



## ADMISSIONS POLICY 2018/19

### Springfield School

This policy will apply to all admissions for the academic year 2018/19 including in year applications. Springfield has a published admission number (PAN) of 227 for admission to Year 7 September 2018.

If the school is oversubscribed, applications will be considered according to the following priorities in the order set out below: -

1. Children who are looked after by a local authority (i.e. in their care or provided with accommodation by the authority for a continuous period of more than 24 hours). Children who were previously looked after but immediately following being looked after became subject to an adoption order, residence or special guardianship order. See "Additional information" below.
2. Children or families who have a significant medical, physical, psychological or social need. Evidence must be attached with the application. Applications under this criterion must be supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional person involved stating clearly why the preferred school is the most appropriate for the child and reasons why other schools in the city are inappropriate. Applications received under this category are considered by a multi-disciplinary team of the local authority. See "Additional information" below.
3. Children of staff employed at the school
  - a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for 2 or more years at the time at which the application is made, and or
  - b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
4. Children living within the school's designated catchment area. (If the school cannot admit all applications from the catchment area, applicants will be ranked within this category in accordance with priorities 5(i) to 5 (iv) below.)
5. Children living outside the school's catchment area in the following priority order:
  - i) children who have a brother or sister (living within the same household) already on roll and who will still be attending the school the following academic year;

Note – this category does include step-brothers/step-sisters, adoptive brothers/sisters living within the same household or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household.

ii) children eligible for service premium

Note - service premium is paid to eligible children of armed services personnel under S14 of the Education Act 2002

iii) children attending a feeder junior/primary school; Please see a list of feeder junior/primary schools below in "Additional information".

iv) children who live closest to the school, based on the shortest distance from home to school, measured on a straight line (This distance will be used where necessary to prioritise applications). See "Additional information" below. Should there be two or more identical distances requiring prioritisation, this will be done by casting lots.

Note: Should a school be oversubscribed from within any of the criteria 5 (i) to 5 (iii) above, then any additional criteria as given in 5 (i) to 5(iv) will be used to prioritise applications within these categories

## **Displaced sibling**

Where the LA is unable to meet a parental preference in relation to a catchment school, the LA will have to allocate a place at a lower preference school or even allocate the next nearest school with places available. Parents may prefer to then try and get a place for sibling at the same school at a later stage. In such instances, this school could then be treated as the catchment school for subsequent sibling applications. Parents would have to notify the LA on application that they consider this exception applies. If the application was for the actual catchment school this criterion would still be applied. This would be applicable to Portsmouth schools who have catchment criterion as part of their admissions policy

## **Pupils with a statement of special educational needs or statutory education, health and care plan**

The Admissions code states " *all children whose statement of special educational need (SEN) or Education Health and Care (EHC) plan names the school must be admitted*". These children will have priority for admission over and above all other admission applications and will be included in the admissions allocation process

## **Additional Information**

### **Looked after children**

These are defined as children who are looked after by a local authority, i.e. in their care or provided with accommodation by the authority for a continuous period of more than 24 hours. Children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were

adopted or subject to a residence or special guardianship order. A copy of the relevant court order will be required.

### **Medical, physical, psychological or social need**

If your child or a family member has a significant medical, physical, psychological or social need that you would like taken into account when places are allocated, please tick the relevant box on the application form and attach supporting evidence to your form. All evidence must be sent together with the application form. The evidence must be in writing from your doctor or other appropriate professional involved with your child's health, wellbeing or your specific family circumstances. In all cases evidence must show why it is appropriate that your child attends your preferred school and why other schools in the city are inappropriate.

All applications received under this category are considered by a multi-disciplinary team of the local authority. Failure to attach supporting evidence will delay the progress of your application and result in it not being considered under this criterion. It is your responsibility to provide the necessary evidence to support your application. All information given will be treated confidentially. If you are in any doubt about whether or not to include details, please contact the Admissions Team for further advice.

### **Catchment Areas**

A catchment area is a geographical area defined by the council. The idea of having a catchment area is to give some priority for the admission of children living in the local area of the school. Please note: living in the catchment area does not guarantee a place at the school. Your catchment area is determined by your home address (the child's permanent residence). Trafalgar School, Portsmouth Academy for Girls, St Edmunds Catholic Schools do not have catchment areas. Further details of the individual school's catchment area will be provided in 'Admission to primary and secondary schools- Information for parents' and on the council's website or by contacting the Admissions Service.

### **Sibling links**

A sibling link is defined as a child's brother or sister (living in the same household) already on roll and attending the school you have applied to or at an adjacent infant/junior school and who will still be attending the school the following academic year. This category includes step-brothers/step-sisters; adoptive brothers/sisters living in the same household or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household. This does not include siblings who live in a different household. If you have twins, triplets or more children in the same household who are due to transfer into the same year group, please be aware that should the admission limit of a school be reached by admitting one child, your other child(ren) will be offered a place at the same school. Please note: a sibling link at the school does not guarantee admission to the school.

### **Feeder primary/junior schools for Springfield**

- Court Lane Junior
- Highbury Primary
- Solent Junior

For the feeder schools for other secondary schools please see the "Information for Parents Booklet" on the Portsmouth City Council website [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

### **Distance measurement**

Where it is necessary to prioritise applications the criterion will be prioritised based on the shortest distance from the child's home to school, measured in a straight line 'as the crow flies'. Distances will be measured using the council's Geographical Information System (GIS) department. The Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) unique property reference co-ordinates will be used to represent the school, whilst home co-ordinates will be primarily derived from the LLPG, with Ordnance Survey's ADDRESS-POINT® product used as support. Only distances measured by GIS will be taken into account for the purposes of the distance criterion. Should there be two or more identical distances, the prioritisation will be done by casting lots. The Admissions Team will arrange for this to be carried out by the LA's Democratic Services who are independent of the school and the admissions process.

### **Fair Access Protocol**

The Local Authority operates a Fair Access Protocol which prioritises admissions for certain categories of secondary school age children. This protocol relates to admission applications throughout the year but does not apply to children applying in the normal admissions round.

The protocol takes priority above the school's admission policy for those on a waiting list and the LA may require the school to admit above their published admission number.

### **Appeals**

If a parent is unsuccessful with any of their preferences they will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel and will be provided with the relevant documentation and advice by the LA's Admissions Team.

### **Waiting lists**

All parents who have been refused a place at the school will have the option to indicate their wish to remain on the waiting list – via a tick box on the allocation response form online or on a paper reply slip.

Children will be held on the waiting list by order of the criteria in the Admissions Policy. No account can be taken of the length of time a pupil is on the list. A pupil's position can change on the list as new applicants join or other applicants come off the waiting list.

Children will remain on a waiting list only until the end of the academic year August 2018, if parents/carers want their children to be on the waiting list for the following academic year, they must reapply.