

Admission criteria for community schools

Any pupil has the right to a place at any one of the schools for which Bolton Local Authority (LA) is the Admission Authority, **provided that the demand for places at a school does not exceed the admission number for that school**. Where demand for a school exceeds the number of places available the LA needs to allocate places based on a fair and objective method.

If a community school is oversubscribed, the criteria listed below will be applied in priority order. **All applications will be considered without reference to the parents/carers' preference ranking for a school (the order the school is expressed as a preference).**

Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will be offered places first. The following criteria will then apply:

Criteria

- 1) Children in Public Care (Looked After Children) who are the subject of a full care order including adopted children who were previously in care and children who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order. A looked after child is a child who is (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 definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.
- 2) Other children who are considered as 'vulnerable' and whose application for the preferred school is supported by the Assistant Director for Social Care. This will include:
 - a. Children for whom there is a child protection plan or has been within a 12 month period
 - b. Children who have had a period in care within two years of the admission application and are still receiving social care services
 - c. Children who are considered to be at significant risk of becoming looked after by public care
 - d. Children who are living in temporary accommodation due to fleeing violence and rehousing has been identified
- 3) Children who will have older siblings in Years 7 to 11 or the preferred school at the date of application and the date of admission. Siblings can include full, step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address.
- 4) Children who suffer from a medical condition or disability which makes it better for them to attend that school rather than another. Places will only be offered under this criterion if the child has certified medical condition with strong professional supporting evidence confirming that existing exceptional problems with the child's health would be seriously exacerbated if a place were not made at the preferred school. Parents applying under the criteria must provide a letter from the child's GP/Consultant setting out the reasons why the school is the most suitable school and details of the child's medical condition. Medical evidence must be submitted by 31 October 2015. Evidence received after this date will not be taken into consideration.
- 5) Proximity (where you live) - shortest walking distance to the preferred school minus shortest walking distance to the nearest/next nearest school plus 100 to create a ranking value. The lower the ranking value the higher the priority for a place. The nearest/next nearest school will include all community, free (free schools), voluntary-controlled, foundation and academy schools whether in the Bolton Borough or not.
 - a. If any categories are oversubscribed then geographical proximity (as set out in category 5 above) will be used as a tie breaker. If the proximity value is equal then random allocation will be used as a tie-breaker. This will be carried out by an officer of Bolton Council independent to the School Admission Team.
 - b. The shortest walking route will be that determined by the LA using only those public rights of way recognised within the measuring system. This will be measured using Routefinder, a computerised mapping system which uses the Ordnance Survey integrated network to measure from the point on the highway nearest to the centre of the home property and the designated main entrance to the school. In the event of a tie break within a block of flats those living furthest from the communal entrance will be given priority.
 - c. Where a single place remains at a school and the application being considered is for twins (etc.) the council will allocate above the admission number to accommodate each child.