

Appendix 7- Responses to consultation on proposed admission arrangements for 2025/2026

Consultation took place between 13 November 2023 and 15 January 2024 which satisfied the duty to consult for at least six weeks. We asked for views on the following:-

1. Proposed admission criteria for local authority controlled schools and Priory School

The proposed admission criteria (below) remain unchanged from 2024-25:

1. Looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after.

An explanation of who falls into this criterion can be found in the '[Explanation of words and phrases](#)' on the Council's website.

2. Children who will have a brother or sister (sibling) at the school (or linked infant or junior school-see priority 4) at the time of admission and who live at the same address, within the predefined community area*

The definition of 'sibling' can also be found in '[Explanation of words and phrases](#)'

Details of the pre-defined community areas for each school can be found here:

[Find my community area \(secondary\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

[Find my community area \(primary and junior\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

3. Children of staff members contracted to work at the school in question where:

a) The member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or

b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

An explanation of who falls into this priority can be found below in the definitions section.

4. Children wishing to transfer between a linked infant and junior school.

Linked infant and junior schools are:

Motcombe Community School - Ocklynge Junior School
Parkland Infant School - Parkland Junior School
Pashley Down Infant School - Ocklynge Junior School
Roselands Infant School - Stafford Junior School
St Andrew's CE Infant School - Tollgate Community Junior School
West Rise Community Infant School - West Rise Junior
Dudley Infant Academy- All Saints CE Junior Academy

5. Other children living within a pre-defined community area

Each home address within the county falls within a community area although living within the community area does not guarantee a place. Details of the pre-defined community area for each school can be found here:

[Find my community area \(secondary\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

6. Children who will have a brother or sister (sibling) at the school (or linked infant or junior school-see priority 3) at the time of admission who live at the same address, outside the predefined community area.*

The definition of 'sibling' can also be found in '[Explanation of words and phrases](#)'

7. Other children living outside the pre-defined community area.

Tiebreaker

- In the event of oversubscription within any category, place allocation will be decided by prioritising applications on the basis of home to school distance measured in a straight line (as the crow flies). For split site schools, we will measure to the site where the child will attend for the majority of lessons at the point of entry.
- In the event that applicants cannot be prioritised using the tie-breaker above because the distance measurements are the same, the Authority will use random allocation to decide which children will be offered the remaining places. This will be done electronically using the Authority's admissions software.

****Children living in the priority areas for Denton Primary School and for Harbour Primary School, whose sibling joined one of these school before 1 September 2022 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.***

****Children living in the Brodricklands and Hamlands Farm estates whose siblings joined Polegate School, Willingdon Primary School or Willingdon Community School prior to 1 September 2024 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.***

Definitions

Twins and children from multiple births (all community and voluntary controlled schools).

Where the admission of both twins or all siblings from a multiple birth would cause the school to rise above its Planned Admission Number, both twins or all of the siblings will be admitted.

Where the admission of the additional child or children from multiple births to an infant class would result in the class size rising above 30, the additional child/children would be exceptions to the Infant Class Size legislation throughout the infant phase or until the number in the class reduced to 30.

Children of staff definition:

A member of staff will be considered to be a child's parent for the purpose of this criterion if they are living in the same family unit as the child at the same address and are:

- their mother or father;
- any other person who has parental responsibility, such as an adoptive parent, a special guardian or person named in a child arrangement order;

- any other person who does not have parental responsibility but otherwise has the care of the child, such as a foster carer.

For applications made as part of a normal intake, the length of employment will be considered as at the closing date for applications. For in year applications and for the purpose of maintaining a waiting list, the length of employment will be considered as at the date the application is received.

To be considered under this category, applicants must indicate this in the reasons section of the application and supply an official letter/email from the headteacher/Chair of Governors of the school in question verifying that the parent with care qualifies under a) or b).

Applications for admission out of year group

Arrangements for requesting a delayed reception start can be found here: [Admissions for summer-born children | East Sussex County Council](#)

Arrangements for requesting admission out of year group at other points in a child's education can be found here: [Apply for a school place 2023 to 2024 | East Sussex County Council](#)

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15 people completed the survey online. All responded to the question about the admissions criteria. The results are as follows:

Are the proposed admissions criteria acceptable?

Yes - 9 (60%)

No - 6 (40%)

Comments received (6)

- 1) A random allocation in the event of a tie breaker is not a suitable alternative to weighing each case on its own merit and time ought to be spent determining the individual reasons for a persons application to a particular school and a decision based on the context for that application and not an arbitrary decision where someone's need could actually be greater than another's, for example domestic abuse situations, religious connections or place of work. line measures of distance are not logical in rural areas. Distance ought to be measured according to viable roads and bus routes. If criteria are too prescribed where is the element of parental choice?
- 2) I ahem clicked 'no' because it's very difficult to know what the changes are without scrutinising the current criteria. Could the changes be clearly outlined. I would have preferred to click neither yes or no but the form won't allow you to continue without clicking on one or the other.
- 3) There is no provision for children with SEN. Children with SEN should get 2nd highest priority at schools that can meet need.
- 4) The sibling criteria should not be limited by whether the child is in the predefined community area. As long as the child has a sibling, living at the same address, who is a CURRENT student at the school.
- 5) I don't think it was clear what the changes are trying to address there was no info on what the date changes are changing from
- 6) The priorities are wrong. Looked after children - agree. Then it should be - children within walking distance /geographical catchment taking into account walking and public transport links. Then staff kids etc.

- 7) There is no fathomable reason (to me) why parents working in a school should have priority for a school place. The other criteria are fair and simple so to have a selection criterion based on a someone's profession is unconscionable.

2. Proposed admissions numbers - If the admission numbers are not acceptable, please tell us what you think the admission numbers should be and why?

Comments received (3)

- 1) 32 to a class.
- 2) I think the numbers are reasonable based on the size of the schools.
- 3) Not entirely sure why Chailey School needs to increase its admission number. No-one ever seems to think of the environmental impact of having children travel long distances when there are other nearer schools available.

3. Proposed co-ordinated schemes - Do you have any comments to make on the co-ordinated schemes?

Comments received (2)

- 1) No.
- 2) It would have been to have existing to compare.

4. Any other comments about the County Councils admission arrangements for 2025-26?

Comments received (5)

- 1) You just have to consider that a family's entire life has to revolve around the school and you can't just allow a random allocation when each space is precious and important to every person who has applied as their first choice.
- 2) I think that it is important that parents can choose to defer their reception place for Summer born children, and still be offered a place in reception the following year. Some children who are born in July , August are just too little to start in my opinion.
- 3) I think responses by parents and carers to this survey will be limited because of the way it is set out. It requires time and significant reading to understand the proposed changes. The documents are not easily accessible to all, in the way they are laid out and the language used. Not all parents and carers have the same literacy levels or levels of English. To get a greater level of response a more straightforward overview could be provided, without the need to click back to the overview page to read the documents, overviews that don't require parents and carers to read the whole documents. I don't think the current request for understanding the documents is a realistic request of those not working in the education sector.
- 4) The predefined community area should be reviewed in line with current intake at secondary level schools. Overlap at the edges of the predefined community areas should be expanded.
- 5) This is a very badly put together survey.