

Determined Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Essex for 2019/2020

Individual policies and oversubscription criteria are set out in this document in district order. The following information applies:

Looked after Children

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order will be given first priority in oversubscription criteria ahead of all other applicants in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014. 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 (as defined in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Children with statements of special educational needs

Children with statements of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that name a school in the statement/EHCP are required to be admitted to that school regardless of their place in the priority order.

Applying for a school place

The application process is in accordance with the co-ordinated scheme for secondary admissions and involves completion of the Common Application Form – either online or by paper. Offers of places will be sent on 1 March 2019.

Closing date for applications

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2018.

Home address

Applications will normally be processed on the basis of the home address for the child at the time of application and determination, unless, where there is a new home address, proof of an exchange of contracts or copy of a tenancy agreement can be provided by 30 November 2018. The home address is considered to be the address at which the child resides on a permanent basis or is 'ordinarily resident'. This is generally the address of the parent/carer. In some cases, children may be 'ordinarily resident' for the majority of the school week, including overnight, with another relative or carer, such as a grandparent. This may also be the case where a child resides between two parents at different addresses following the breakdown of the parental relationship. Where this is the case, the application may be processed on the basis of that address (where the child resides for the majority of the school week) and proof of address and residence arrangement will be required with the application. The child must be living with the parent, relative or carer 24 hours per day, for the majority of the school week. Arrangements where parents can leave and collect children from another relative or carer on a daily basis will be regarded as childcare arrangements, and the child will not be deemed to be 'ordinarily resident' with that person. In all cases we expect that the adult with whom the child is 'ordinarily resident' receives the child benefit for the child (where eligible).

Distance tie-breaker

For admissions purposes the LA uses data provided by Ordnance Survey (OS) to measure straight line distances. The OS data plots the co-ordinates of each individual

property (the home address) which are referred to as address points. The definition of the home address is as described above. Straight line distance is measured from the address point of the home address to address point of the school. Distances are reported in miles to three decimal places. If a child's time is split equally between two residences, the address of the residence at which the child resides for the majority of the school week would be used to measure the distance between the child's school and home. In the unlikely event of two applicants with an identical distance competing for a single place at a school the place will be offered to one applicant on the basis of lots drawn by an officer of the County Council not involved in admissions, with the exception of twins, triplets etc.

Address checking

Where residency is relevant to an application for a school place, the LA will ask a random sample of applicants to provide proof of their home address. This must be a copy of one of the following:

- UK driving licence;
- council tax notification;
- two utility bills dated within the last 6 months (gas, electricity, water or landline phone)

Where there is reasonable doubt as to the validity of a home address, the LA reserves the right to take additional checking measures including, in some cases, unannounced home visits. If a school place is secured through false information regarding a home address, the LA may withdraw the place offered.

Admission of children from overseas

All children of compulsory school age (5 to 16 years) in the UK have a right of access to education. However, where a child is in the UK for a short period only, for example less than half a term, it may be reasonable to refuse admission to a school.

Children who hold full British Citizen passports (not British Dependent Territories or British Overseas passports), have a passport endorsed to show a right of abode in the UK or are European Economic Area nationals normally have unrestricted entry to the UK. An application for a school place will be accepted for such children even though they may not be resident in the UK at the time of application. The application may however be processed on the basis of the overseas address.

If an applicant meeting the above criteria owns a property in Essex but is not living in it, perhaps because they are working abroad at the time of application but they intend to take up residency at the Essex home before the start of the autumn term, the application will be processed using the Essex address. Any offer of a school place will then be conditional upon receipt of evidence of taking up residency at that property in Essex.

Other children from overseas do not generally have automatic right of entry to the UK. An application for a school place will not therefore be accepted until they are resident in the UK. Proof of residency such as an endorsed passport or entry visa will be required with the application.

Siblings

For applications made in the normal admission round a relevant sibling is a child who has a brother, sister, adopted brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the same family household and address who attends the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year. Biological and adopted siblings who attend the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year will also be treated

as siblings irrespective of place of residence. Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings. For mid-year applications a sibling is a child who has a brother, sister, adopted brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the same family household and address as a child who attends or has been offered a place at the preferred school at the time of application and determination and with a reasonable expectation that the sibling will be attending at the time of admission. Biological siblings who attend the preferred school will be treated as siblings irrespective of their place of residence. For 11-18 schools, a sibling link to a child in Yr 11 or Yr 12 at the time of application and determination will be taken to exist where there is a reasonable expectation that the child will be returning to the school for a post 16 course of study.

Priority Admission Areas

There is no guarantee of a place to children living in the priority admission area of a particular school. Details, including maps of priority admission areas are available on request from School Admissions.

Twins, Triplets etc.

For applications made in the normal admission round, if the last child to be offered a place is a twin and their sibling cannot initially be offered, the LA will ensure both twins are offered a place. In the case of triplets or other multiple births, if the majority of children can initially be offered a place, the LA will offer places to the remaining children. For example, if two triplets can be offered a place, the remaining child will also receive an offer of a place. For mid-year applications, where a family moves into an area necessitating a change of school for their twins (or triplets etc) and the majority can be offered a place then a place will be offered for the remaining child(ren). However, where the family does not move but wishes to transfer the children to another local school where there are insufficient places for all of them then a place would not normally be offered for all.

Withdrawal of an offer

If a school place has been secured through the provision of false information or has been offered in error, the offer of the place may be withdrawn.

Waiting lists

School Admissions will hold waiting lists for all oversubscribed schools until 31 December 2019 and continue to allocate places from these lists if spaces become available. Applicants will be ranked on these waiting lists in priority order, according to the school's admission criteria. Each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria. The Local Authority will not maintain waiting lists beyond the end of the first term, however parents will have the opportunity to register their continued interest in a place.

Late Applications

Applications received after the published closing date will be treated as late applications unless there is evidence to show that the application or amendment could not reasonably have been made on time. No application/preference received after 30 November 2018 will be treated as on time. A new on time preference will not be accepted after the closing date unless the circumstances are deemed to be exceptional. No change to the rank order of existing preferences will be accepted after the closing date except for changes of address and no such changes will be permitted after 30 November 2018 until after the first round of offers has been made on 1 March 2019. Late applications will be given a lower priority and will be dealt with after all on time

applications in the first round of offers on 1 March 2019. Where a school is oversubscribed late applications will be refused and ranked according to the admission criteria on any waiting list held for the particular school. All late applications will be considered by the LA to ascertain whether exceptional circumstances for late submission exist. Where that is deemed to be the case the application will be treated as 'on time'. Where a school is oversubscribed late applications received after the first round of offers on 1 March 2019 will be refused and ranked according to the admission criteria on any waiting list held for the particular school.

Any new applications or change requests received after 30 November 2018 will be held and not considered until after the first round of offers on 1 March 2019.

Changing secondary schools

The opportunity to transfer depends on places being available at the preferred school. If approved, a place is usually made available at the start of the following term. If no places are available the application will be refused and the right of appeal will be advised. An application form for return directly to the preferred school(s) will be provided if requested. Applications for transfer will not normally be dealt with until the half term prior to the requested admission date. In cases where a child moves into a district area (proof of address required) and, as a result of the move the child would be without a school place, the application will be dealt with immediately. A child should not be withdrawn from the current school until a place has been secured elsewhere. A school may admit a child over the admission number and outside the admission criteria during the year, where they have been excluded from another school or are being placed as a move supported by all agencies.

Admission Outside of the 'Normal Age Group'

Parents may seek a place at a school outside of a child's normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Any such request must be made in writing with an application setting out clearly the reasons, with any supporting evidence from relevant professionals such as teachers or doctors. Each such case will be considered by LA officers on an individual basis. The views of the Headteacher of the school(s) at which the place is requested will be sought. There is no guarantee that a request for a place outside of a child's normal age group will be agreed.

Applications made after the start of the autumn term

On receipt of an application after the start of the autumn term the school will consider the application. If there are spaces in the year group an offer will generally be made or, if not, a refusal will be sent and the right of appeal given if it was a first application for the year group. Unless there is a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school a second application for the same school received in the same academic year will not ordinarily be determined and no second right of appeal will be given. When there are more applications, received on the same day, than the number of places available, the school's admission criteria will be used to determine any offers that can be made. There is a process in place that considers parents continued interest in a place at an oversubscribed school. Details of the process will be available to parents who have applied and been refused a place after the start of the autumn term.

Sixth Form applications

Schools should be contacted direct for details of the sixth form application process.

Appeals against admission decisions

Parents have the right to appeal against admissions decisions to an Independent Appeal Panel. Information about how to appeal against a refusal of a school place will be sent with the offer/refusal letter. Notice of appeal should be sent to the Clerk to the Independent Appeal Panel, PO Box 11, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX.

Admission policies and oversubscription criteria

Roding Valley High School

Alderton Hill, Loughton IG10 3JA

Telephone (0208) 508 1173

Email: office@roding-sec.essex.sch.uk

Comprehensive Community

Specialist Performing Arts College

11 - 16

DfE Number: 881-4499

Published admission number Sept 2019: **270**

Admissions Policy

There is no guarantee of a place for children living in the priority admissions area. In the event of oversubscription, remaining places will be allocated using the following criteria in the order given:

1. Looked After Children and previously looked after children (as defined above);
2. children living in the priority admission area with a sibling attending the school;
3. other children living in the priority admission area;
4. children living in the priority admissions areas of Buckhurst Hill Community Primary, Chigwell Primary and Limes Farm Junior Schools with a sibling attending the school;
5. other children living in the priority admissions areas of Buckhurst Hill Community Primary, Chigwell Primary and Limes Farm Junior Schools;
6. children living outside the priority admission area with a sibling attending the school;
7. remaining applications.

In the event of oversubscription within either of the above criteria, priority will be determined by straight line distance from home to school, those living closest being given highest priority.