

## Admission criteria (rules) for who is given priority for places in community and voluntary controlled secondary schools

An admission number will be published showing the maximum number of pupils that the school will admit in the Autumn Term 2019. Parents are given the opportunity to express three preferences for a secondary school. Published criteria are used to decide which children should be offered the available places. In secondary schools an equal preference system operates, whereby the three parental preferences are given equal status. Each preference will be considered equally against the admissions criteria.

When a secondary school is oversubscribed the following priorities apply in order:

1. Looked after children and those who have been previously looked after, (see note x below); then
2. Children for whom the Local Authority accepts that there are exceptional medical, social or welfare reasons which are directly relevant to the school concerned. (see note i below); then
3. Children living within the school's geographical priority area with older brothers or sisters attending the school when the younger child will start, (see note iii below); then
4. Children living within the school's geographical priority area; then
5. Children living outside the school's geographical priority area with older brothers or sisters still attending the school when the younger child will start (See note iii below); then
6. Children living outside the school's geographical priority area (see note iv below).

### Notes

(i) The medical, social and welfare criterion will consider issues relevant to the child and/or the family. This category may include children without a statement who have special needs.

(ii) As required by law, all children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs/EHC naming a school will be admitted before the application of the over-subscription criteria. Children who have a statement for Special Needs have their applications considered separately.

(iii) Brothers and sisters includes step children, half brothers and sisters, fostered and adopted children living with the same family at the same address (consideration may be given to applying this criterion to full brothers and sisters who reside at different addresses). The priority does not apply to siblings whose brothers and sisters transferred into a sixth form at 16+.

(iv) The distance criterion will be used as the tie breaker if there is oversubscription within any of the admission criteria is a straight line (radial) measure. If the Local Authority is unable to distinguish between applicants using the published criteria (eg twins or same block of flats) places will be offered via a random draw.

The distance measure is a straight line (radial) measure centre of building to centre of building.

(v) A child's permanent address is the one where he/she normally lives and sleeps and goes to school from. Proof of residence may be requested at any time throughout the admission process, (including after a child has accessed a school place).

(vi) The Local Authority will keep waiting lists for all Lancashire schools until 31 August 2019. These are kept in priority order using the school's published admission criteria. From 1 September 2019 for one school term only waiting lists will be retained by individual admission authorities (the Local authority for community and voluntary controlled schools and individual voluntary aided and trust schools will each retain their own list).

(vii) Children will not normally be able to start school other than at the beginning of the term unless they have moved into the area or there are exceptional circumstances.

(viii) Applications for school places which are received late will not necessarily be dealt with at the same time as those received by the set deadline. The reasons for a late application may be requested and where these are not exceptional the relevant admission criteria will be initially applied to all others received on time. The late application will be dealt with after this process.

Application forms received after the published closing date, will only be considered at that time if the following conditions apply:

- (a) if the number of preferences received for the school is below the published admission number or:
- (b) there are extenuating circumstances justifying a late application.

These may include:

- (a) parents moving into the County after the closing date;
- (b) parent/carer illness which requires hospitalisation for the major part of the period between the publication of the composite prospectus and the closing date for applications.

(ix) Where a child lives with one parent for part of the week and another for the rest of the week only one address will be accepted for a school admission application. This will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of school days (Monday to Friday). Proof of residence may be requested at any time throughout the admissions process.

(x) The highest priority **must** be given to looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order / residency order or special guardianship order).

A 'looked after child' (1) or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption (2) child arrangements order (residency order) (3) or special guardianship order (4).

*1 A 'looked after child' is a child who is (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) at the time of making an application to a school*

*2 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).*

*3 Under the provisions of s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amend section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangement orders.*

*4 See section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).*

This includes children who are legally adopted from overseas. Relevant, legal documents must be provided to evidence the adoption.

For criterion 1, where there is a claim that any child was previously looked after then the parent or guardian must provide the necessary evidence or contacts for this to be verified.

The Authority has a duty to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all Lancashire maintained schools. The Authority will ensure that all Lancashire parents, whose children are transferring to Year 7 classes receive the offer of one secondary school place on the agreed date.