

Portswood Primary Academy Trust & St Mary's CE Primary Schools

Admissions Policy

Policy Statement and Guidelines

Policy Date: Autumn 2018

Admissions Policy

We follow Southampton City Council's Admissions Policy, which is as follows:

Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant/Primary Schools for 2019/20

Southampton City Council is the admission authority for all Community and Voluntary Controlled infant and primary schools in the city. Voluntary Aided and Trust and Foundation school are their own admission authorities and set their own admission arrangements. As required in the School Admissions Code the authority will consider all on-time preferences at the same time for September 2019 admissions.

Parents may express up to three (3) preferences, listing them in the order in which they would accept them. All preferences will be considered and where more than one school could be offered, the parents will be offered a place for their child at the higher ranked of the schools that could be offered.

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that name the school

Children with an EHCP that names a school must be admitted to that school under the Education Act 1996 and with regard to the SEN Code of Practice. These children will be admitted to the named school, even if it is full, and are therefore outside the normal admission arrangements. As required by the Code these children will count as part of the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school.

Oversubscription criteria

Applications submitted by 15 January 2019 will be dealt with first. If the number of applications submitted by 15 January 2019 is greater than the Published Admission Number (PAN) for a school, admissions to the school will be decided according to the following priorities:

1. Children in public care (looked after children) and previously looked after children as defined in paragraph 1.7 of the School Admissions Code 2014
2. Children subject to a child protection plan or deemed to be vulnerable by the Senior Officer with responsibility for safeguarding in Southampton City Council.
3. Children who have a brother or sister already on the roll of the school who will continue to attend that school for the following year. (This includes children living as siblings in the same family unit.) In the case of applications for places at infant schools a sibling at the linked junior school will count as a sibling at the infant school.

A sibling is defined as a brother or sister including half, step, or foster or adoptive brother or sister, living within the same family unit at the same address.

4. Children who live within the school's designated catchment area and whose parents have satisfied the Local Authority that their child has a significant medical or psychological condition which means they must attend the preferred school rather

than any other. Applications must be supported by appropriate written evidence from a doctor or psychologist.

5. Children who live within the school's designated catchment area.

A "designated catchment area" for a school is the area set out in the definitive catchment area map for each school. This map is held by Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY. A schedule of addresses, to be read in conjunction with the map, is also kept by the Council.

Parents wishing to know if their address is in a particular catchment area can contact the Admissions Team, or log on to the council website www.southampton.gov.uk click on 'my southampton' follow the links and enter their postcode.

If the school is oversubscribed from within these criteria above, priorities (ii) to (iii), as set out at 6 below, will be used to determine which children will be offered places.

6. Children who live outside the school's designated catchment area, in the following order:

- (i) Children whose parents have satisfied the Local Authority that their child has a significant medical or psychological condition which means they must attend the preferred school rather than any other. Applications must be supported by appropriate written evidence from a doctor or psychologist.
- (ii) Children whose parents are applying for their child to attend a Church of England voluntary controlled school on denominational grounds. Evidence of regular church attendance at services held by the Church of England or a local ecumenical partnership (as defined in the school's prospectus) must be certified by the vicar or someone else of authority in the church. "Regular" is defined as "attending worship services at a Church of England church or local ecumenical partnership at least twice a month for the previous two years before the deadline for admissions set by Southampton City Council."
- (iii) Children who live closest to the school based on the shortest practicable walking distance using public roads and footpaths. Distances are measured from home to school for all children. Distances from home to school are measured as shortest walking distances. These are calculated using a computerised mapping system that uses data supplied by Ordnance Survey. Distances are measured from the point designated in the system as the home address to the point designated in the system as the mid point of the nearest open gate to the school, using public roads and footpaths.

Should a school be oversubscribed from within any of the criteria 6(i) to 6(ii) above, then distance as defined in 6(iii) will be used to prioritise applications within these categories. Should there be two or more identical distances requiring prioritisation, this will be done by casting lots. Lots will be drawn by the Principal Officer for Education and Early Years, Children and Families Services, Southampton City Council.

Late applications

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2019. Applications received after that date will be late applications. If a school has places available after admitting all ontime applications, late applications will be considered in accordance with the priorities set out above.

Unplaced children

Any child who remains unplaced after their application has been processed, because either they could not be offered a place at any school requested or their parents did not complete an application, will be offered a place at their catchment school, if places are still available. If there are no places available at their catchment school, they will be allocated a place at the nearest school to their home address with places available that is prepared to offer a place. Distance to their home address will be measured by public roads and footpaths.

Waiting lists

If a place cannot be offered at a higher ranked community or voluntary controlled school, unsuccessful applicants will automatically be placed on the waiting list for the school. If places become available, children on the waiting list will automatically be offered them according to the priorities set out above and any previous offer of a school place will be withdrawn.

The length of time on the waiting list cannot be taken into account. Unsuccessful late applications will be treated in the same way as unsuccessful on-time applications and placed on the waiting list according to the priorities set out above. This means that waiting lists will be re-ranked after every new expression of preference.

Waiting lists will be maintained by the Admissions Manager at Southampton City Council for all community and voluntary controlled schools. Waiting lists will be maintained until the end of the Summer term.

Entry into Reception Class

The offer made to parents for reception class on the initial offer date is of a full time place from the start of term after 1 September 2019. Schools normally wish to stagger entry into school from that date and arrange for some initial part time attendance to ensure a smooth transition from pre-school into school or from home to school.

Parents can request part time education for their child in the reception year up until the child is of statutory school age if it is in the child's best interests.

Parents have the right to defer their child's entry into reception class to any point up the time the child is of statutory school age (the term starting after their child's 5th birthday). Parents of children born between 1 September and 31 March CANNOT however defer entry until the start of year 1 i.e. the reception class place cannot be held open over the summer holidays. The child must start school at some point in the reception year. If a parent does not enrol their child at the offered school at some point in the reception year they must make an in year application for a year 1 place.

However, the Parents of a summer-born child, that is a child born between 1 April and 31 August, may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their 5th birthday. They may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than Year 1. All requests will be considered on their merits. Forms to make the request can be obtained by emailing schoolo.admissions@southampton.gov.uk

Appeals

Southampton City Council will arrange any appeals. Their appeals timetable is available on their website – www.southampton.gov.uk