



Ullswater Community College

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2020–2021

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1. Aims

This policy:

- Explains how to apply for a place at the school
- Sets out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply
- Explains how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place

2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- School Admissions Code
- School Admission Appeals Code

The school is required to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

3. How to apply

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by the local authority. You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of three state-funded schools, in rank order.

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from the local authority.

4. Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

- Parents' views
- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- Where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- The headteacher's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria listed in section 5.2. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

5. Allocation of places

5.1 Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of 240 pupils for entry in Year 7.

5.2 Oversubscription criteria

All children whose statement of special educational needs (SEN) or education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated.

If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be offered a place.

Where there are more applications than places available, entry to all year groups will be prioritised using the criteria below. They will be applied in conjunction with explanatory notes 1 to 3 which form part of the policy.

1. Children looked after and children who were previously looked after – see note 1 below
2. Children living in the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school at the time of admission – see note 2 below
3. Other children living in the catchment area giving priority to those living closest to the school, measured by the shortest walking route by road - see note 3 below.
4. Children living outside the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school
5. Children living outside the catchment area, giving priority to those who live closest to the school, measured by the shortest walking route by road - see note 3 below.

Applications will be prioritised on the above basis. An exception will be made under the Authority's policy for the education of children with special needs (i) where a child holds an Education, Health and Care Plan, or (ii) is currently undergoing a statutory assessment, and in either case it is considered that attendance at a particular school is necessary to meet the identified needs of that child.

Explanatory Notes

Note 1: A child looked after is a child in public care, who is looked after by a local authority within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. Children previously looked after are children who were looked after, but have ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order)

Note 2: In criteria 2 and 4 priority will be given to those children with the youngest siblings in school. Brothers and sisters are those living at the same address and includes step and foster children. Priority will only be given where it is known at the time of allocating places that a sibling will be attending the school at the time of admission.

Note 3: Distance measurements will be undertaken using the Local Authority's computerised Geographical Information System [GIS]. This measures the route from the centre of the pupil's home to the nearest entrance on the school site which is available to pupils at the time of undertaking the assessment. The route used will be the shortest walking route by road as identified by GIS at that time.

5.3 Tie break

In the case of two or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the school's front gates on Wetheriggs Lane. A child's home address will be considered to be where he/she is resident for the majority of nights in a normal school week.

Where the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them. This process will be independently verified.

6. In-year admissions

You can apply for a place for your child at any time outside the normal admissions round. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose statement of SEN or EHC plan names the school will be admitted.

Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child will always be offered a place.

If there are no spaces available at the time of your application, your child's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 5.2 above. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

Applications for in-year admissions should be sent to the following address: The Deputy Headteacher, Ullswater Community College, Wetheriggs Lane, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8NG; e-mail: admin@ullswatercc.co.uk

7. Waiting list

Following the allocation of places in the Year 7 intake the local authority will, in late March, re-allocate any places that become available as a result of parents not wishing to take up their offer.

After this, the parents of any child who has been refused admission can ask at the school for their name to be placed on the waiting list. Any vacancies which arise will be allocated using the Governing Body's admissions policy shown above and length of time on the waiting list will not be a factor. A waiting list will also be held for other year groups.

8. Appeals

Any parent not offered a place has a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. The panel would be entirely independent of the Governing Body. Any parent wishing to appeal should submit their appeal to the Clerk of the Governing Body and this will be passed on to the Independent Appeal Panel.

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Governing Body every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the governing board will publicly consult on these changes.