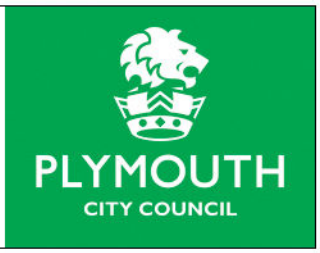
ORESTON COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Admission criteria 2013/14



The admission arrangements outlined within this document apply to admissions to Oreston Community Academy from the 2013/14 academic year. The Governors of the school are the admission authority.

(I) PROPOSED PRIMARY TRANSFER ADMISSION CRITERIA:

In the event that the school oversubscribed, the admission authority will apply the following admission criteria in order of priority:

1. A looked after child;
2. Children with a sibling already attending the school at the time of admission or, for admission to an infant school, attending the linked junior school;
3. Other children.

Exceptions will be made as follows:

- a child whose special educational needs (SEN) statement names the parents' preferred school will be admitted to that school
- on exceptional medical or social grounds such as:
  - a serious medical condition, which can be supported by medical evidence
  - the recent death of a parent
  - a significant caring role for the child which can be supported by evidence from social services.

  Parents/carers or their representative will have to demonstrate that only the preferred school can meet the exceptional medical or social needs of the child. This can be in the form of a testimony from a medical practitioner, social worker or other professional who can support the application on an 'exceptional' basis.
- where a child requires admission to a designated special needs centre or other specialist provision attached to the school;
- where necessary to meet the requirements of a school's trust deed.

Notes:

Home address: any allegations received by the admission authority of people providing false or accommodation addresses when applying for school places shall be fully investigated and, if found to be true, allocated places may be withdrawn, as appropriate. Oversubscribed schools are advised to ask parents to provide proof of residence (for example utility bills) before admitting the child. The local authority (LA) will also carry out checks as appropriate. A child's home address is defined as the address at which the child is normally resident or, where a child lives at more than one address, the address at which the child lives for the majority of the time. Where the home address is unclear, the Admission Authority will determine the appropriate address taking into

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account factors such as the address to which the Child Benefit Allowance or Child Tax Credit is payable, registration for medical services etc.

Looked after child: A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. 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).

Mode of study: parents/carers may request that their child attend on a part time basis until compulsory school age. Approval is subject to the recommendation of the school following discussion with the parent and the nursery/pre-school (if appropriate) in the best interest of the child.

Multiple births: defined as children of multiple birth (including those born within the same academic year cohort). We understand that parents/carers would like to keep twins, triplets and other children of multiple birth together. Where the admission criteria is applied and it is not possible to offer places to all children of the same multiple birth family we would work with the family to find the best solution for them and their children. Should it transpire that it is not possible to offer place(s) to all children within that multiple birth, the parent will be invited to nominate which child should be allocated the place(s).

Sibling: children are siblings if they are a full, half, step, or adoptive brother or sister, and live in the same family unit and household.

Start date: once a place has been allocated, parents can request that the date that their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year. Deferred admissions will take place at the start of the January or April term as appropriate.

Tie-breaker (except Oreston Community Academy): where we have to choose between two or more children in the same category as each other, then the nearer to the school the child lives - as measured by a straight line on the map using the City Council's electronic mapping system - the higher the priority. Measurement points will be from an internal point of the building concerned (usually the visual centre of the building). Flats are therefore taken to be the same measurement point regardless of floor of location.

Tie-breaker (Oreston Community Academy only): where we have to choose between two or more children in the same category as each other, then the nearer to the school the child lives - as measured by approved public walking route - the higher the priority. Measurement points will be from an internal point of the building concerned (usually the visual centre of the building). Flats are therefore taken to be the same measurement point regardless of floor of location.

Definitive tie-breaker: in the event of there still being a tie, there will be a random ballot using an electronic random number generator.

(II) PROPOSED IN-YEAR ADMISSION CRITERIA:

1. Unless agreed otherwise with the Council, the published admission number applies to each year-group as it moves through the school;
2. Where a school is oversubscribed in the relevant year-group, the following admissions criteria shall apply:

Priority 1 A looked after child;

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Priority 2 Those moving to or within the City who are without an appropriate school placement;

Priority 3 Those seeking to transfer between schools within the City where the parent and both Headteachers agree that such a transfer would be in the pupil's best educational or social interests;

Priority 4 Those seeking to transfer between schools as a parental response to perceived difficulties with the present school, or for other parental reasons;

Priority 5 All other applicants.

Exceptions will be made as follows:

- A child whose special education needs (SEN) statement names the parent's preferred school shall be admitted to that school;
- On exceptional medical or social grounds, for example; a serious medical condition, which can be supported by medical evidence; the recent death of a parent; a significant caring role for the child which can be supported by evidence from Social Services. Parents/carers or their representative will have to demonstrate that only the preferred school can meet the exceptional medical or social needs of the child. This can be in the form of a testimony from a medical practitioner, social worker or other professional who can support the application on an 'exceptional' basis;
- Admission of pupils who require placement in a designated SEN support centre or other specialist provision at the school in question, or who meet the criteria of the Fair Access Protocol for example;

  • s/he has moved to the City and has a record of significant attendance or behavioural difficulty, as evidenced by truancy, exclusion or serious criminal offending, or

  • s/he has a SEN statement predominantly related to significant EBD (emotional and behavioral difficulties), or

  • her/his previous placement has broken down irretrievably for significant attendance or behavioral reasons, including permanent exclusion, or

  • s/he is re-integrating from EOTAS (education other than at school) to mainstream provision.

Notes:

Appropriate school placement: a school appropriate to the child's educational need as defined by the LA. Essentially, this would be either a mainstream school or a special needs school.

Home address: any allegations received by the admission authority of people providing false or accommodation addresses when applying for school places shall be fully investigated and, if found to be true, allocated places may be withdrawn, as appropriate. Oversubscribed schools are advised to ask parents to provide proof of residence (for example utility bills) before admitting the child. The local authority (LA) will also carry out checks as appropriate. A child's home address is defined as the address at which the child is normally resident or, where a child lives at more than one address, the address at which the child lives for the majority of the time. Where the home address is unclear, the Admission Authority will determine the

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appropriate address taking into account factors such as the address to which the Child Benefit Allowance or Child Tax Credit is payable, registration for medical services etc.

Looked after child: a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. 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).

Multiple births: multiple births are defined as children of multiple birth (including those born within the same academic year cohort). We understand that parents/carers would like to keep twins, triplets and other children of multiple birth together. Where the admission criteria is applied and it is not possible to offer places to all children of the same multiple birth family we would work with the family to find the best solution for them and their children. Should it transpire that it is not possible to offer place(s) to all children within that multiple birth, the parent will be invited to nominate which child should be allocated the place(s).

Priority 3 applicants: applicants will only be considered under this heading if the application is accompanied by letters of support from both the current and intended school. Classification under this priority will not be given without these supporting documents.

Priority 4 applicants: applicants will only be considered under this heading if the case is made that the request for transfer is on the ground of reasons such as bullying, problems with the schools curriculum, personal issues with the school staff. The views of the school will be sought as verification. Classification under this priority will not be given without this confirmation.

Tie-breaker: where it is necessary to distinguish between pupils in one of the above categories, priority shall be given,

a) to a pupil who already has a sibling attending the school at the time of admission and,

b) on distance between home and school measured by a straight line on a map using the City Council's electronic mapping system (that is, the shorter the distance, the higher the priority). Measurement points will be from an internal point of the building concerned (usually the visual centre of the building). Flats are therefore taken to be the same measurement point regardless of floor of location. In the event of there still being a tie, there will be a random ballot using an electronic random number generator.

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