

ALL DISTRICTS

**DETERMINED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED
PRIMARY SCHOOLS - 2017/2018**

The policy for admission to community and voluntary controlled primary schools for 2017/2018 is listed below:-

An admission number will be published showing the maximum number of pupils that the school will admit in the Autumn Term 2017. Parents will be asked to express preferences for three primary schools. Parents are given the opportunity to express three preferences for a primary school. Published criteria are used to decide which children should be offered the available places. In primary schools an equal preference scheme has been introduced to comply with the Schools Admission Code, whereby three parental preferences are given equal status to the preference and will be considered equally against the admissions criteria. If a school is oversubscribed, the following criteria will be applied in priority order:

Primary Schools

When a school is oversubscribed on parental preferences, then the following priorities apply in order:

1. Looked after children and those who have been previously looked after, (see note xi below), then
2. Children for whom the Local Authority accepts that there are exceptional medical social or welfare reasons which are directly relevant to the school concerned (see note (i) below, then
3. Children with older brothers and sisters attending the school when the younger child will start, (see note (iii) below), then
4. Remaining places are allocated according to where a child lives. Those living nearest to the preferred school by a straight line (radial) measure will have priority, (see note (v) below.

Notes

- (i) The medical, social and welfare criterion will consider issues relevant to the child and/or the family. This category may include children without a statement who have special needs.
- (ii) As required by law, all children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs/EHC naming a school will be admitted before the application of the over-subscription criteria. Children who have a statement for special needs have their applications considered separately.

- (iii) Brothers and sisters includes step children, half brothers and sisters, fostered and adopted children living with the same family at the same address (consideration may be given to applying this criterion to full brothers and sisters who reside at different addresses).
- (iv) The distance criterion which will be used as the tie breaker if there is oversubscription within any of the admission criteria is a straight line (radial) measure. If the Local Authority is unable to distinguish between applicants using the published criteria (eg twins or same block of flats) places will be offered via a random draw.

The distance measure is a straight line (radial) measure centre of building to centre of building.

- (v) A child's permanent address is the one where he/she normally lives and sleeps and goes to school from. Proof of residence may be requested at any time throughout the admissions process, (including after a child has accessed a school place).
- (vi) The Local Authority will keep waiting lists for all Lancashire primary schools until 31 August 2017. These are kept in priority order using the school's published admission criteria. From 1 September 2017 for one school term only waiting lists will be retained by individual admission authorities (the Local authority for community and voluntary controlled schools and individual voluntary aided and trust schools will each retain their own list).
- (vii) Children will not normally be able to start school other than at the beginning of the term unless they have moved into the area or there are exceptional circumstances.
- (viii) Applications for school places which are received late will not necessarily be dealt with at the same time as those received by the set deadline. The reasons for a late application may be requested and where these are not exceptional the relevant admission criteria will be initially applied to all others received on time. The late application will be dealt with after this process.

Application forms received after the published closing date, will only be considered at that time if the following conditions apply:

- (a) if the number of preferences received for the school is below the published admission number or:
- (b) there are extenuating circumstances justifying a late application.

These may include:

- (a) parents moving into the County after the closing date;

- (b) parent/carer illness which required hospitalisation for the major part of the period between the publication of the composite prospectus and the closing date for applications.
- (ix) Where a child lives with one parent for part of the week and another for the rest of the week only one address will be accepted for a school admission application. This will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of school days (Monday to Friday).
- (x) the highest priority **must** be given to looked after children¹ and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted² (or became subject to a residence order³ or special guardianship order⁴). Further references to previously looked after children in the Code means children who were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.

Proposed Geographical Priority Area for the North Area of Lancashire@~

Mayfield Primary School, Lytham St Annes - Geographical Priority Area (GPA)

Building work has commenced on a new housing development on the ex Pontin's site on the A584 which borders Blackpool authority (the A5230 - Squires Gate Lane and Blackpool Airport).

This is located within Lancashire but is situated on the border with Blackpool. The new properties will be situated near to Blackpool primary and secondary schools and academies. They are already located within the FY8 area so are in the geographical priority area (GPA) for Lytham St Annes Technology & Performing Arts College.

There are 443 dwellings planned on this site. The pupil yield from these will depend on the type of housing which is developed and is expected to be between 75 and 168 across the primary age range. Blackpool Authority do have primary place capacity for this new development.

The properties will however be some distance from the nearest Lancashire primary school. It is intended therefore to introduce a GPA for Mayfield Primary School in St Annes in order to give these Lancashire families some increased priority for admission.

The current determined admission arrangements for all Lancashire's community and voluntary controlled schools prioritise admission as follows:-

1. Looked after children and those who were previously looked after (now adopted or subject to certain orders)

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).

² Under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. See section 46 (adoption orders).

³ Under the terms of the Children Act 1989. See section 8 which defines a 'residence order' as an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.

⁴ See 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).

2. Exceptional medical, social and welfare reasons directly relevant to the school concerned
3. Children who will have older brothers and sisters attending the school when the younger child applies
4. Distance - a straight line (radial) measure

For admissions for 2017 and thereafter it is intended that the admission arrangements for Mayfield Primary School be changed to reflect a geographical priority area (GPA).

This would require re-defining 4 (above) into two distinct elements as follows:-

Remaining places are allocated according to where a child lives - distance:

- i) To those resident within the agreed geographical priority area (the new development on the ex Pontin's site)
- ii) To other applicants

Subscription levels at the school for the past 3 years (parental preferences):-

School	Year	1st	2nd	3rd	total	Offers
Mayfield Primary	2015	35	15	28	78	52
PAN - 60	2014	25	9	15	49	27
	2013	34	24	13	71	34

Over the next 2 years falling birth rates will reduce primary place demand in the Fylde area. Any additional applications from this development will be able to access places in Lancashire or in the neighbouring Blackpool area. Without the establishment of a GPA at Mayfield these Lancashire families are very likely to have lowest priority for admission to a Lancashire primary school year on year.

Officer comment: a senior officer from the Pupil Access Team visited Mayfield Primary School on 29 September 2015 to discuss this proposal with the head teacher. She was fully supportive of the establishment of the proposed GPA to allow parents in this area to have priority for a Lancashire primary school.

Geographical Priority Areas (GPAs) for South Lancashire Primary Schools

(GPAs were introduced for these three primary schools in 2011/12).

LONGSANDS CP SCHOOL – the area north of Sandy Brook, east of Eastway (B6241), south of Savick Brook and west of the M6 motorway.

COTTAM CP SCHOOL – the area north of the Lancaster Canal, east of Sidegreaves Lane, south of Hoyles Lane and west of Tom Benson Way (B6241).

MOSS SIDE CP SCHOOL – the areas north of Moor Road (B5249) and Southport Road (A581), east of the railway line, south of Longmeanygate and west of Shlewsdig Way (B5253) – running south to Leyland Lane and meeting Southport Road.

Families with children living within the stipulated GPA would have prior consideration for a place at the relevant school under criterion 4 – ahead of other applicants under criterion 4 with children living outside of the GPA.

Geographical Priority Areas (GPAs) for East Lancashire Primary Schools

Edisford Community Primary School [introduced in 2015/16 admissions round]

1. Looked after children and those who have been previously looked after, then,
2. Children for whom the Local Authority accepts that there are exceptional medical social or welfare reasons which are directly relevant to the school concerned.
3. Children with older brothers and sisters attending the school when the younger child will start.
4. Remaining places are allocated according to where a child lives. Those living nearest to the preferred school by a straight line (radial) measure will have priority.
 - i) To those resident within the agreed geographical priority area
 - ii) To other applicants

Within each category those living nearest to the preferred school by a straight line (radial) measure will have priority.

The proposed geographical priority area to be applied at 4i) will be:-

Those resident in the Low Moor area (bordered by Edisford Road to the south and the River Ribble to the west and north) as far as houses on and adjacent to Riverside and Low Moor Farm.

GPAs were adopted for Crawshawbooth Community Primary School and Waterfoot Community Primary School and introduced in 2014/15 admissions round.

CRAWSHAWBOOTH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Crawshawbooth Community Primary School

1. Looked after children and those who have been previously looked after, then,
2. Children for whom the Local Authority accepts that there are exceptional medical social or welfare reasons which are directly relevant to the school concerned.
3. Children with older brothers and sisters attending the school when the younger child will start.

4. Remaining places are allocated according to where a child lives. Those living nearest to the preferred school by a straight line (radial) measure will have priority.

- i) To those resident within the agreed geographical priority area
- ii) To other applicants

Within each category those living nearest to the preferred school by a straight line (radial) measure will have priority.

The proposed geographical priority area to be applied at 4i) will be:-

From the north end of the Clowbridge reservoir heading south and taking in the Dunnockshaw, Loveclough, Goodshaw Fold, Goodshaw Chapel and Goodshaw areas (and surrounding farm houses). The cut off points at the south end of the area will be Lord Street and its houses and Forest Bank Road (both off the A682).The line will run East down the middle of Forest bank Road and across the top of Short Clough reservoir

WATERFOOT COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Waterfoot Community Primary School

1. Looked after children and those who have been previously looked after, then,
2. Children for whom the Local Authority accepts that there are exceptional medical social or welfare reasons which are directly relevant to the school concerned.
3. Children with older brothers and sisters attending the school when the younger child will start.
4. Remaining places are allocated according to where a child lives. Those living nearest to the preferred school by a straight line (radial) measure will have priority.
 - i) To those resident within the agreed geographical priority area
 - ii) To other applicants

Within each category those living nearest to the preferred school by a straight line (radial) measure will have priority.

The proposed geographical priority area to be applied at 4i) will be:-

Lower and Higher Boarsgreave in the south taking in houses and settlement adjacent to Cowpe Road running north to the point where the River Irwell meets Bacup Road in Waterfoot.

Families with children living within the stipulated GPA would have prior consideration for a place at the relevant school under criterion 4 – ahead of other applicants under criterion 4 with children living outside of the GPA.

Lancashire Infant and Junior Schools

Infant to Junior School Transfers (Year 2 to Year 3) and In Year Admissions

In Lancashire there are five infant and five junior schools which are legally separate organisations (each has its own Governing Body) but which, in pairs, have close links.

These are:-

- Ribbleton Avenue Infants and Ribbleton Avenue Juniors (Preston)
- Leyland Methodist Infants and Leyland Methodist Juniors (South Ribble)
- Leyland St Andrew's CE Infants and Woodlea Juniors (South Ribble)
- Rosegrove Infants and Lowerhouse Juniors (Burnley)
- Whitefield Infants and Lomeshaye Juniors (Pendle)

Historically children in Year 2 at each infant school have transferred to Year 3 at the associated junior school. It is anticipated that this will continue. The School admissions Code does state however that:-

"Some schools give priority to siblings of pupils attending another state funded school with which they have close links. Where this is the case this priority must be set out clearly in the arrangements".

The current determined admission arrangements for all Lancashire's community and voluntary controlled schools prioritise admission as follows:-

1. Looked after children and those who were previously looked after (now adopted or subject to certain orders)
2. Exceptional medical, social and welfare reasons directly relevant to the school concerned
3. Children who will have older brothers and sisters attending the school when the younger child applies
4. Distance - a straight line (radial) measure

These criteria do not explicitly refer to the schools named above in terms of applying the sibling test across the full age range (reception to Year 5 for September reception admissions; reception to Year 5 for all Year 2 to Year 3 transfers and reception to Year 6 for all in year admissions). Clarity is important in relation to the close links between each pair of infant and junior schools.

It is proposed therefore to add statements to the determined admission arrangements for Lancashire's community and voluntary controlled schools to confirm that:-

"For Lancashire infant and junior schools which have close links (the schools will be named in information for parents) the sibling criterion for admission will be applied in relation to children on roll at either school (as appropriate) in relation to annual intakes and in year admissions"

"For Year 3 admissions at Lancashire junior schools parents with children on roll in Year 2 at any school may apply for Year 3 places (by 15 January in the year of the intended transfer). Similarly new to area families are able to apply for Year 3 places at the junior schools.

It is expected that predominantly the current situation for Year 2 to Year 3 transfers will continue. The Local Authority will however implement and manage a formal admission round for transfers if a situation develops where there are more Year 3 applicants than available places.

Officer comment: prior to formal consultation about firming up the admission policy for infant and junior schools and clarifying the information for parents a letter was sent to all of the head teachers concerned. This alerted them to the forthcoming consultation and gave the opportunity for informal views ahead of any changes. There were some informal enquiries by telephone about the need for the change but no formal objections or concerns have been received. In view of admission number mismatches for two pairs of these schools, and probable increased place demand in the future, it is essential that Lancashire provides absolute clarity about infant and junior admissions and transfers. This will ensure that the requirements of the School Admissions Code and associated legislation are met and that all schools and applicants have clear information about how admissions procedures operate.