



ALLITHWAITE CE SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

2021/2022

APPROVED BY

Name: Mr J Whitehead

Position: Chair of Governors

Signed: *John Whitehead*

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

An application for entry in September 2022 must be made by the closing date, which is the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Places at this school will be allocated according to this Admissions Policy and the Local Authority's Coordinated Admissions Scheme.

Parents will be notified of the outcome of their application by the Local Authority.

Parents of those children not offered a place will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative school by the Local Authority.

All children will be admitted unless there are more applicants than places.

### **Determined Policy for the Admission Arrangements to Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2021-2022**

#### 1. Introduction

These are the 2021 - 2022 admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools, i.e. those schools where the Local Authority (LA) is the admission authority.

#### 2. Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements

In line with current legislation, the LA has drawn up a separate scheme to coordinate

admissions to maintained schools and academies within Cumbria for the main admissions round.

### 3. Address to be Used in Determining Priority for Admission

If a school is oversubscribed, the address of the parent or carer with whom the child normally lives will be used in the allocation process. Where a child's address is difficult to determine, for example where shared living arrangements are in place, the address of the parent or carer claiming child benefit will be used.

### 4. Fraudulent Applications and Withdrawal of a School Place

The LA will not withdraw an offer of a place unless it has been made in error or it is established that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application. Where an offer is withdrawn on the basis of fraudulent or misleading information, the application will be considered on the basis of the correct information, and parents or carers will have a right of appeal where no place can be offered.

Where parents or carers are found to make a fraudulent application for a school place and the LA decides not to withdraw that place in the best interest of the child, should a school place be sought for any other sibling or siblings the criteria that provide a higher priority for a school place for siblings will not be applied.

### 5. Parental disagreement

The management of school applications may be severely delayed during the main admissions round where separated parents or carers of the child each submit a separate application for different schools. The School Admissions Code states that only one offer per child is made by the LA. In this situation the LA asks that parents and/or carers attempt to resolve matters between themselves and inform the LA in writing of which application should be processed. The LA will not become involved in private disputes.

### 6. The Admissions Timetable

The timetable for the September 2022 application and allocation processes will be in line with the co-ordinated admissions schemes

## 7. Late Applications

For oversubscribed schools, applications which are received or changed after the published closing date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Even if there are exceptional circumstances, applications submitted after the relevant published date will not be considered until after allocations for those parents and carers who applied on time have been made. Any evidence submitted after the relevant date to support a late application or change of preference will not be considered. Affected applicants will not receive an offer with other parents on national offer day, instead receiving one on 'reallocation day'.

## 8. Waiting Lists

Once places have been allocated, children refused a place will continue to be considered for any vacancies which become available up until the end of the Autumn Term 2022. Vacancies will always be allocated by applying the admissions policy and length of time on the waiting list will not be a consideration.

## 9. Deferred Entry to and Part Time Attendance at Infant/Primary Schools

If a child who has not reached compulsory school age has been allocated a Reception place and their parent or carer wishes to delay their child's entry to school, the place will be held open. The place must be taken up in the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age. Parents can request that their child takes up the place part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

## 10. Twins and siblings of multiple births

Where places are available for some but not all children from multiple births (including twins) the Local Authority will exercise the discretion offered by the Admissions Code to offer all of the children a place. Where this results in an infant class exceeding 30 pupils, additional children admitted under these arrangements will be treated as 'excepted pupils' for the duration of their infant education and will not constitute a breach of legislative requirements.

### 11. Admissions to Nursery Schools and Infant/Primary Schools Offering Nursery Education

These arrangements do not apply to the admission of nursery pupils. Nursery admission arrangements will be determined separately. Attendance at a school's nursery does not guarantee admission to the school's Reception group nor is it a factor in allocating places.

### 12. Catchment Areas

Cumbria County Council operates a 'catchment area' approach to school admissions. Most schools have a defined catchment area. Details of the arrangements for each school can be made available on request. Where an area is not included within an agreed catchment area, the "catchment area school" will be the nearest appropriate school to the parental home.

### 13. In Year Admissions

Where a parent or carer wishes to change school for any reason that is not caused by a change of address, the Local Authority will not offer a place at a community or voluntary controlled school before the first day of the term following receipt of form SA8 (request for an in year school place).

### **Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools**

Where there are more applications than places available at a community or voluntary controlled school for entry to all year groups except Year 12, applications will be prioritised using the criteria below. They will be applied in conjunction with explanatory notes 1-6 which form part of the policy.

1. Children looked after and who were previously looked after, i.e. in public care, giving priority, if necessary, to the youngest child(ren). See note 1.

2. Children living in the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) at the time of admission. See notes 2 and 3.

3. Children living outside the catchment area who, at the time of their admission, have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) who were allocated a place at that school by the LA either (a) in the absence of a place being available in the catchment area school due to oversubscription and the school was identified by the LA as the next nearest with a place available or (b) the school is named in the sibling's Statement of Special Educational Need/Education Health and Care Plan. See notes 2, 3 and 4.

4. In relation to Church of England Voluntary Controlled Schools, children living within the catchment area who with a parent regularly attend a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance. See notes 5 and 6.

5. Other children living in the catchment area giving priority to those living closest to the school, measured by a straight-line measure between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the LA. See note 6.

6. Children living outside the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) at the time of their admission. See notes 2 and 3.

7. In relation to Church of England Voluntary Controlled Schools, children living outside the catchment area who with a parent regularly attend a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance. See notes 5 and 6.

8. Children living outside the catchment area, giving priority to those who live closest to the school, measured by a straight-line measure between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the LA. See note 6.

Applications will be prioritised on the above basis. An exception will be made under the Authority's policy for the education of children with special needs (i) where a child holds a Statement of Special Educational Need/Education, Health and Care Plan, or (ii) is currently

undergoing a co-ordinated assessment, and in either case it is considered that attendance at a particular school is necessary to meet the identified needs of that child.

### **Explanatory notes**

These notes are part of the policy.

Note 1 - A child looked after is a child in public care, who is looked after by a local authority within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

Children previously looked after are children who were looked after, but have ceased to be so because they were adopted (under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002) or became subject to a Child

Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order (Children Act 1989). The provision to give the highest priority to looked after and previously looked after children applies to all children who have been adopted from local authority care.

Note 2 - In criteria 2, 3 and 6, priority will be given to those children with the youngest siblings. Brothers and sisters are those living at the same address and includes step and foster children. Priority will only be given where it is known at the time of allocating places that a sibling will be attending the school [excluding a nursery class] at the time of admission.

Note 3 - Where reference is made to 'associated' infant and junior schools this is to describe those situations where infant and junior schools share the same catchment area.

Note 4 - If parent or carers believe they qualify for consideration under criterion 3, they should indicate this on their preference form in the place provided for this purpose.

Note 5 - To be considered under criteria 4 or 7 parents or carers must provide

proof with the completed form that they regularly attend a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance. 'Regular' is defined as at least twice a month. Attendance may be at more than one church but should be for at least two years prior to the application date.

In criteria 4 or 7 applications will be prioritised using the distance measurement methodology set out at Note 6 below, with those living closest to the school measured by the shortest straight line distance given priority.

Note 6 - Distance measurements will be undertaken using the Local Authority's computerised Geographical Information System [GIS]. This measures a straight-line measure between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the LA.