

## Admissions Policy

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### Summary

Woodham Academy is committed to ensuring that all students are able to achieve their potential and beyond, within an ethos of unconditional mutual respect as reflected in our school mission “Achievement for All”. All maintained schools and academies in County Durham have agreed their admission arrangements from September 2015.

You can see the arrangements for community and voluntary-controlled schools below.

Please note that foundation schools, and academies (non-faith) have the same criteria, as appropriate.

Woodham Academy has adopted the Durham County Council’s Admission Policy: -

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

**Date adopted:** November 2012

**Review date:** Annually

**Last Reviewed:** January 2020

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### 2020/21 OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS

When there are more requests for places than those available, the following criteria will be used to allocate places strictly in order of priority:

- 1. Children who are ‘looked after’ or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence/child arrangement, or special guardianship order\*.** A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (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 (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
- 2. Children who appear to the Admissions Authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted**  
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.
- 3. Medical Reasons**  
Children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement
- 4. Sibling Links**  
Children who have a sibling\*\* already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.
- 5. Applicants to their nearest School**  
Those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address measured by the shortest walking route\*\*\*
- 6. All other applicants**

## Tie-breaker

Where the school is oversubscribed within any of the above categories the following tiebreakers will be applied:

- (a) For those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address (category 4), priority will be given to those who would otherwise have to travel the furthest distance to the next nearest school<sup>1</sup>
- (b) For other children (category 5), priority will be given to those children who live nearest to the school applied for. Otherwise if only one final place can be offered and two applicants live equidistant from the school, the LA's system of random allocation will apply.

In the unlikely event of the school being oversubscribed within categories 1, 2 or 3 tiebreaker (b) will apply.

*Footnote<sup>1</sup>: 'School' means any maintained secondary school or a DFE maintained Academy in County Durham. Distance will be measured by the shortest walking route. Those parents who live in County Durham and have children in year 6 in primary schools maintained by Durham County Council will be provided with information for them to find out which school is nearest to their home address according to the official measuring system. The same information will be provided for any other applicant on request.*

\* An adoption order is an order under section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976 or section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

\*\* Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, step brothers or sisters and children of the parent/carer's partner. Some schools give priority to siblings of pupils attending another community and voluntary controlled school with which they have close links (for example, schools on the same site). Where this is the case, details will be published in the Local Authority's Admissions Brochure.

\*\*\* In assessing home to school distance the LA uses a Geographic Information System (GIS) to identify and measure the shortest route utilising only the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network (ITN) and Urban Paths Network (UPN) which are national recognised datasets. The LA will not include any other routes or any other method of measurement. Routes are measured from the centre point\*\*\*\* of the child's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point\*\*\*\* of the building, to the nearest school site entrance. In all cases the GIS identifies the route to be measured by connecting in a straight line the centre point\*\*\*\* of the child's house to the closest point on the nearest route on the ITN/UPN.

\*\*\*\* In accordance with the co-ordinates of the Basic Land and Property Unit on the National Land and Property Gazetteer.

In the event of oversubscription, the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will be responsible for the delivery of any appeals on behalf of Woodham Academy.