

Cumbria County Council

General Admissions Policy 2017/2018

Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

Where there are more applications than places available at a community or voluntary controlled school for entry to all year groups **except Year 12**, applications will be prioritised using the criteria below. They will be applied in conjunction with explanatory notes 1-6 which form part of the policy.

1. Children looked after and who were previously looked after, i.e. in public care, giving priority, if necessary, to the youngest child(ren) - see note 1 overleaf.
2. Children living in the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) at the time of admission - see notes 2 and 3 overleaf.
3. Children living outside the catchment area who, at the time of their admission, have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) who were allocated a place at that school by the LA either (a) in the absence of a place being available in the catchment area school due to oversubscription and the school was identified by the LA as the next nearest with a place available or (b) the school is named in the sibling's Statement of Special Educational Needs - see notes 2, 3 and 4 overleaf.
4. In relation to Church of England Voluntary Controlled Schools, children living within the catchment area who with a parent regularly attend a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance - see notes 5 and 6.
5. Other children living in the catchment area giving priority to those living closest to the school, measured by a straight-line measure between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the LA - see note 6 overleaf.
6. Children living outside the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) and at the time of their admission - see notes 2 and 3 overleaf.
7. In relation to Church of England Voluntary Controlled Schools, children living outside the catchment area who with a parent regularly attend a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance - see notes 5 and 6.
8. Children living outside the catchment area, giving priority to those who live closest to the school, measured by a straight-line measure between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the LA - see note 6 overleaf.

Applications will be prioritised on the above basis. An exception will be made under the Authority's policy for the education of children with special needs (i) where a child holds an Education, Health and Care Plan, or (ii) is currently undergoing a co-ordinated assessment, and in either case it is considered that attendance at a particular school is necessary to meet the identified needs of that child.

Explanatory notes

These notes are part of the policy.

Note 1

A child looked after is a child in public care, who is looked after by a local authority within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. Children previously looked after are children who were looked after, but have ceased to be so because they were adopted (under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002) or became subject to a Residence Order or Special Guardianship Order (Children Act 1989). The provision to give the highest priority to looked after and previously looked after children applies to all children who have been adopted from local authority care.

Note 2

In criteria 2, 3 and 6, priority will be given to those children with the youngest siblings. Brothers and sisters are those living at the same address and includes step and foster children. Priority will only be given where it is known at the time of allocating places that a sibling will be attending the school (excluding a nursery class) at the time of admission.

Note 3

Where reference is made to 'associated' infant and junior schools this is to describe those situations where infant and junior schools share the same catchment area.

Note 4

If parent or carers believe they qualify for consideration under criterion 3, they should indicate this on their preference form in the place provided for this purpose.

Note 5

To be considered under criteria 4 or 7 parents or carers must provide proof with the completed form that they regularly attend a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance. 'Regular' is defined as at least twice a month. Attendance may be at more than one church but should be for at least two years prior to the application date. In criteria 4 or 7 applications will be prioritised using the distance measurement methodology set out at Note 6 below, with those living closest to the school measured by the shortest straight line distance given priority.

Note 6

Distance measurements will be undertaken using the Local Authority's computerised Geographical Information System (GIS). This measures a straight-line measure between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the LA.

