



# Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery

## Admissions Policy 2019- 2020

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### 1. Introduction

The School follows the admissions procedure agreed by Surrey LA. Children start school in the academic year in which they are five (*See also Nursery Admissions Arrangements 2018-19*). All Surrey schools operate an Equal Preference System. Parents will be given the opportunity to state three ranked school preferences.

#### 1.1 First priority: Looked after and previously looked after children

Looked after and previously looked after children will be considered to be:

- children who are registered as being in the care of a local authority **or provided with accommodation by a local authority** in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a), e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and
- children who have previously been in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a) and who have left that care through adoption, a **child arrangement order** (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 **and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014**) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989).

Places will be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the local authority may also ask schools to admit over their published admission number at other times under this criterion.

#### 1.2 Second priority: Exceptional social/medical need

Occasionally there will be a very small number of children for whom exceptional social or medical circumstances will apply which will warrant a placement at a particular school. The exceptional social or medical circumstances might relate to either the child or the parent/carer. Supporting evidence from a professional is required such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical cases or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for other social circumstances. This evidence must confirm the circumstances of the case and must set out why the child should attend a particular school and why no other school could meet the child's needs.

Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at a particular school and in each case a decision will be made based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at one particular school above any other.

Common medical conditions and allergies can usually be supported in all mainstream schools, therefore priority under our school's exceptional medical criterion would not normally be given for these.

In addition, routine child minding arrangements would not normally be considered to be an exceptional social reason for placement at a particular school.

We reserve the right to refer medical evidence to Surrey's designated medical officer, where necessary, to assist us in making a decision about medical priority for a school place.

Places may be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the local authority may also ask schools to admit over their published admission number at other times under this criterion.

### **1.3 Third priority: Children who will have a sibling at the school or at an infant/ junior school which will operate shared sibling priority for admission at the time of the child's admission**

A sibling will be considered to be a brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), a half-brother or half-sister or a step-brother or step-sister or an adoptive or foster sibling, living as part of the same family unit at the same address.

A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling on roll at the school concerned and that sibling is still expected to be on roll at that school at the time of the child's admission.

For the initial intake to an infant/junior school a child will also be given sibling priority for admission if their sibling will still be at Hurst Green Infant School in September 2019. This will apply both at the initial allocation of places and also when prioritising the waiting list. Giving sibling priority has the effect of maximising the opportunity for children in the same family to be educated at Hurst Green.

If within this category there are more children than places available, any remaining places will be offered to children who meet this criterion on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the school.

### **1.4 Fourth priority: Children for whom the school is the nearest to their home address**

For the normal intake to a school, the nearest school will be defined as the school closest to the home address with a published admission number for pupils of the appropriate age-range, as measured by a straight line and which has admitted children without regard to faith or boarding in the initial allocation of places in 2016, 2017 or 2018.

The nearest school may be inside or outside the county boundary. Under this criterion all Surrey community and voluntary controlled schools are considered to admit local children.

From 1 September 2019, any applicant remaining on the waiting list will be considered to be an application for in year admission. After this date, when assessing nearest school, schools without a published admission number will also be taken in to account.

All community and voluntary controlled schools will be considered in the assessment of nearest school.

Within the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools the child's home address excludes any business, relatives or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence.

Where the child is subject to a child arrangements order and that order stipulates that the child live with one parent/carer more than the other, the address to be used will be the one

where the child is expected to live for the majority of the time. In other cases, where the child spends an equal amount of time between their parents/carers, it will be up to the parents/carers to agree which address to use. Where a child spends their time equally between their parents/carers and they cannot agree on who should make the application, we will accept an application from the parent/carer who is registered for child benefit. If neither parent is registered for child benefit, we will accept the application from the parent/carer whose address is registered with the child's current school or nursery.

We will not generally accept a temporary address if the main carer of the child still possesses a property that has previously been used as a home address, nor will we accept a temporary address if we believe it has been used solely or mainly to obtain a school place when an alternative address is still available to that child. All distances will be measured by the computerised Geographical Information System maintained by Surrey's admissions team.

The address to be used for the initial allocation of places to Reception will be the child's address at the closing date for application. Changes of address may be considered in accordance with Surrey's coordinated scheme if there are exceptional reasons behind the change, such as if a family has just moved to the area. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation, will be the child's current address. Any offer of a place on the basis of address is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Parents have a responsibility to notify Surrey County Council of any change of address.

### **1.5 Fifth priority: Any other children**

Remaining places will be offered on the basis of nearness to the school measured in a straight line from the address point of the pupil's house, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest official school gate for pupils to use. This is calculated using the admissions team's Geographical Information System.

## **2. Further Information**

### **2.1 'Tie breaker' and the admission of twins, triplets, other multiple births or siblings born in the same academic year**

Where two or more children share a priority for a place when using distance as a tie breaker, e.g. where two children live equidistant from a school and only one place remains, Surrey County Council will use random allocation to determine which child should be given priority.

In the case of multiple births, where children have equal priority for a place, Surrey County Council will use random allocation to determine which child should be given priority. If after the allocation one or more places can be offered but there are not sufficient places for all of them, wherever it is logistically possible, each child will be offered a place. Where it is not logistically possible to offer each child a place the child (ren) ranked the highest will retain their offer and the parent will be advised of their right of appeal and informed about waiting lists.

### **2.2 Waiting lists**

Where there are more children than places available, waiting lists will operate for each year group according to the oversubscription criteria for each school without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list. Waiting lists for the initial intake to each community and voluntary controlled school will be maintained until the last day of the Summer term 2020 when they will be cancelled.

Applicants who wish a child to remain on the waiting list after this date must write to Surrey County Council by 28 July 2019, stating their wish and providing their child's name, date of birth and the name of their child's current school. After 28 July 2019, applicants whose children are not already on the waiting list but who wish them to be so must apply for in-year admission through Surrey County Council. Waiting lists for all year groups will be cancelled at the end of each academic year.

### **2.3 In-year admissions**

The following applications will be treated as in-year admissions during 2019/20:

- applications for admission to Reception which are received after 1 September 2019;
- all other applications for admission to Years 1 and 2.

Applications for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools must be made to the local authority on Surrey's common application form. Where there are more applications than places available, each application will be ranked in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria for each school.

### **2.4 Starting school**

The community and voluntary controlled infant and primary schools in Surrey have a single intake into Reception. All children whose date of birth falls between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 will be eligible to apply for a full time place in Reception at a Surrey school for September 2019.

Applicants can defer their child's entry to Reception until later in the school year, but this will not be agreed beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the final term of the academic year for which the offer was made. Applicants may also arrange for their child to start part time until their child reaches statutory school age.

### **2.5 The admission of children outside of their chronological year group**

Applicants may choose to seek a place outside their child's chronological (correct) year group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and what is in the best interests of the child concerned.

- Applicants who are applying for their child to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age. If, in liaison with the Headteacher, the local authority agrees for the child to have a decelerated entry to a community or voluntary controlled school the place cannot be deferred and instead the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the decelerated cohort
- Applicants who are applying for their child to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If, in liaison with the Headteacher, the local authority agrees for the child to have an accelerated entry to a community or voluntary controlled school, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated

entry to a community or voluntary controlled school, the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort

Applicants must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interest and provide what evidence they have to support this. More information on educating children out of their chronological year group and the process for making such requests is available at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions).

### 3. Late Applications

#### Application Forms received after the closing date but before 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019

##### 3.1 Families moving into Surrey

These applications relate to families new to the area where it can reasonably be assumed that an application could not have been made by the closing date. Parents will need to provide proof of ownership or tenancy on a Surrey property (exchange of contracts or signed tenancy agreement of one year or more) for the address in Surrey to be used for admission purposes.

If the application form is received by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**, it will be taken into account in the main round of applications.

If the form is received after **15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**, it will be considered late and will be dealt with after all applications received by the closing date have been dealt with.

##### 3.2 Changes of Preference

Some parents may wish to change preference after the closing date due to a change of circumstances. Consideration will be given to a change of preference where there has been a house move, or other significant change of circumstances which makes the original preference no longer practical, provided the request is made before **8<sup>th</sup> February 2019**. Any such request for a change of preference must be supported by documentary evidence/proof.

##### 3.3 Late Applications

These relate to applications from parents where it could be reasonably assumed that an application could have been made by the closing date. These applications will not be processed until after places have been offered to all those meeting the closing date.

## 4. Home to School transport

Surrey County Council has a Home to School Transport policy that sets out the circumstances that children might qualify for free home to school transport.

Generally, transport will only be considered if a child is under 8 years old and is travelling more than two miles or is over 8 years old and travelling more than three miles to the nearest school with a place. Transport will not generally be provided to a school that is further away if a child would have been offered a place at a nearer school had it been named as a preference on the application form, although exceptions may apply to secondary aged children whose families are on a low income if they are travelling to one of their three nearest schools and to children whose nearest school is out of County but over the statutory walking distance.

Eligibility to transport is not linked to the admission criteria of a school. Some schools give priority to children who are attending a feeder school, but attending a feeder school does not confer an automatic right to transport to a linked school. In considering admission criteria and school preferences it is important that applicants also consider the home to school transport policy so they might take account of the likelihood of receiving free transport to their preferred school before making their application.

A full copy of Surrey's Home to School Transport policy is available on Surrey's website at [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) or from the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on 0300 200 1004.

*For further information, please see Surrey's admissions procedures on*

<http://new.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/school-admissions-policies-and-reports>