Typical practice looks like:

- ✓ We consult on our admissions policy once every seven years as required.
- ✓ Prioritisation for children with EHCPs and Care Experienced children.
- ✓ We work with the Local Authority as part of the co-ordinated scheme.

Best practice looks like:

- ✓ We review the policy annually in conjunction with stakeholder feedback and data about our incoming FSM intake.
- ✓ We utilise mechanisms such as Pupil Premium priority, Fair Banding or Random Ballots.
- ✓ We collaborate with all local schools and the Local Authority to ensure that we have a socially balanced cohort in each school.
- ✓ If catchment areas are used these are carefully constructed and reviewed often to ensure we have a social balance.

Next Steps

Closer to **typical practice** most of the time:

- ✓ Consider committing to the Fair School Admissions Pledge to access support and resources to become a more socially setting. This can be done through our [website](#).

Closer to **best practice** most of the time:

- ✓ Consider approaching us to apply directly for a Fair School Admissions Award. This can be done through Charley O'Regan : charlotte.oregan@suttontrust.com

Testimonial

“We met as a team and reflected on why we got into teaching. We all agreed that we wanted to help all children, but especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds who would benefit most from great teachers in great schools.”

The Totteridge Academy on why they introduced a Pupil Premium Priority in their over-subscription criteria.

