



## **Admissions Policy**

Jarrow Cross Church of England Primary School values highly its Christian ethos, its close links with local churches and the Diocese. We provide a distinctively Christian, yet inclusive, environment in which each child is motivated to acquire skills for life and a love of learning. As a church school, we welcome applications from Christian families, and those of other faiths or none. We ask all parents applying for a place at our school to respect this ethos and its importance to the whole school community.

The Governing Body of Jarrow Cross Primary School applies the regulations of admissions fairly to all those attend our school. As a controlled school we follow local authority guidelines which states in determining admissions that priority will be given to those parental applications where the application is given by the published deadline date. Also that as for all Voluntary Controlled Schools South Tyneside operates an equal preference system for processing parental preferences.

Where the Local Authority receive more applications than places available at Jarrow Cross, the following admission criteria are used. In accordance with the Education Act (1996), children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan are required to be admitted to the school named in the Statement. Thereafter, the following oversubscription criteria will apply.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

- (a) A 'Looked After Child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. See Note 1 below.
- (b) Parental home residence within the defined catchment area of the school.
- (c) Concurrent sibling link (an older brother or sister attending the school at the same time and residing at the same address, to include adoptive siblings, half siblings, step siblings and long term fostered children).
- (d) Shortest distance measured as a straight line, from the Ordnance Survey coordinates for the parental home residence (including flats) to the school main entrance, using South Tyneside Council's Geographic Information System (GIS), with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority.

Note 1: 'Looked After Child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a LA, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a LA in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

An adoption order is an order made under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'child arrangement order' is an order made outlining arrangements as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989.

'Special guardianship order' is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians (Section 14A of the Children Act 1989)

If it becomes necessary to decide between applicants within the same criterion, the distance tiebreaker described above will be used.

### **Closing date**

In determining admissions, priority will be given to those applications where the parental application is received by the published deadline date of 4.30pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (National Closing Date).

### **Late Applications**

If you return your application after the closing date your application will be classed as Late unless exceptional circumstances exist. The Local Authority will consider your reasons and if they are exceptional consider your application along with those received on time. Examples of what may be considered as exceptional circumstances are a family who have just moved into the area (proof of ownership or tenancy agreement will be required). If your reasons are not exceptional then your application will not be processed until after Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (National Offer Day). You should be aware that this will reduce your chance at gaining a place at the school you want.

### **Offer Date**

Parents will be notified on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (National Offer Day) which school their child has been offered. If parents have applied online, notification will be sent via e-mail otherwise it will be by letter by second class post.

### **Equal Preference System**

The Local Authority operates an equal preference system for processing applications. This means at the first stage there will be no distinction between first, second or third preference applications. Therefore all applications will be considered equally against the admission criteria. If a pupil qualifies for a place at more than one school the parents' highest ranked preference will be offered and any lower ranking offers will be disregarded.

### **Waiting list**

If you have been refused your preferred school(s), you will have the opportunity to place your child's name on a waiting list(s). You may wish to place your child's name on a waiting list for more than one school. Children are placed on the waiting list according to the oversubscription criteria regardless of when their application was received and within each criterion their place is ordered by shortest distance to the school measured a straight line, from the Ordnance Survey parental home residence

point (including flats) to the school main entrance, using South Tyneside Council's Geographic Information System (GIS), with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority. If pupil numbers fall below the published admission number the place will be offered to the child at the top of the waiting list. This means a child who is on the waiting list will move down the list if another late application is received that falls within a higher priority under the oversubscription criteria. Waiting lists for schools will be kept open until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

## **Explanation of Oversubscription Criteria**

### **A 'Looked After Child'**

We give a 'Looked after Child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order priority in our oversubscription criteria. This means that when a place becomes available in the school year it can be offered to these children to ensure that they are quickly placed in an appropriate school. This is necessary as it is recognised that such children are a disadvantaged group who, because of frequent changes of school following their care placements, may have lower than average levels of attainment. It is also a statutory requirement that Admission Authorities give top priority to these children in their oversubscription criteria.

### **Catchment Areas**

All Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in South Tyneside have a defined geographic area called a catchment area. Do not assume that you live within a particular school's catchment area as some streets are split please check. To find out which catchment area you live in contact the School Admissions Team on telephone number 0191 424 7767 or 424 7705.

### **Parental Home Residence**

A pupil's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence, and is either:

- Owned by the child's parent(s) or the person with parental responsibility for the child; or
- Leased to or rented by the child's parent(s) or the person with parental responsibility under a lease or written rental agreement of not less than six months duration.

Evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required, plus proof of permanent residence at the property concerned.

### **Shared Parental Responsibility**

Where two adults have shared responsibility for a child, they should agree before submitting the application which schools to name as their preferred schools and the order of preferences. In cases of dispute, or when two applications are submitted, the LA will process the application received from the adult with whom the child is living the majority of the week. If parents fail to agree on preferred schools, and two applications are received for the same child from both parents, then the LA may

decide to put a hold on both applications reducing the chances of that child gaining a place at a school.

### **Sibling Link**

If your child has a brother or sister residing at the same address (including adoptive siblings, half siblings, step siblings, long term fostered children) attending your preferred school in September 2021, we will consider this as a sibling link. However, no guarantee is given that siblings can transfer to the same school where the school is oversubscribed.

### **Distance from Parental Home Address**

We will measure from the parental home address to the main school entrance, measured by straight line distance. The distance will be measured as a straight line, from the Ordnance Survey parental home residence point (including flats) to the school main entrance, using South Tyneside Council's Geographic Information System (GIS), with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority.

### **Tiebreaker' - Distance Measurement**

Where there are not enough places to admit all the children falling within a particular criterion a distance measurement will also be used as a tiebreaker using the Local Authority's Geographic Information System (GIS). We will measure in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey parental home residence point (including flats) to the school main entrance, using South Tyneside Council's Geographic Information System (GIS), with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority.

### **Presented to Governors October 2021**

**Reviewed: Annually**