



Mill Chase Academy

Admissions Policy for 2019/2020

Lead Governor: Chair

Senior Leadership Team Link: Steph Moral

Previous Review: February 2017

Next Review Due: February 2019

Ratified by Governors: 1st February 2018

This policy will be used during 2018/19 for allocating places in the main admission round for entry to Year 7 in September 2019. It will also apply to in-year admissions during 2019/20.

The University of Chichester Academy Trust is the admission authority for all of its schools. The admission arrangements are determined by the Trust, after statutory consultation.

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The guiding principles of the school admissions policy are that each school should serve its local community; that siblings as far as possible can attend school together; and that children can benefit from continuity between schools serving the same community. The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and complies with all relevant legislation.

Published Admission Number (PAN)

The published admission number (PAN) for Mill Chase Academy is 180.

Admissions Process

Hampshire County Council will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of midnight on Wednesday 31 October 2018. Notifications to parents, offering a secondary school place, will be sent by the County Council on 1 March 2019.

Applications made after midnight on 31 October 2018 will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school will be admitted. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

Oversubscription criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to children in the following priority order:

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after (see definition i).
2. (For applications in the normal admission round only) Children or parents with an exceptional medical and social need (see definition ii). Evidence must be provided from a medical specialist or social worker of the child or parent's need and why those needs make it essential that the child attends this school rather than any other. If evidence is not submitted by the application deadline, the medical or social needs cannot be considered.
3. Children living in the catchment area (see definition iv) who at the time of application have a sibling (see definition v) on the roll of the school who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [See 6 for additional children who may be considered under this criterion.]
4. Other children living in the catchment area of the school.
5. Children living out of the catchment area who at the time of application have a sibling (see definition v) on the roll of the school who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [Where a sibling was allocated a place at the school in the normal admission round in a previous year because the child was displaced (see definition vi) from the catchment school for their address, the application will be considered under 4, above, subject to the siblings still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced. In future normal admissions rounds a younger sibling will be considered to have been displaced where they were allocated a place at the school under this criterion as a consequence of their elder sibling's displacement and are still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced].
6. Children living out of the catchment area who at the time of application are on the roll of a linked junior or primary school: St Matthew's Church Of England (Aided) Primary School Blackmoor, Bordon Junior School, Woodlea Primary School, The Holme Church of England (Controlled) Primary School, Weyford Nursery & Primary School.
7. Children of staff (see definition iii) who have, (1) been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or (2) have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
8. Other children.

Definitions

(i) Looked after children are defined as those who are (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). Previously looked children are those who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order. An adoption order is an

order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. 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) 'Medical need' does not include mild medical conditions, such as asthma or allergies. 'Social need' does not include a parent's wish that a child attends the school because of a child's aptitude or ability or because their friends attend the school.

(iii) 'Staff' includes all those on the payroll of the school. 'Children of staff' refers to situations where the staff member is the natural parent, the legal guardian or a resident step parent.

(iv) A map of the school's catchment area can be viewed on the school's details page on the Hampshire County Council website www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool.

(v) 'Sibling' refers to brother or sister, half brother or half sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, foster brother or foster sister, step brother or step sister living as one family unit at the same address. It will also be applied to situations where a full, half or adoptive brother or sister are living at separate addresses. Criteria 4 and 6 include children who at the time of application have a sibling for whom the offer of a place at the preferred school has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending.

(vi) 'Displaced' refers to a child who was refused a place at the catchment school in the normal admissions round having named it in the application and was not offered a higher named preference school.

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Tie-Breaker

If the school is oversubscribed from within any of the above categories, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the school have priority. Distances will be measured from the Ordnance Survey home address point to the school address point using Hampshire County Council's Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Distances to multiple dwellings will give priority to the ground floor over the first floor and so on. On individual floors, distances will be measured to the stairs leading to the communal entrance. Where two or more applicants are equidistant, random allocation will be used to allocate the place. An explanation of the random allocation procedure is available on the County website. This method of prioritising admissions will also apply to any 'school specific' criterion unless otherwise stated in the school's documentation.

Additional Information

Permanent Address

The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week, and should be used for the application. The permanent address of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time.

Multiple births

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a school under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the school's PAN.

Fair Access placements by the local authority

Outside the normal admission round, it may sometimes be necessary for a pupil to be placed by the local authority, or a local placement panel acting on behalf of the authority, in a particular school even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements will be made in accordance with Hampshire County Council's Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

Waiting lists

When all available places have been allocated, waiting lists will be operated by schools on behalf of the local authority. Any places that become available will be offered to the child at the top of the list at that time. The waiting list is ordered according to the criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part

of the main admission round. Fair Access admissions and school closure arrangements will take priority over the waiting list. The waiting list will be reviewed and revised –

- each time a child is added to, or removed from, the waiting list;
- when a child's changed circumstances affect their priority;

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At the time of receiving an application decision from the County Council or a school, parents will be advised of the process for adding their child's name to a school's waiting list. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools as they wish.

The waiting list will be maintained until 31 August 2020, at which point all names will be removed. Should parents wish their child to be considered for a place at the school in the following school year they should complete and submit a fresh in-year application in the August preceding the new school year. Schools will send a decision letter within the first 10 days of the new term.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so, parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission outside the normal age group is being requested and which year group they wish their child to be admitted. Decisions will be made based on the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child.

School Closures

In the event of a school closure, pupils from the closing school may be given priority for any school nominated as the receiving school. Specific arrangements will be determined by the Local Authority in accordance with the School Admissions Code and will be published at the time for the specific schools affected.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appellants should contact the University of Chichester Academy Trust. Information on how to appeal and the timetable for the appeals process is on the Trust website at www.unicat.org.uk

Legislation

This policy takes account of all Equalities legislation, together with all relevant regulations and the School Admissions Code (published by the DfE in 2014).

RATIFICATION DATE AND CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

Ratified/Signature:

Print Name:

Date: