



**Bournemouth Borough Council –  
Admissions Policy and Arrangements for 2017-18  
for Community Schools**

The criteria to be used in Bournemouth community schools are as set out below. They will be applied to

- a) All entry year applications received by the closing date and to applications received after the closing date, if any places become available. Late applications will not be considered at the first allocation of places until all applications received on time have been dealt with
- b) All admissions outside the normal September main entry intake unless any In-Year Fair Access Protocols (see note 11) agreed through the Bournemouth Admissions Forum are applicable.

Places will be allocated at community schools in the following order of category:

**Category 1**

Children who are “Looked after” by a Local Authority or a child who was previously looked after but immediately following being looked after subject to an adoption, residence, child arrangements or special guardianship order. (See Note 1.)

**Category 2**

Children transferring from Stourfield Infant School to the related junior school at the normal age of transfer.

**Category 3**

Children living in the designated catchment area of the school who will have a brother or sister (see notes 4 & 5) attending the school (or related infant/junior school) at the time of admission.

**Category 4**

Children living in the designated catchment area of the school.

## **Category 5**

Children living outside the designated catchment area of the school who will have a brother or sister (see notes 4 & 5) attending the school (or related infant/junior school) at the time of admission.

## **Category 6**

Children living outside the catchment area of the school who live closest to the school as measured by straight-line distance. (See note 2(ii))

### **Admission Criteria - Notes**

1. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by the local authority in the exercise of their social services functions as defined in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. A child who was previously a Looked after Child means a child who after being Looked After became subject to an Adoption Order, under the Adoption Act 1976 or under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
2. In the case of over subscription in categories 1 and 3 – 6 priority will be given to these children:
  - (i) where a placement is recommended for medical reasons as essential by the Council's professional medical advisors or where there are exceptional reasons supported by evidence from a Social Worker, Educational Psychologist or Education Welfare Officer employed by the Council which in the view of the Corporate Director with specific responsibility for Children and Families Services require placement at a particular school.
  - (ii) live closest to the school as measured by the straight-line distance calculated by the Authority's Geographical Information System (GIS) in use at the time of allocation (the system at the time of setting the policy takes the measurement between the address mapping points of the school and the applicant's home). If distances are equal, as calculated by the Council's GIS system, for example a flat in a block of dwellings with the same front entrance a random allocation system will be used to determine the allocation. Details of this process are outlined below in Note 14.
3. In the case of over-subscription in category 2, priority will be given to applicants in the main admission category order, sub-divided by the priorities in Note (2) (i) and (ii) above.
4. Brothers and sisters are defined as half or full brother or sister, adoptive brother or sister and the children of parents who are married or cohabiting, where the parents and children live together in the same household.

5. When considering twins, triplets or other multiple births places will be offered above the published admission number to the other twin, triplet or multiple birth children whose twin, triplet or multiple birth was offered a place within the admission number. Twins, triplets and multiple births will be given a priority over other sibling links and other applicants.
6. The Council will apply the above criteria to applicants subject to the following exceptions:
  - (i) where an applicant is seeking admission for the September entry of the school entry year, applications received before the closing date will initially be given priority over those received after the closing date. Under exceptional circumstances a late application may be considered as received on time. Exceptional circumstances could be illness, involving hospitalisation or a bereavement or as prescribed within the co-ordinated admission arrangements.
  - (iii) where a child has a statement of special educational needs/Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and for whom there is a legal requirement to admit to a particular school named in the statement/EHCP.
7. A child's main residence will be the dwelling of the parent or carer in receipt of Child Benefit and proof of who is in receipt of Child Benefit may be required by the Council prior to offer of a school place. If Child Benefit payments are not made or suspended then the decision on which address to use for the child, for the purposes of admission to school only, will be made by the Director of Children's Services on the advice of the legal department of Bournemouth Borough Council. The legal department will consider pertinent evidence from both parents to determine the property in which the child mainly resides. The Council may verify the address via the Council's Council Tax records. The Council may also require other evidence of proof of address. Examples of acceptable proofs of address will be listed in the Council Information Booklets.

#### Waiting Lists

8. The Council operates a formal waiting list for those refused a place. Subject to note 5, the waiting list is ranked according to the over-subscription criteria. Any places that do become available, if not required for a child with a statement of special educational need/EHCP or one who is required to be admitted through an In-year Fair Access Protocol, are allocated in accordance with these criteria. The waiting list does not give priority either to those that have been on the list longest or to those that applied after the closing date.

Waiting Lists for main entry years will cease on 31 December 2017. Previous applicants wishing to continue on a waiting list must re-apply to Bournemouth Council between 1 and 31 December 2017. Waiting lists for all other year groups will cease at the end of the academic year 2017/18. Applicants will be required to re-apply (in August 2018) for admission if they wish to continue to be considered for a place. Please note Bournemouth Borough Council may review waiting lists on a regularly basis at the end of each term or when a place becomes available at a school.

#### Co-ordination between Admission Authorities

10. In accordance with the law and the agreed schemes the offer of places at the main points of entry at the primary and secondary level will be co-ordinated between all those who decide upon admissions to schools (admission authorities) in Bournemouth.
11. Schools in Bournemouth together with Bournemouth Council operate an In-Year Fair Access Protocol in accordance with the Code on School Admissions. This is reviewed by The Admissions Forum on a regular basis. A single application form will be available for all applications for in-year admission.

#### Final Tie-Break Allocation Process

12. If there are insufficient places to accommodate all applicants and after using all tie break criteria applicants for the final place(s) cannot be split the remaining place(s) will be allocated using a random allocation process. The process will be electronically administered through the IT providers in use at the time. At the time of setting this policy the providers are Tribal Technology.

#### School Admission Appeals

13. The Council will not consider repeat appeals by the same applicant for the same school in the same academic year unless the applicant is able to prove that there have been material changes in their circumstances since the previous admission appeal. The final decision as to whether the material changes warrant a fresh appeal will be determined on the advice of the Head of Bournemouth Borough Council's legal department.

#### Withdrawal of an offer of a place

14. The Council may withdraw an offer of a school place where a parent fails to respond to an offer within a reasonable timescale or where the place was offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application, or where the place has been offered in error.

#### Changes to the admission policy, number of available places and catchment areas

15. Where additional places or a school closure or amalgamation is proposed or implemented after the setting of these admission arrangements a change may be required to be made to the policy, admission number or related catchment areas. Application will be made to alter the arrangements to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator where necessary.

#### Admission of children outside their normal age group

16. The policy in regard to consideration of requests from parents for their child's admission to Reception to be delayed by a year is attached. The policy can consider requests from parents of children whose birthday is between 1 April and

- 31 August and meet the criteria. The procedure for consideration of these requests is set down within the policy.
17. The policy for consideration of requests for children in other year groups to be admitted outside of their normal age group is administered by the Special Education Needs Team and the Education Psychology Service.



## **BOURNEMOUTH POLICY FOR DELAYED ADMISSION TO RECEPTION YEAR GROUP**

**The Policy will apply to requests for summer born children to delay admission to Reception at community and voluntary controlled schools**

### **Introduction**

This policy document sets out the process and criteria for considering requests for community and voluntary controlled school in Bournemouth. This policy applies to all pupils with the exception of those holding or undergoing assessment for a statement of special educational needs/Education Health & Care Plan whose parent(s)/carer(s) should contact the Special Educational Needs Team for advice.

It is Borough policy that pupils attending Bournemouth community and voluntary controlled schools normally be placed with their own age group, and be educated for the majority of the time with their age peer group. Parents do however from time to time seek to delay admission for up to a year after they could start school. In these cases differentiation of the curriculum and/or additional support within their age group should usually address the particular issue.

The School Admissions Code requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until they reach compulsory school age, or that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the same academic year or, in the case of summer born children (i.e. those born between 1 April and 31 August), that their child is admitted to Reception one year later than their chronological age would normally determine.

The School Admissions Code requires that admission authorities consider such requests and take account of the circumstances of each case. For entry into Community & Voluntary Controlled schools the admission authority is the Local Authority and all requests should be submitted direct to the Local Authority School Admissions Team.

**For schools that are academies, foundation or voluntary aided the application must be made to and considered by the Governors of the school and not the Local Authority.**

**Process for consideration of parental requests for Summer Born Babies to be admitted to Reception a year later than their chronological age group admission in community and voluntary controlled schools**

1. On receipt of such a request, by telephone or in writing, the admissions team will inform the parent(s) that their request is 'out of year' and advise them to discuss this with the head teacher(s) of all the schools (up to a maximum of 3 schools) they are interested in applying to in the first instance.
2. The Admissions Team will also contact the head teacher of all the schools named and advise/remind them of the procedure for dealing with out of year group admission requests.
3. If, after discussion with the head teacher, the parents still wish to pursue an 'out of year' admission, they will be asked to complete and submit an additional application form together with supporting evidence.
4. The application form will ask parents to confirm they understand the policy and that they will need to apply for a school place again the following year by the closing date of 15 January for the school(s) they prefer. Information on the form will confirm that their application for a school place in their chronological age year group will not proceed to an offer of a school place should their application for delayed admission be approved.  
**At no time will they be able to hold school offers for their child in two year groups.**
5. If the request for delayed admission is submitted after an offer of a school place in the child's chronological age group has been made, if it is subsequently approved that the child can delay admission the original offer will be withdrawn and offered to the next child on the waiting list.
6. The form will also ask for basic information about the child and the following information must be provided:
  - **The nature of the request**
  - **Clear reasons for the request**
  - **Information from the child's current nursery or pre-school if applicable**
  - **Assessments provided by the Pre-School Provider or Health Visitor from issues raised at the 2 year old check**
7. In addition they will be asked to provide specific information/documentation which may include:
- 8.

- Early Years reports and assessments where this is available
  - Existing professional reports and assessments e.g. educational psychology reports from LA where this is available
  - Health information
9. Parents will be informed of the date that the Panel will meet within 15 school days of receipt of their written request (Application form and supporting evidence).
  10. Parents will be informed of the decision of the panel in writing within 5 working days of the meeting.

### **The decision making process**

Where requests for out of year admissions are made a panel will be convened to consider the request.

This panel will consist of:

- A senior officer from Admissions (Chair)
- The Principal Educational Psychologist (PEP) (or her representative)
- The Head Teacher(s) of the preferred school(s)
- An Early Years Advisor (where appropriate)

A member of the Admin support team will minute the meeting and inform the parent of the outcome.

On occasion there may be insufficient evidence for the panel to reach a decision. In this instance the panel may request additional information or a meeting with the parent(s) which may include the child.

### **Criteria for agreement to out of year admissions**

The following list is not final and binding and is an example of the type of information that will be considered by the panel. Meeting one or more of the criteria below is not in itself confirmation of agreement to the request to delay entry. The panel will consider evidence relating to all aspects of the child's development and needs in coming to a decision and this will include the following:

- in the case of children born prematurely, the fact that they may have naturally fallen into the lower age group if they had been born on their expected date of birth;
- whether delayed social, emotional or physical development is adversely affecting their readiness for school;
- relevant research into the outcomes of summer born and premature child.

### **Right of appeal following the decision**

There is no right of appeal if a parent has been offered a place in the school but it is not in the year group they would like. However, parents can make a complaint through the Borough of Bournemouth's complaints procedure.

If a parent is unhappy with the way the local authority has handled their complaint, the parent may then refer their complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.