

What Happens If My Child's Preferred School(s) Have Too Many Applications For the Places Available?

If a school/academy has too many applications for the places available, it is known as an oversubscribed school. In this case we must strictly apply our published oversubscription criteria to decide who gets a place.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Oversubscription Criteria For Community And Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior And Primary Schools And Academies (but not Browney Academy, New Seaham Academy, Sacriston Academy or Ouston Primary School) – Please see www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions or contact the school for this information

i Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order*.

A “looked after” child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, in the care of a LA in England, or being provided with accommodation by a LA in England in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

* An adoption order is an order under Section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976 or Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A “child arrangements order” is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

ii Children who are in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Please note that if your child was previously “looked after” but now resides with you, your child is no longer classed as “looked after”.

iii Medical reasons - children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.

Some admission authorities will consider individual applications for children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement. This type of application must be supported in writing by relevant professional agencies e.g. a doctor and it is the parents' responsibility to provide the relevant documentation. This supporting evidence should be wholly persuasive. It must explain why the school you wish your child to attend is the **only school based on fact, not opinion**, that can meet your child's medical or social needs and the difficulties that would be caused if they had to attend another school. Reasons such as food allergies and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) will not be considered as exceptional medical factors as all schools are able to effectively manage these. Supporting evidence will be considered by the relevant admission authority and may require liaison with relevant health care professionals. The provision of any information/evidence does not necessarily in itself guarantee the offer of a place at your desired school. The relevant admission authority will make the final decision on the application.

iv Sibling links

Children who have a sibling already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.**

** Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, step - brothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner. Some schools give priority to siblings of children attending another community and voluntary controlled school with which they have close links (for example, schools on the same site). These are called linked schools. Where this is the case, this is indicated in the "individual school information" at the back of this Guide.

If parents are separated and the sibling lives with each parent an equal amount of time during the school year, you must either agree between each other, or if that is not possible, provide a Court Order as to which address should be considered as the main address for this purpose. **An offer of a school place will not be made unless/until only one home address has been agreed.**

Please indicate when applying if there is either:

- a sibling currently attending the school for which you have applied, or
- a sibling who will be attending the linked school.

The linked schools are:

1. Consett Infant and Consett Junior
2. South Stanley Infant and South Stanley Junior
3. Cockton Hill Infant and Cockton Hill Junior
4. Acre Rigg Infant and Acre Rigg Academy

v. Distance

Children who live nearest the preferred school/academy measured by the shortest walking route (See home to school transport on page 29).

This will be based on the child's address. If parents are separated and the child lives with each parent an equal amount of time during the school year, you must either agree between each other, or if that is not possible, provide a Court Order as to which address should be considered as the main address for this purpose.

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is used to identify and measure the shortest route. In all cases the GIS identifies the route to be measured by connecting in a straight line the centre point* of the child's house or in the case of a flat from the centre point* of the building, to the closest point on the nearest route on the Ordnance Survey MasterMap® Highways Network – Roads and the Ordnance Survey MasterMap® Highways Network – Paths to the nearest school site entrance.

The LA will not include any other routes or use other methods of measurement.