



## **WESTERHOPE PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2019-20**

*At Westerhope School, we are special, unique and equal and we can all reach the stars through learning.*

The Governing Body of Westerhope Primary School is the admitting authority for the school. The number of places available in the Reception Year Group for 2019/20 is 60.

Parents can nominate four school preferences on the common application form. All preferences will be treated equally. Every child who wants a place at a school will be offered one unless there are more applications for the school than there are places available. Where there are more applications for admission than places available, the following oversubscription criteria in the order shown will be used to determine which children will be allocated places.

Children with an Educational Health Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs where the school is named in the statement will be admitted to that school. Places will be offered to applicants ranked highest using the criteria set out below.

1. **Looked After Children** in the care of a local authority or children that were looked after by the local authority and immediately after that became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order (see definitions). Evidence of the appropriate order must be submitted before the closing date.
2. **Children with an older brother or sister** (a sibling) in attendance at the school at the date of admission. Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent or carer's partner where the children live at the same address.
3. **Children with a specific medical reason to go to the school** (for example, where the child or one or both parents has a disability that means that they can only go to one school). Supporting evidence from a doctor, or other professional involved with the child must be provided. The evidence must relate specifically to the school for which the application is being made and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the child's needs. It should explain the difficulties that would arise if the child has to attend an alternative school. This evidence must be submitted with the application or before the closing date. If the required evidence is not provided, the local authority will be unable to consider giving the child higher priority.
4. **Children living nearest to the school** as measured in a straight line distance from a single fixed central point at the school to a point in the centre of the home address of the child, using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and British National Grid Easting and Northing co-ordinates. A place will be offered at the highest ranked preferred school for which the child is eligible. If a place cannot be offered at a nominated school, a place will be offered at the nearest school with available places for which the child is eligible. If an application is not received, a place will be offered at the nearest school with available places for which the child is eligible. In the event that more than one child has an equal right to an available place the place will be offered to the older child. Preferences cannot be changed after the closing date for applications unless there are very exceptional circumstances and the allocation process has not begun. Parents have two weeks to return an acceptance for an offer of a school place. If an acceptance is not received it may be assumed that a place is no longer required.

**Late applications** - Applications received after the closing date will be classed as late and processed after all of the applications received on time. If there are very exceptional circumstances as to why the application is late, appropriate evidence is supplied and the allocation process has not begun, a late application may be processed on time as an exception.

**Parental responsibility** - Parents who share responsibility for the care of their child are expected to reach agreement to a school placement between them. In the event of a dispute the school will accept the application from the parent who receives, or is eligible for, the payment of the child benefit.

**Waiting lists** - Children will be kept on a waiting list for any school ranked higher on their application than the school they have been offered and will be allocated a place if one becomes available. The waiting list will be ranked in order of priority using the oversubscription criteria. Waiting lists will be held until the end of the autumn term.

**Right of appeal** - Parents or carers who are not offered a place for their child at the school have a statutory right of appeal to an independent appeals panel. Please contact the local authority for information. Information is also available on the Newcastle City Council website.

## Definitions

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- A **Looked After Child** is a child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time the application for admission to school is made and whom the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the date of admission.
- An **Adoption Order** is an order made under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- A **Residence Order** is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989.
- A **Special Guardianship Order** is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians.