

Hampshire County Council's Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Infant Schools 2015-2016

This policy will apply to all admissions from 1 September 2015, including in-year admissions. It will be used during 2014-15 for allocating places for September 2015 as part of the main admission rounds for Year R. It does not apply to those being admitted to nursery provision.

Outside the normal admissions round, the authority's Fair Access protocol may be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups.

The guiding principles of the school admissions policy are that each Hampshire child is offered a school place; that each school should serve its local community; that as many children as possible attend their parents' preferred school; that siblings as far as possible can attend school together; and that children can benefit from continuity between schools serving the same community. The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and complies with all relevant legislation.

Admission Criteria

Hampshire County Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools. The admission arrangements are determined by the County Council, after statutory consultations.

The County Council will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on Thursday 15 January 2015. Notifications to parents offering a primary or infant school place will be sent by the County Council on Thursday 16 April 2015.**

Applications made after midnight on 15 January 2015 will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all on time preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

If the school is oversubscribed, places will be offered in the following priority order. Places for applications received after the deadline will be allocated using the same criteria:

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after (*see (a) in Definitions*).
2. (*For applicants in the normal admission round only*) Children or families who have a serious medical, physical or psychological condition which makes it essential that the child attends the preferred school rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence must be provided in support.)
3. Children living **in** the catchment area of the school (*see (b) in Definitions*):
 - (i) Children who at the time of application have a sibling (*see (c) in Definitions*) on the roll of the school or linked junior school who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [See 4(i) for additional children who may be considered under this criterion.]
 - (ii) (*C of E controlled schools only*) Children with a parent who is an active member of the Church of England (*see (d) in Definitions*) and who requests admission on denominational grounds and provides relevant evidence.
 - (iii) Other children living in the catchment area of the school.

4. Children living **out** of the catchment area of the school:
- (i) Children who at the time of application have a sibling (*see (c) in Definitions*) on the roll of the school or linked junior school who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [Where a sibling was allocated a place at the school or linked junior school in the normal admission round in a previous year because no places were available at the catchment school for their address, the application will be considered under 3(i), above, subject to the address being the same for both applications.]
 - (ii) Children of staff (*see (e) in Definitions*) who have, (i) been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or (ii) have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
 - (iii) (*C of E controlled schools only*) Children with a parent who is an active member of the Church of England (*see (d) in Definitions*) and who requests admission on denominational grounds and provides relevant evidence.
 - (iv) Other children.

Definitions

(a) This criterion provides priority for children who are (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). It can also be used for children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).]

(b) The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week, and should be used for the application. The permanent address of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time.

(c) 'Sibling' refers to brother or sister, half brother or half sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, step brother or step sister living as one family unit at the same address. It will also be applied to situations where a full or half brother or sister are living at separate addresses. Categories 3(i) and 4(i) include children who at the time of application have a sibling for whom the offer of a place at the preferred school has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending. It also includes, in the normal admissions round, children who have a sibling on roll in Year 2 at the preferred infant school at the time of application, where the parent has made a successful on-time application for a place for that sibling in Year 3 at a linked junior school and the parent is due to be notified of this on the national offer date.

(d) 'Active member of the Church of England' is defined as attending worship at a Church of England church at least twice a month for the previous two years before the date of application. For Year R applicants within the normal admissions round, the deadline for on-time applications will be 15 January 2015. Parents applying under criterion 3(ii) or 4(iii) are required to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), which asks for declaration and verification of active membership. The SIF, which is available from the County website (www.hants.gov.uk/admissions) or the school, must be completed and returned to the school at the time of applying. (The SIF is not available for completion online.)

(e) 'Staff' includes all those on the payroll of the school. 'Children of staff' refers to situations where the staff member is the natural parent, the legal guardian or a resident step parent.

Tie-breaker

If the school is oversubscribed from within any of the above categories or subcategories, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the school have priority. Hampshire County Council's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be used to determine distances (normally from the Ordnance Survey home address point to the school office). Distances to multiple dwellings will give priority to the ground floor over the first floor and so on. On individual floors, distances will be measured to the stairs leading to the communal entrance. This method of prioritising admissions will also apply to any 'school specific' criterion unless otherwise stated in the school's brochure.

Additional Information

1. Pupils with a statement of special educational needs

The governors will admit any pupil whose final statement of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) names the school. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

2. Multiple births

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a school under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the school's PAN.

3. In-Year Fair Access placements by the local authority

The local authority must ensure that all pupils are placed in schools as quickly as possible. It may therefore sometimes be necessary for a pupil to be placed by the local authority, or a local placement panel acting on behalf of the authority, in a particular school even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements will be made in accordance with the provisions of the local authority's In-Year Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

4. School Closures

In the event of a school closure, pupils from the closing school may be given priority for any school nominated as the receiving school. Specific arrangements will be determined by the Local Authority in accordance with the School Admissions Code and will be published at the time for the specific schools affected.

5. Waiting lists

When all available places have been allocated, waiting lists will be operated by schools on behalf of the local authority. Any places that become available will be allocated according to the criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part of the main admission round. Fair Access admissions and school closure arrangements will take priority over the waiting list.

The waiting list will be reviewed and revised –

- each time a child is added to, or removed from, the waiting list;
- when a child's changed circumstances affect their priority;

At the time of receiving an application decision from the County Council or a school, parents will be advised of the process for adding their child's name to a school's waiting list. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools as they wish.

The waiting list will be maintained until 31 August 2016, at which point all names will be removed. Should parents wish their child to be considered for a place at the school in the following school year, they should complete and submit a fresh in-year application in the August preceding the new school year. Schools will send a decision letter within the first 10 days of the new term.

6. School specific criteria

Governing bodies may apply to the Director of Children's Services to include in their school policy a criterion which they regard as essential if children are to be treated fairly in relation to clearly defined local conditions. The application will cover both the substance of the criterion and its position in the order of priorities. In the event of such applications, the Director of Children's Services will consult the Admission Forum and the criterion will then be determined by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. Any changes after such determination will be authorised by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Lead Member. Any criterion agreed under this category must be published in the school prospectus with its position within the admission priorities clearly indicated. It must be made clear that the criterion is school-specific.

7. Starting school

Pupils born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011 (inclusive) are entitled to full-time schooling from September 2015. Parents can request that their child's admission is deferred until later in the school year (usually at the start of a school term and before the end of the academic year), but not beyond the point they reach compulsory school age, at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Children with birthdays between:

- 1 September and 31 December 2010 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 December 2015, at the start of the Spring term.
- 1 January and 31 March 2011 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 March 2016, at the start of the Summer term;
- 1 April and 31 August 2011 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 August 2016, at the start of the new school year.

Parents of children with birthdays between 1 April and 31 August 2011 (inclusive), whose child has not started in a Year R class during the 2015-16 school year, may wish to request admission to Year R in September 2016 rather than admission to Year 1. In these circumstances, all relevant factors will be considered in assessing the request; parents would be expected to state clearly why they felt admission to Year R was in their child's best interests. It is recommended that parents considering such a request contact the local authority in the autumn term 2014 to ensure that an informed decision is made.

8. Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents can seek places outside their normal age group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case; parents may be offered a place in another year group at the school.

9. Legislation

This policy takes account of all relevant legislation including the legislation on sex discrimination, race relations, and disability, together with all relevant regulations and the School Admissions Code (published by the DfE in 2012).