

Admission rules for Halton Community Combined School

Once places have been allocated to children with an Education Health and Care Plan, the remaining places will be allocated in the following order:

Rule 1 - Looked after children (*see Note 1*) and previously looked after children

Rule 2 - Children who have exceptional medical or social needs, which can only be met at Halton Community Combined School, supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional. (*See Note 3*)

Rule 3 - Children of staff where either:

- i. The member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, *and/or*
- ii. The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage (*see Note 4*)

Rule 4 - Children resident in catchment area A (**sole catchment area**) with a sibling at the school.

For the main point of entry: Siblings of children who are attending the school in Year R to Year 5 at the time the allocations are made (March 2025), and are expected to be on the school roll at the time of the proposed admission, or who have already been offered a place to start in the current academic year at the school.

For immediate in-year admission after the normal point of entry: Siblings of children who are in Year R to Year 6 at the time of admission to the school.

Rule 5 - Children resident in catchment area B (**shared catchment area**) with a sibling at the school.

For the main point of entry: Siblings of children who are attending the school in Year R to Year 5 at the time the allocations are made (March 2019), and are expected to be on the school roll at the time of the proposed admission, or who have already been offered a place to start in the current academic year at the school or a 'linked primary' school.

For immediate in year admission after the normal point of entry: Siblings of children who are in Year R to Year 6 at the time of admission to the school.

Rule 6 - Children resident in catchment area A

Rule 7 - Children resident in catchment B

Rule 8 - For immediate in year admission after the normal point of entry: Siblings of children who are in Year R to Year 6 at the time of admission to the school

Rule 9 - Once the above rules have been applied, then any further places will be offered in distance order, using the distance between the family's Normal Home Address and the school's nearest entrance gate, offering the closest first. We use straight line distance.

Rule 10 - Where a school can take some, but not all, of the children who qualify under one of these rules, we will give priority to children by taking account of the next rule (or rules) in the numbered list to decide who has priority for places.

For example, places are offered to catchment siblings before children living in the catchment area without siblings. In each case, distance is used to prioritise which children should be offered places.

Rule 11 - If it is still not possible to decide between two applicants who are equidistant then an independently scrutinised random allocation will be made to allocate the final place.

Explanation of terms used in the admission rules

Note 1: Definition of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

For admissions purposes a 'looked after child' is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989). This covers accommodated children and those who are in care under a Care Order/interim order. This can include: living with family or friends, in foster care, a children's home, residential school, special school or in supported lodgings.

This rule includes children who were previously looked after and immediately after being looked after became the subject of an adoption, child arrangement order or special guardianship order as set out below. Child arrangements order: is an order setting the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under the Children and Families Act 2014

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

Note 2: Definition of State Care outside of England

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Note 3: Exceptional Social and Medical process

A panel comprising education professionals will consider the applications under this rule on receipt of written information from the parent indicating their reasons for the child attending a particular school. When making an application parents should send evidence from an independent professional person (this might be a doctor, health visitor, or Education Welfare Officer, for example) who knows about the child and supports the application to the school. It must clearly show why the school is the most suitable and any difficulties if alternate schools were offered.

The panel will consider which children can be considered under this rule prior to each admission round.

Note 4: Definition of school staff

'School staff' includes

- i. teaching staff on a permanent or fixed term contract exceeding 24 months in duration, and
- ii. all other staff on permanent or fixed term contracts exceeding 24 months in duration for posts of in excess of 15 hours per week.

'Demonstrable skill shortage' is a post which the school has had difficulty in filling. An example might be where the school has taken part in a recruitment drive to fill the post either across the country or worldwide and/or where the post was not filled at the first attempt.