

Admission Policy for September 2023 for Primary and Secondary Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) School in Stockton-on –Tees

All governing bodies are required by Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to admit to the school a child with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school.

This is not an oversubscription criterion. This relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom a final EHC Plan has been issued.

Where there are more applications for a school than there are places available, places will be allocated in order using the oversubscription criteria below:

| CRITERIA (In priority order) | EXPLANATORY NOTES |
|--|--|
| 1. Looked after children ¹ and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted ² . Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted ³ (or became subject to a child arrangements order ⁴ or special guardianship order ⁵). | <p>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.</p> <p>²A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.</p> <p>³This 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).</p> <p>⁴Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.</p> <p>⁵See 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).</p> |
| 2. Pupils with a Special Education Need who are going through a statutory assessment and who have been identified as needing a 'named' mainstream school. | This applies to those children who have a Special Education Need, who are going through a statutory assessment and have been identified as in need of a 'named' mainstream school that can offer the enhanced support and resources they require to meet their specific SEN. |
| 3. Pupils who have a brother or sister permanently living at the same address, who are still at the school when the pupil begins. Please note – this only applies to siblings who are of compulsory school age, | <p><u>We define brother or sister as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, adopted brother or sister, or children of partners who are permanently living at the same address as a family unit. In all cases, the parent who receives the Child Benefit for those children must permanently live at that address with the children. We will consider brothers or sisters who live in separate households because the parents are separated and have |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>not younger siblings who attend a nursery setting attached to a school (Primary applications only)</p> | <p>shared responsibility for the children under conditions covering exceptional social or medical reasons. This does not include separate families living together in the same property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are other family situations where there are different carers, e.g., aunts, uncles or grandparents, each case will be considered individually. |
| <p>4. Pupils permanently resident i.e., the address at which the child is registered for child benefit, who expresses a preference for that school (proof of address may be required) within the admission zone who have returned a Common Application Form by the closing date (31st October 2022 for Secondary applications and 15th January 2023 for Primary applications).</p> | <p>When a school is oversubscribed with in-zone applications i.e., there are more applications from children living in the admission zone of the school than there are places available, we will allocate places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • firstly, to children permanently living in the admission zone (Criterion 4) with exceptional social or medical reasons for attending the school (Criterion 5). • then to children permanently living in the admission zone (Criterion 4) according to their distance from the school measured in a straight line “as the crow flies” (Criterion 6). |
| <p>5. Pupils with exceptional social and / or medical reasons for attending the school. A letter from the child’s GP or other relevant professional such as a social worker must be submitted by you with the application stating why your child’s needs can only be met by attending the preferred school.</p> | <p>It is up to you to provide any evidence. The admissions team will not seek information about your child or telephone people on your behalf, the decision will be based solely on the information you send in.</p> <p>When you apply online, tell us that there is supporting evidence in the space provided, and send it to the School Admissions & Transfers team or email to school.admissions@stockton.gov.uk or by post. If we do not receive this information by the closing date, we will not be able to consider your child under this priority, unless it relates to a change of circumstances (such as a new diagnosis) which has occurred since the closing date.</p> <p>All correspondence will be treated as private and confidential. If the evidence you supply is not considered compelling enough to be included in this priority, your application will be considered under the other priorities as appropriate.</p> <p>Medical reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are medical reasons that make it essential for your child to attend a particular school, you must provide supporting information from a doctor together with any other relevant information by the deadline. • This must make a compelling case as to why your child’s needs can only be met at the preferred school, a medical condition will not automatically result in a place at your preferred school. • The evidence should explain exactly what the child’s needs are, and what specialist support and/or facilities your child requires. • The evidence should explain why other schools could not provide the appropriate support for your child. <p>Social reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are social reasons that make it essential for your child to attend a particular school, you must provide independent |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>evidence from a professional who is supporting your family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supporting evidence needs to set out the reasons why the school in question is the most suitable and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. • The evidence should explain exactly what the child's needs are, and what specialist support and/or facilities your child requires. • The evidence should explain why other schools could not provide the appropriate support for your child. <p>Social reasons do not include domestic arrangements such as parents working commitments or childcare arrangements.</p> <p>Please note that submitting this information does not guarantee that your child will be included in this category.</p> |
| 6. Pupils who live closest to a particular school measured in a straight line "as the crow flies". | <p>The LA uses a Geographic Information System, known as GIS, to identify and measure the distance from the home to the school. The distance is measured electronically from a point of the school (the same point for all applications) to a point of the home (including flats). The GIS undertakes all measures in the same way for every applicant, to ensure consistency and fairness.</p> |

The oversubscription criteria will be available on our website in September in both LA's published Primary & Secondary booklets for parents for admission in September 2023.

N.B. please note for primary schools, attendance at a school nursery does not guarantee a place in the reception class of that school.