

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
THE CO-ORDINATED SCHEMES FOR ENTRY TO JUNIOR SCHOOLS

SCHOOL YEAR 2021-22

1. INTRODUCTION

This scheme details proposals for the co-ordinated admission arrangements for junior schools in Southampton. The proposed scheme is in accordance with the School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008 as amended by The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 and the School Admissions Code (2014).

2. BACKGROUND

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002, the School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008 as amended by The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 set a duty on Local Authorities (LAs) to formulate a scheme covering every maintained school in their area, to co-ordinate the admissions process for primary intakes.

The LA must then consult all other admission authorities in the area who it proposes should adopt the scheme.

3. THE SCHEME

The purpose of the co-ordinated admission scheme is to establish mechanisms for ensuring that every parent of a child living in the LA area who has applied for a school place in the 'normal admissions round' receives an offer of one, and only one, school place on the same day. Schemes should also address how late applications will be handled. Co-ordinated schemes are an administrative process to make school admissions easier, more transparent and less stressful for parents.

Parents must apply for places in different LAs via their home local authority. This means that parents resident in Southampton applying for junior schools in Hampshire, for example, must apply through the Southampton City Council Admissions Team.

The co-ordinated scheme has been broken down into the following headings:

- Data capture
- Application process
- Closing date
- Processing of applications
- Late applications
- Decision letters

4. DATA CAPTURE

In July 2020 Year 1 pupils' data will be downloaded, by the Admissions Team, from the school databases and the Year 3 transfer group created. The LA will download details of SCC resident children attending infant schools in Hampshire from HCC.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

- A letter giving advice to parents for children in the transfer group, about online applications and use of forms, will be sent to parents in late August/early September 2020. The composite prospectus will be available online at the Southampton City Council website from no later than 12 September 2020.
- Registration for online admission application commences 7 September 2020.
- Parents of children living outside the city but wishing to apply for a place at a Southampton junior school must apply through their Home LA.
- Parents who live in the city who wish to apply for a place at a school in another LA area (e.g. Hampshire) must apply for those schools via the Southampton application system.

6. CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications will be 23:59 on 15 January 2021. This date is set in regulations. Online applications will come direct to the Admissions Team.

7. PROCESSING OF ON-TIME APPLICATIONS

The Admissions Team will process first all those applications submitted by the closing date.

Own Admission Authority School applications – the data on any application that mentions an own admission authority school regardless of the ranking of the school on the form will be sent to the own admission authority school no later than 5pm 22 February 2021.

Community/VC School applications - applications will be imported in to the ONE database in order that initial allocations can be made on an equal preference basis.

By 5pm Friday 12 March 2021, own admission authority schools will advise the Admissions Team of the rank order against their criteria of all the applications referred to them.

In the event that more than one place can be offered, e.g. at a VA school and a Community/VC school or at two Community/VC schools, the place that will be offered will be the one that is highest preference in the application.

For example, if the Community/VC school is 1st preference and the VA school is 2nd preference but both schools can offer a place, the place will be offered at the Community/VC school. However, if the VA school is the higher preference then the place will be offered at this school. In the case of two Community/VC places being available for offer, the offer will be made for the higher preference school. The Admissions Team will advise the VA schools of any children who are offered places at higher preference schools.

8. LATE APPLICATIONS

Any application received after the closing date will be treated as a late application. These will not be processed until after the on-time applications. They will be processed in the same way as the on-time applications as detailed in paragraph 7 above.

9. UNPLACED CHILDREN

Any child who remains unplaced after their application has been processed, either because they failed to get into any school requested or did not make an application, will be offered a place at their linked junior school, if places are still available. If there are no places available at their linked junior school, they will be offered a place at the junior school with places available nearest to their home address that is prepared to offer a place. Distance from home to school will be measured in accordance with the published arrangements for each school.

10. OUTCOME OF APPLICATIONS

The outcome of applications will notified to parents on 16 April 2021. Email notifications will be sent to those parents who applied online unless the applicants has requested a written letter. Parents who did not receive an offer of their first preference school will be notified in a formal letter accompanied by a reply slip that parents must complete to accept any place offered to them. Parents will be offered the right of appeal against a refusal of a place as laid down in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002, and supporting regulations.

11. DATA TO SCHOOLS

Data will be provided to schools on a regular basis from 16 April 2021 through to the end of July 2021. The Admissions Team will work closely with schools to ensure that they have as much data on potential numbers of year 3 starters as soon as possible. On 16 April 2021, schools will receive student data electronically showing who has been offered places at their schools. From June 2021 onwards, junior schools will receive transfer files from the infant schools their children are coming from.

12. APPLICATIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Applications for places in Year 3 at a primary school for September 2021 will not be included in this process. Parents who want such a place must make a normal in-year transfer at the appropriate time. This is normally in June/July.

13. SUMMARY

This proposed scheme encompasses all the elements of the co-ordinated admissions scheme outlined in the regulations. A timetable showing how the process would work for the September 2021 intake is attached at the annexe.

Annexe

CO-ORDINATED JUNIOR SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS SCHEME

TIMETABLE 2021-22

DATE	ACTIVITY
July 2020	Admissions Team downloads details of Year 1 pupils in city infant schools and receives data from HCC of Southampton children in HCC infant schools.
Early September 2020	Letters outlining application procedure sent to all parents in the transfer group.
7 September 2020	Online application window opens.
15 January 2021	Closing date for applications.
22 February 2021	Admissions Team sends details of all on time applications to other LAs if necessary.
22 February 2021	Admissions Team sends details of all relevant applications to own admission authority schools in Southampton.
12 March 2021	Own admission authority schools return ranked applications details to the Admissions Team.
16 April 2021	Parents advised by email and/or letter from the Admissions Team of the outcome of their application.