



Variation to admissions policy from September 2021

Applies to all secondary schools in the Vale Academy Trust

The Government's new [school admissions code](#) came into force on 1st September 2021. As a consequence, we have made a small number of changes to our admissions policy in order to ensure continued full compliance with admissions regulations.

There is no impact on existing pupils or any child already offered a place.

The changes are to our 'over-subscription criteria', which is the set of rules we follow when deciding which children are offered a place when there are more applications received than places available at the school.

The changes are effective 1st September 2021, and apply to in-year admissions for the 2021/2022 academic year, and all admissions for the 2022/2023 academic year.

The new over-subscription criteria is set out below in *italics* – items that are changes from the previous criteria are highlighted in yellow.

Please note, all other elements of admissions policy remain as shown in the school's admissions policy 2022/2023, which can be found on the school website.

The over-subscription criteria below will be followed in descending order of priority.

- 1. Children who are "looked after" by a Local Authority within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time of their application, and "previously looked after" children. The term "previously looked after" refers only to children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).*

In addition and of equal priority, children who were previously in state care outside England but have been adopted and are no longer in state care. Evidence of the previously looked after status and/or the adoption will be requested. Where such evidence is not available, the School Admissions Team will consult with us and together we will make a pragmatic decision based on the information available.

- 2. Children who have exceptional medical or social needs that make it essential*

that they attend our school rather than any other. Supporting written evidence from an appropriate professional will be required.

- 3. Children who attend one of the schools in the list below and live in our designated (catchment) area and have a brother or sister on roll at our school at the time of application who will still be attending at the time of entry. Details of our designated (catchment) area can be found on the OCC record for our school.*

(Refer to the school's admissions policy 2022/2023 for the list of schools)

- 4. Children who live in our designated (catchment) area and have a brother or sister on roll at our school at the time of application who will still be attending at the time of entry.*
- 5. Children who attend one of the schools shown under criterion 3 above and live in our designated (catchment) area.*

6. Children of members of staff, in either or both of the following circumstances:

- where 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*
- the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.*

- 7. Children who live in our designated (catchment) area.*
- 8. Children who live outside our designated (catchment) area but attend one of the schools shown under criterion 3 above and have a brother or sister on roll at our school at the time of application who will still be attending at the time of entry.*
- 9. Children who live outside our designated (catchment) area but have a brother or sister on roll at our school at the time of application who will still be attending at the time of entry.*
- 10. All other children.*

For criteria 3-10, priority will be given to children who are eligible for Service Pupil Premium or Pupil Premium, and then to children who live closest to the school, as calculated by the OCC School Admissions Team using the straight line distance method.

If you have any queries about admissions policy, please contact the school office.

Admissions Team