Southampton City Council

Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Junio Schools for 2022/23

Southampton City Council is the admission authority for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Junior schools in the city. As required in the School Admissions Code the authority will consider all on-time preferences at the same time for September 2022 admissions.

Parents may express up to three (3) preferences, listing them in the order in which they would accept them. All preferences will be considered and where more than one school could be offered, the parents will be offered a place for their child at the higher ranked of the schools on their application.

The Junior Schools covered by this policy are listed below, with their Published Admission Number (PAN). This is the number of children the school will admit in September 2022.*

School	Year R PAN
Fairisle Junior School	90

*At the time of publication, the schools listed above were using the SCC Admissions Policy and appropriate PAN. Please note that this list is subject to change. The Council website has the most up to date information on school status (academisation etc.) and amendments to PANs that may have taken place in accordance with admissions legislation or school organisation decisions since publication.

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that name a school

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) that name a school must be admitted to that school under the Education Act 1996 and with regard to the SEND Code of Practice. These children will be admitted to the named school, even if it is full, and are therefore outside the normal admission arrangements. As required by the Admissions Code, these children will count as part of the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school.

Oversubscription criteria

Applications submitted by 15 January 2022 will be dealt with first. If the number of applications submitted by 15 January 2022 is greater than the PAN for a school, admissions to the school will be decided according to the following priorities:

1. Children who are currently, or have previously been in care (Looked After and Previously Looked After Children)

2. Children subject to a Child Protection Plan or deemed to be vulnerable by a senior officer with responsibility for safeguarding in Southampton City Council

3. Children attending the linked infant school at the time of application

4. Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school that will continue to attend that school for the following year

5. Children whose parents have satisfied the Local Authority that their child has a significant medical or psychological condition which means they must attend the preferred school rather than any other

6. Children who qualify for the Service Premium, as the child of a member of the Armed Forces

7. Children who live within the school's designated catchment area

8. Children who live closest to the school

Should a school be oversubscribed from within any of the criteria, then distance, as defined by this policy, will be used to prioritise applications within these categories. Should there be two or more identical distances requiring prioritisation, this will be done by casting lots. Lots will be drawn by the Divisional Head of Education and Learning at Southampton City Council.

Late Applications

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2022. Applications received after that date will be late applications and will dealt with after all on time applicants have been offered a school place. If a school has places available after admitting all on-time applications, late applications will be considered in accordance with the priorities set out above.

Waiting Lists

If a place cannot be offered at a higher ranked Community or Voluntary Controlled school, unsuccessful applicants will automatically be placed on the waiting list for the school. If places become available, children on the waiting list will automatically be offered them according to the priorities set out above and any previous offer of a school place will be withdrawn.

The length of time on the waiting list cannot be taken into account. Unsuccessful late applications will be treated in the same way as unsuccessful on time applications and placed on the waiting list according to the priorities set out above. This means that waiting lists will be re-ranked after every new expression of preference.

Waiting lists will be held until 31 July 2023. Any parent wishing to remain on the waiting lists after this date will need to make a new in-year application to the school.

Unplaced Children

Any child who remains unplaced after their application has been processed, because they could not be offered a place at any school requested, will be offered a place at their catchment school if there is one and if places are still available. If there are no places available at their catchment school, they will be allocated a place at the nearest school to their home address with places available.

Admissions mid-year for any year group will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

Definitions

Previously/Looked After Child: Looked After Children are those who are in the care of the Local Authority. A Previously Looked After Child, as defined by the Admissions Code, is one who was: looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).

Linked Infant School: This criterion applies only at the time of transfer from Year 2 to Year 3 and until the end of the first term of junior school (December 31 2022). After that time previous attendance at the linked infant school gives no priority to an application for a place at the linked junior school.

Fairisle Junior School's linked infant school is Fairisle Infant School.

Sibling: This includes children living as siblings in the same family unit. In the case of applications for places at infant schools a sibling at the linked junior school will count as a sibling at the infant school. A sibling is defined as a brother or sister including half, step, foster or adoptive brother or sister, living within the same family unit at the same address.

Catchment Area: A "designated catchment area" for a school is the area set out in the definitive catchment area map for each school. This map is held by Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY. A schedule of addresses, to be read in conjunction with the map, is also kept by the Council. Parents wishing to know if their address is in a particular catchment area can contact the Admissions Team, or log on to the council website www.southampton.gov.uk, click on "My Southampton", follow the links, and enter their postcode.

Service Premium: A child will qualify for the Service Premium if their circumstances satisfy any of the following:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve)
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

Proof of this criteria may be provided in a letter from the service parent's commanding officer, confirming employment, or evidence of the receipt of a service pension.

Denominational Grounds: Evidence of regular church attendance at services held by the Church of England or a local ecumenical partnership (as defined in the school's prospectus) must be certified by the vicar or someone else of authority in the church, using the Local Authority's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which can be found on the council website, alongside this policy.

"Regular" is defined as "attending worship services at a Church of England church or local ecumenical partnership at least twice a month for the previous two years before the deadline for admissions set by Southampton City Council."

Distance: Distances are measured based on the shortest walking distance using public roads and footpaths. Distances are measured from home to school for all children. These are calculated using a computerised mapping system that uses data supplied by Ordnance Survey. Distances are measured from the point designated in the system as the home address to the point designated in the system as the mid-point of the nearest open pedestrian gate to the school, using public roads and footpaths.

Admission of Children Outside of the Normal Age Group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted or talented or has experienced problems such as ill health, or they are summer born and were admitted to Year R outside the normal age group. All requests will be considered on their merits by Southampton City Council taking account of the parent's view and the views of the headteacher.

Parents of summer-born children for whom education outside normal age group was previously agreed will be required to make a new request for entry into junior school. This should be done as if the child is placed in their correct year group. For example, a child who has been held back a year (decelerated) should be making a new request when the child is in Year 1.

Before making such a request, parents are strongly advised to read the 'Guidance on the education of children outside normal age group' document available on the Southampton City Council website, which explains the procedures that need to be followed.

For all requests it is vital to understand that at each transition (starting reception, moving from infant to junior, primary to secondary, secondary to college) the decision whether to maintain the placement in a younger or older year group must be made by the admission authority for the school. As such, there is no guarantee that it will continue throughout the child's education and a new parental request must be made before each transition. As a general rule, requests should only be made once per phase transfer, unless there has been a significant change in circumstances.
One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on education out of normal age group.