

WOOLMER HILL SCHOOL

Admissions Policy for September 2018

Applications for admission at the normal intake will be managed in accordance with Surrey's coordinated scheme on secondary admission. Applications for Secondary school must be made by 31 October 2017. Places at Surrey secondary schools will be offered on the basis of the preferences that are shown on the application form. Parents will be asked to rank up to six preferences and these will be considered under an equal preference system.

The school intends to offer 150 places for September 2018. However, children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) that name the school will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. In this way, the number of places available will be reduced by the number of children with a statement that has named the school.

Priority will be given to applicants as follows:

1 Looked after children and previously looked after children

Looked after and previously looked after children will receive the top priority for a place. Looked after and previously looked after children will be considered to be:

- Children who are registered as being in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a), e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and
- Children who have previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a) and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangements order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989).

Places will be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the Local Authority may also ask schools to admit over their Published Admission Number at other times under this criterion.

2 Exceptional arrangements

Occasionally there will be a very small number of children for whom exceptional circumstances will apply which will warrant a placement at Woolmer Hill School. Appropriate medical or psychological evidence from a consultant doctor will be required in support. Documentary evidence from any relevant support services will be required for other sensitive family circumstances. This evidence should set out why the child should attend a particular school. Places may be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the Local Authority may also ask schools to admit over their Published Admission Number at other times under this criterion.

3 Siblings

A sibling will be considered to be a brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), a half-brother or half-sister or a step-brother or step-sister or an adoptive or foster sibling, living at the same address.

A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling at the school at the time of the child's admission. For the initial intake to the school, a child will be given priority for admission only if their sibling will still be at the school in September 2018. This will apply both at the initial allocation of places and also when prioritising the waiting list. Giving sibling priority has the effect of maximising the opportunity for children in the same family to be educated at the same school.

4 Children attending a named linked school. These are:

Haslemere Confederation Schools:

- Beacon Hill Community Primary School
- Grayswood Church of England Primary School
- St Bartholomew's Church of England (Aided) Primary
- St Mary's Church of England Primary School
- Shottermill Junior School

Other Linked Schools:

- Camelsdale Primary School
- Grayshott Church of England Primary School

5 Children for whom the school is the nearest to their home address

The nearest school is defined as the school closest to the home address with a published admission number for pupils of the appropriate age-range, as measured by a straight line and which admits local children. The nearest school may be inside or outside the county boundary.

6 Any other applicant

Remaining places will be offered on the basis of nearness to the school measured in a straight line from the address point of the pupil's house, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest school gate for pupils to use. This is calculated using the Admission and Transport team's Geographical Information System. Where two or more children share a priority for a place, e.g. where two children live equidistant from a school, lots will be drawn to determine the rank position of each child. In the case of multiple births, where children are ranked consecutively in their order of priority for a place and there are not sufficient vacancies remaining for each of them, wherever it is logistically possible, each child will be offered a place. Where it is not logistically possible to offer each child a place the child(ren) to be offered the last remaining place(s) will be determined by the drawing of lots.

Tie Breaker

Should there be oversubscription within any criteria above, then any remaining places will be offered to applicants who meet this criterion on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the school.

Definition of home address

The child's home address excludes any business, relative's or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence. In the case of shared custody, it is the address where the child spends most of the time. All distances will be measured by the computerised Geographical Information System maintained by Surrey's Admissions and Transport team. Any offer of a place on the basis of address is conditional on the child being resident at the address provided.

The address to be used for the initial allocation of places to Year 7 will be the child's address at the closing date for application. Changes of address may be considered in accordance with Surrey's Coordinated Schemes if there are exceptional reasons behind the change, such as if a family has just moved to the area. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation, will be the child's current address. Any offer is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Parents have a responsibility to notify Surrey County Council of any change of address.

Waiting Lists

Where there are more applicants than places available, waiting lists will operate for each year group according to the oversubscription criteria shown for each school above and without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list.

Waiting lists for the initial intake will be maintained until the last day of the autumn term when they will be cancelled. Parents wishing to remain on the waiting list after this date must write to the school by 31 December 2018, stating their wish and providing their child's name, date of birth and the name of their child's current school. After 31 December 2018, parents whose children are not already on the waiting list but who wish them to be so must apply for in-year admission. Waiting lists for all year groups will be cancelled at the end of each academic year.

Admissions outside a child's chronological year group.

Applicants may choose to seek a place outside their child's chronological (correct) year group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and what is in the best interests of the child concerned.

- Applicants who are applying for their child to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age. If, in liaison with the Headteacher, governors agree for the child to have a decelerated entry to the school the place cannot be deferred and instead the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the decelerated cohort.
- Applicants who are applying for their child to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If, in liaison with the Headteacher, governors agree for the child to have an accelerated entry to the school, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry to the school, the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort.

Applicants must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interest and provide what evidence they have to support this.