

Somerset Local Authority Primary Oversubscription Criteria for 2020/21

Starting school at a primary, first, infant, junior or middle school in September 2020

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. Children Looked After– Children who are in the care of a Local Authority or have previously been and are now formally adopted or subject to a residence/child arrangement order or special guardianship order.
(See important note 1)
2. Children identified with a sensory, physical or medical disability (High Needs Pupils), where a multi-agency professional team has identified the school as the nearest suitable school. (See important note 2)
3. Children living in the catchment area, with a sibling at the school at the time of admission, and who live at the same address.
4. a) Children living in the rural catchment area. (See important note 3)
.. b) Children living in the catchment area.
5. Children living outside the catchment area, with a sibling at the school at the time of admission, and who live at the same address
6. Children registered in an Infant, First or Middle school (within the transfer school catchment area).
7. For Infant school admissions only; Children living outside the catchment area, with an older sibling at the linked junior school at the time of admission, and who live at the same address.
8. In VC schools with a religious foundation:
 - a) Children and/or parent(s) who are practising members of the founding religious body of the school (eg, Anglican or Methodist).
 - b) Children and/or parent(s) who are practising members of other churches or religious denominations. (see important note 4).
9. a) Children of staff employed by the school for at least two

years prior to the application closing date.

- b) Children of staff employed by the school recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. (See important note 6)

10. Children not satisfying a higher criterion

Tie-break

If in categories 1-10 above a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission. Distance is measured in a straight line by a Geographical information System (GIS) method from the geocoded point of the school site to the geocoded point of the pupil's home.

Random allocation by drawing lots supervised by someone independent of the school will be used as a tie-break in categories 1-10 above to decide who has highest priority for admission if in two or more cases the children's homes are equidistant from the school.

However, if children of multiple births (twins and triplets) are tied for the final place, those siblings will be admitted over PAN

Important Notes

1. 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 the definition in Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989).
2. Criterion 2 enables schools to plan with SEN Officers for the school entry of children with physical, medical or sensory impairments. This includes children that are in receipt of Early Years School Action Plus funding at level 3 and / or where significant capital works (e.g., accessible toilets, changing space, access to classrooms) are required.
3. 'Rural catchment' is defined as living in the catchment area of a school and there is no alternative school within the statutory walking distance of the home address (2 miles for a child aged under eight years old and 3 miles for a child aged eight years old and over)
4. "Practising" is defined as at least once a month for at least six months prior to the application closing date attendance at church by at least one parent and/or child. In order for applications to be considered against criterion 8 applicants will need to use the appropriate Supplementary Application Form

(SIF) to demonstrate their ability to meet the particular criterion. The SIF will need to be completed and signed by a member of the clergy and submitted along with the school place application.

5. Criterion 9 - The Head Teacher or Governing Body of the relevant school will be asked to verify point b.

6. Criterion 4, 8 and 9 – Children considered under sub-criteria a) will have a priority over children considered under sub-criteria b).