

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

**SCHOOL YEAR 2015/16**

**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 and the School Admissions Code (2012).

**2. BACKGROUND**

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002, and the School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008 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.

Once a LA has formulated a scheme for its area it must pass the scheme for review to the Admission Forum. 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 now apply for places in different LAs via their home local authority. This means that parents resident in Southampton applying for junior schools in, say, Hampshire must apply through the Southampton City Council Admissions Team.

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

- Data capture
- Brochures and application process
- Closing date
- Processing of applications
- Late applications
- Decision letters

#### **4. DATA CAPTURE**

In June 2014 Year 1 pupils' data will be downloaded, by the Admissions Team, from the school databases and the Year 3 transfer group created.

#### **5. BROCHURES AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

- Details of the process for junior transfer will be issued direct by post to the parents of Year 2 pupils early in September 2014.
- Registration for online admission application commences 8 September 2014.
- 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 15 January 2015.. 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. Applications will be input onto the ONE database in order that initial allocations can be made. In the event that two places can be offered, e.g. at two Community/VC schools, the place that will be offered will be the one that is the higher preference on the application form.

## **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 complete a form, will be offered a place at their catchment school, if places are still available. If there are no places available at their catchment school, they will be offered a place at the school with places available nearest to their home address. Distance to the home address will be measured by public roads and footpaths. Distances are calculated using a computerised GIS system that uses data supplied by Ordnance Survey. Addresses are identified and positioned using the LLPG database or the Post Office Address database

## **10. DECISION LETTERS**

the outcome of applications will notified to parents on 16 April 2015. Email notifications will also be sent to those parents who applied online. Parents who did not receive an offer of their first preference school will also 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 April 2015 through to July 2015. Although the Admissions Team will already know the names of 1<sup>st</sup> preference applicants it cannot be assumed that these are the children who will be offered places after the oversubscription criteria have been applied. It is possible that an applicant who has named the school as 1<sup>st</sup> preference may have lower priority under the oversubscription criteria than children who have expressed a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> preference for a school. 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 2015, schools will receive student data electronically showing who has been allocated places at their schools. From June 2015 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 2015 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 2015 intake is attached at the annexe.

## CO-ORDINATED JUNIOR SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS SCHEME

## TIMETABLE 2015/16

DATE	ACTIVITY
June 2014	Admissions Team downloads details of Year 1 pupils in city infant schools and receives data Frm HCC of Southampton children in HCC infant schools
Early September 2014	Letters outlining application procedure sent to all parents in the transfer group.
8 September 2014	Online application window opens.
15 January 2015	Closing date for applications
27 February 2015	Admissions Team sends details of all relevant applications to own admission authority schools in Southampton
20 March 2015	Own admission authority schools return ranked applications details to the Admissions Team
16 April 2015	Parents advised by letter and email from the Admissions Team of the result of their application