

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2014/15

Stamshaw Infant School

This policy will apply to all admissions for the academic year 2014/15 including mid year applications.

If the school is oversubscribed, applications will be considered first according to the following priorities in the order set out below: -

1. Children who are looked after by a local authority (i.e. in their care or provided with accommodation by the authority for a continuous period of more than 24 hours). Children who were previously looked after but immediately following being looked after became subject to an adoption order, residence or special guardianship order.
2. Children or families who have a significant medical, physical, psychological or social need. Evidence must be attached with the application form. Applications under this criterion must be supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional involved stating clearly why the preferred school is the most appropriate for the child and reasons why other schools in the city are inappropriate. All applications received under this category are considered by a multi-disciplinary team of the local authority;
3. Children living within the school's designated catchment area. (If the school cannot admit all applications from the catchment area, applicants will be ranked within this category in accordance with priorities 4(i) to (iii) below.)
4. Children living outside the school's catchment area in the following priority order:-
 - i) children who have a brother or sister (living within the same household) already on roll and who will still be attending the school the following year;
Note – this category includes step-brothers/step-sisters, adoptive brothers/sisters living within the same household or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household.
 - ii) children who have a sibling attending or who has been offered a place for September 2014 and will continue to attend a Junior school on a physically adjacent site to the Infant school;
Note – this category includes step-brothers/step-sisters, adoptive brothers/sisters living within the same household or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household.
 - iii) children who live closest to the school, based on the shortest distance from home to school, measured on a straight line 'as the crow flies'. (This distance will be used where necessary to prioritise applications)
Note: Should a school be oversubscribed from within any of the criteria 4(i) to 4 (ii) above then distances as given in 4 (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.

Where the LA is unable to meet a parental preference in relation to a catchment school, the LA will have to allocate a place at a lower preference school or even allocate the next nearest school with places available. Parents may prefer to then try and get a place for sibling at the same school. In such instances, this school could then be treated as the catchment school for subsequent sibling applications. Parents would have to notify the LA on application that they

consider this exception applies. If the application was for the actual catchment school this criterion would still be applied. This would be applicable to Portsmouth schools who have catchment criterion as part of their admissions policy.

Pupils with statements of special educational needs

The Admissions code states “*children with statements of special educational needs that name a school in the statement are required to be admitted to the school that is named. The governing body (even where it is the admission authority) does not have the right to refuse admission....*” Children with a school named in their statement of special educational need will have priority for admission over and above all other admission applications and will be included in the admissions allocation process.

Fair Access Protocol

The Local Authority has a “Fair Access Protocol” which prioritises admissions for certain categories of school age children. This protocol relates to admission applications throughout the year. The protocol will take priority above the school’s admission policy for those on a school’s waiting list and the LA may require schools to admit above their published admission limit.

Looked after Children and children who were previously looked after but immediately following being looked after became subject to an adoption order, residence or special guardianship order.

A child is considered as ‘Looked After’ as defined in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.

A child is considered ‘Adopted’ as defined in section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

Residence order- as defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989.

Special guardianship order – as defined in section 14 a of the Children Act 1989

Distance measurement

Distances will be measured using the City Council’s Geographical Information System (G.I.S). The Local Land and Property Gazetteer (L.L.P.G) unique property reference co-ordinates will be used to represent the school, whilst home co-ordinates will be primarily derived from the L.L.P.G, with Ordnance Survey’s ADDRESS-POINT product used as support.

Catchment areas

Further details of the individual school’s catchment area will be provided in ‘Admission to primary and secondary schools- Information for parents 2014/15’ and on Portsmouth City Council’s website.

Policy to be reviewed July 2015