

Gateshead Council community and voluntary controlled primary schools Admission policy 2012/2013

We allocate places at our community primary infant and junior schools using our policy below and co-ordinate admissions to our schools using our co-ordinated admission scheme.

The policy is as follows:

- Your child will start school at the beginning of the academic year in which they will reach the age of five. (An academic year lasts from 1 September in one year to 31 August in the following year). However in many schools the first year will include an induction period, (a period for your child to get used to school life). This may last from September until no later than the end of the October half term holiday. Parents who wish to defer their child's entry beyond this period must make this request in writing at the time of application for admission to school. Deferred entry must not extend beyond the beginning of the term after the child's 5th birthday, or beyond the academic year for which the application was accepted. Deferred entry will be considered by us, the local authority in consultation with the Head Teacher and governors of the school.
- We will accept pupils up to the school's agreed planned admission number for the year group unless we feel there are lawful grounds not to do so.

Oversubscription criteria

We will consider applications from parents who have named the school as any ranked preference on their application form this is called the equal preference system. If there are more applications for the number of places available at the school we will then allocate places by using the following order of priority:

1. Children in Public Care (and as deemed under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989).
2. Children who live in the school's catchment area and who will have a brother or sister at the school, or at the feeder junior school during the coming academic year.

3. Other children who live in the school's catchment area.
4. Other children who will have a brother or sister at the school or at the feeder junior school during the coming academic year.
5. Other children who have exceptional medical or social grounds - see point 1 below
6. All other children.

Point 1

We can consider exceptional individual applications, particularly in cases involving medical or social needs. If you wish to apply on medical or social grounds you must provide written evidence from relevant registered health professionals i.e. a doctor or social worker. The evidence must demonstrate why the chosen school is more appropriate and what difficulties would be caused if they were to travel to and attend alternative schools. We will not consider such applications if the relevant professional evidence is not provided. The evidence will be assessed by the local authority admission panel. No assumption should be made that submission of the relevant evidence will, in itself, be sufficient to allocate a place.

Whickham Parochial Church of England Controlled Primary School

This school has the same oversubscription criteria as priorities 1 to 6 above except that criteria 3 and 4 above are reversed. Priority 1, 2, 5 and 6 remain in the same order however for this particular school their oversubscription criteria places priority 4 children above those children in priority 3.

Address

For the purposes of deciding whether a child lives in the catchment area of a school we will use the parent or legal guardian's address or the address of a relevant adult who has parental responsibility, as defined under the 1989 Children's Act, for the child.

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Tie-breaker

If, within any of the above criteria, there are more applicants than places available, priority will be given to those children based on the distance they live from the school, measured 'as the crow flies' i.e. in a straight line from the centre of the home residence to the school's main entrance. Children living nearest to the school will have priority. We measure the distance using a geographical information system (GIS).

Waiting list

If places become available we will consider all relevant applications based on a waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained by the council from the start of the academic year and be kept for the rest of the academic year. All applicants on the waiting list are placed according to the admission criteria and priorities set out above. However children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the local authority or who have been referred for admission and have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

Important dates

The closing date for the return of applications is **Sunday 15 January 2012**. From 12 September 2011 you can apply for a place in a reception or junior class for admission in September 2012 by applying online at: **www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions** you must submit your application by no later than Sunday 15 January 2012. Alternatively Parents requiring a paper application form must ensure that they request it in sufficient time for them to complete and return it by no later than Sunday 15 January 2012 to:

The School Admissions Team, Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH.

If you live outside Gateshead and want to apply to a Gateshead school, you must obtain an application form from your own council and return it to them by their closing date or apply through their online application system. However you must still consider the information in Gateshead Council's "Admission to Primary School" booklet so that you know what the admission arrangements are to Gateshead schools. This information is available at: **www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions** Your own council will send us notification of your application and they will let you know the final allocation of a school place for your child.

General information and definitions

For information on our admission arrangements and definitions of the terms used in this policy please refer to our "Admission to Primary School" booklet for 2012 available at: **www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions** The co-ordinated admission scheme and catchment areas referred to in this policy can be viewed at:

Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH, or online at: **www.gateshead.gov.uk**