

## **Criterion 1 – Looked After Children**

Priority will be given to looked after children and previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order) **immediately** following having been looked after.

A child in public care (looked after child) means a person under the age of 18 years who is provided by social services with accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 20 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act. Children who are looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements (such as respite) are excluded. All applications under this criterion must be supported by a letter from the relevant Local Authority.

## **Criterion 2 – Siblings**

Children with a brother or sister who already attends the school, and who will not have left the school at the time of admission. As a result siblings in the nursery or year 6 of a primary school, or year 11 at a secondary school will not be regarded as a sibling under this criterion. A sibling is defined as a full/half/step brother or sister (who are living at the same address in all instances) or a child who is living as part of the family by reason of a court order, or a child who has been placed with foster carers at that address as a result of being looked after by the Local Authority. However, children who are looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements (such as respite) will not be regarded as siblings under this criterion.

## **Criterion 3 – Children with Exceptional Medical or Social Needs**

Children with a professionally supported medical or social need, whose application identifies a particular school that is especially able to meet that need. This criterion will also take into account where a parent/carer has a physical, mental or social need that is significant and demonstrable for their child to attend a specific school. This does not include childcare arrangements. The decision to prioritise on these grounds will be determined via MEDSOC panel, which is comprised of the council's senior management as well as senior school staff when necessary. Documents from an appropriate professional (e.g. GP, consultant or social worker letter or report, not including general information from a website) must support these applications. However, any supporting evidence does not automatically mean that children

will gain priority in this criterion as the decision to prioritise under this criterion will solely rest with the MEDSOC panel.

#### **Criterion 4 - Children of staff at the school**

Applications for children of staff at the school. A member of staff for the purposes of this criterion must be employed by the said school as a teaching assistant or qualified teacher for a minimum of 0.6fte (16.5 hours teaching staff) and this employment must have been for at least 3 years at the time of submitting the application.

1. All such applications must be submitted to the LA and must be accompanied with the relevant paperwork supporting an application on these grounds. The applicant must take sole responsibility to provide such paperwork. Without the provision of the relevant papers which identify all the above, priority will not be given.
2. There will be a maximum priority limit of 1 child per form of entry per year group for primary schools/phase (reception to year 6) (ie up to 7 children in total in a one form entry school); a maximum priority limit of 4 children per year group for secondary schools/phase (years 7 to 11).

#### **Criterion 5 – Distance**

Priority will be given on the basis of distance between the child's current home address and the school, measured by a straight-line. This measurement will be done using a computerised mapping system.\*\*

This home to school distance measurement will be undertaken using a point from the child's home address as identified by the software (which uses the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG)) to a central point in the school's grounds as profiled in the software. The child's home address will be the child's permanent place of residency and must not be a business address, or the address of a relative or carer, unless they have legal custody of the child. Applications must only be made from a single address.

*If parents/carers are separated and share custody of the child, the address given should be that of the parent/carer with whom the child spends most of the school week nights (Sunday to Thursday nights), which will normally be the address where child benefit is payable or where the child is registered with a GP. If the parent/carer making the application lives at a different address to the child, a letter of explanation should be attached. It is not acceptable for a family to use a temporarily rented address to secure a place of their preference. In disputed cases, Lambeth School Admissions will make a judgement based on the evidence available to them.*

Applications or offers under this criteria will only be valid once proof of address has been given and confirmed.

As a tiebreaker for all criteria, priority will be given to children living closest to the preferred school (measured by a straight-line) in accordance with the measuring information in criterion 5. However, in the case where children have exactly the same distance between their home and the school, Lambeth LA will randomly allocate places as a tiebreaker.