

PROPOSED Admission Arrangements 2024/25

**for Surrey County Council's community and
voluntary controlled schools**



Admission arrangements for Surrey County Council's community and voluntary controlled schools 2024/25

This document sets out Surrey County Council's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in 2024/25.

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1. Published Admission Numbers

The Published Admission Numbers for initial entry to Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools in September 2024 are set out in Appendix 1.

2. Coordinated Schemes

Applications will be managed in accordance with Surrey's coordinated schemes on primary and secondary admission. Please see Surrey's coordinated schemes for further details regarding applications, processing, offers, late applications, post-offer and waiting lists.

3. Applications for Reception and Year 3

Applications for Reception and applications for a Year 3 place at schools which have a published admission number for Year 3, must be made by 15 January 2024. Places at Surrey schools will be offered on the basis of the preferences that are shown on the application form. Applicants will be asked to rank up to four Reception or Year 3 preferences and these will be considered under an equal preference system.

4. Applications for a secondary school place

Applications for a Secondary school place must be made by 31 October 2023. Places at Surrey secondary schools will be offered on the basis of the preferences that are shown on the application form. Applicants will be asked to rank up to six preferences and these will be considered under an equal preference system.

5. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Children with an EHCP that names a school will be allocated a place before other children are considered. In this way, the number of places available will be reduced by the number of children with an EHCP that has named the school.

6. Admission arrangements for 2024/25

For the majority of Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools the admission arrangements are set out in section 7 below. Where there are local variations these are set out by area and by school in section 8.

7. Admission criteria for September 2024

Other than for schools listed in section 8, when a community or voluntary controlled school is over-subscribed for any year group, applications for entry in 2024/25 will be ranked in the following order:

First criterion: Looked after and previously looked after children

See section 9 for information relating to looked after and previously looked after children.

Second criterion: Exceptional social/medical need

See section 10 for information relating to exceptional social/medical need. A supplementary information form (Appendix 6) must be completed and returned by the application closing date for all applicants wishing to apply under this criterion.

Third criterion: Children of a member of staff

See section 11 for information relating to children of a member of staff. A supplementary information form (Appendix 7) must be completed and returned by the application closing date for all applicants wishing to apply under this criterion.

Fourth criterion: Children who are expected to have a sibling at the school or at an infant/ junior school which will operate shared sibling priority for admission at the time of the child's admission

See Appendix 2 for infant/junior schools that will operate shared sibling priority for admission for the purpose of this criterion. See section 12 for information relating to siblings.

Fifth criterion: Any other children

Remaining places will be offered on the basis of nearness to the school measured in a straight line from the address point of the child's home address, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest official school gate for pupils to use. See section 13 for information on the definition of home address. See section 14 for information on tie breakers.

8. School specific admission criteria for September 2024

When a school named below is over-subscribed for any year group, applications for entry in 2024/25 will be ranked in criteria order.

In considering local admission arrangements, see sections 9 to 14 for more information on:

- Looked after and previously looked after children
- Exceptional social/medical need
- Children of a member of staff
- Siblings
- Home address
- Tie breakers

a) Epsom & Ewell**Southfield Park Primary School:**

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Siblings
5. **Children living in the defined catchment area of the school (see Appendix 3 for catchment map)**
6. Any other children

Stamford Green Primary School:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Siblings
5. **Children living in the defined catchment area of the school (see Appendix 4 for catchment map)**
6. Any other children

Wallace Fields Junior School:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School on the date of their admission
5. *Children attending Wallace Fields Infant School
6. Any other children

* Criterion 5 will only apply to children who attend Wallace Fields Infant School in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school

If the number of children who qualify under any criterion is greater than the number of places remaining available at the school, any remaining places will be offered to children who meet the criterion on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the nearest official school gate at either Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School, with children living nearest receiving the greater priority.

c) Guildford

Walsh C of E Junior School:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. *Children attending Walsh Memorial C of E (Controlled) Infant School
5. Siblings not admitted under 3 above
6. *Children attending St Paul's CofE Infant School (Tongham)
7. Any other children

* Criteria 4 and 6 will only apply to children who attend Walsh Memorial CofE (Controlled) or St Paul's CofE infant schools (as applicable) in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left these schools

Worplesdon Primary School at 7+:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Siblings
5. *Children attending Wood Street Infant School
6. Any other children

* Criterion 5 will only apply to children who attend Wood Street Infant School in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school

d) Mole Valley

St Martin's C of E Primary School at 7+:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Siblings
5. *Children attending St Michael's CofE (Aided) Infant School
6. Any other children

* Criterion 5 will only apply to children who attend St Michael's CofE (Aided) Infant School in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school

e) Reigate & Banstead

Banstead Community Junior School:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. *Children attending Banstead Infant School
5. Siblings not admitted under 3 above
6. Any other children

* Criterion 4 will only apply to children who attend Banstead Infant School in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school

Earlswood Junior School:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. *Children attending Earlswood Infant School
5. Siblings not admitted under 3 above
6. Any other children

* Criterion 4 will only apply to children who attend Earlswood Infant School in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school

Meath Green Junior:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. *Children attending Meath Green Infant School
5. Siblings not admitted under 3 above
6. Any other children

* Criterion 4 will only apply to children who attend Meath Green Infant school in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school

Reigate Priory School:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Siblings
5. *Children attending Dovers Green or Holmesdale Community Infant schools
6. Any other children

* Criteria 5 will only apply to children who attend Dovers Green or Holmesdale Community infant schools in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left these schools

If the number of children who qualify under any criterion is greater than the number of places remaining available at the school, any remaining places will be offered to children who meet the criterion on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the front door of the Reigate Priory building in Priory Park, Reigate, with children living nearest receiving the greater priority.

Walton on the Hill Primary School:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Siblings
5. Children living in the defined catchment area of the school (see Appendix 5 for catchment map)
6. Any other children

f) Runnymede

St Ann's Heath Junior School:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Siblings
5. *Children attending Trumps Green infant school
6. Any other children

*** Criterion 5 will only apply to children who attend Trumps Green school in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school**

g) Spelthorne

Chennestone Primary Community School at 7+:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Siblings
5. *Children attending Beauclerc Infant School
6. Any other children

* Criterion 5 will only apply to children who attend Beauclerc Infant School in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school

h) Waverley**Shottermill Junior School:**

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. *Children attending Shottermill Infant School
5. Siblings not admitted under 3 above
6. Any other children

* Criterion 4 will only apply to children who attend Shottermill Infant School in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school

William Cobbett Primary School at 7+:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. Siblings
5. *Children attending Badshot Lea Village or Folly Hill infant schools
6. Any other children

* Criterion 5 will only apply to children who attend Badshot Lea Village or Folly Hill infant schools in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left these schools

i) Woking**West Byfleet Junior School:**

1. Looked after and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children of a member of staff
4. *Children attending West Byfleet Infant School
5. Siblings not admitted under 3 above
6. Any other children

* Criterion 4 will only apply to children who attend West Byfleet Infant School in Year 2 and will not be applied once a child has left this school

9. Looked after and previously looked after children

Within the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools, looked after and previously looked after children will receive the top priority for a place.

Looked after and previously looked after children will be considered to be:

- children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and
- children who have previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangements order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989).
- children who appear (to the local 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 will be regarded as

having been in state care 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. The parent/carer will need to provide evidence to demonstrate that the child was in state care outside of England and left that care as a result of being adopted

Places will be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the local authority may also ask schools to admit over their published admission number at other times under this criterion.

10. Exceptional social/medical need

Occasionally there will be a very small number of children for whom exceptional social or medical circumstances apply which will warrant a placement at a particular school. The exceptional social or medical circumstances might relate to either the child or the parent/carer.

A supplementary information form (Appendix 6) must be completed and returned by the application closing date for all applicants wishing to apply under this criterion.

Supporting evidence from a professional is also required such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical cases or a social worker, health professional, housing officer, the police or probation officer for other social circumstances. This evidence must confirm the circumstances of the case and must set out why the child should attend a particular school and why no other school could meet the child's needs.

Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at a particular school and in each case a decision will be made based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at one particular school above any other.

Common medical conditions and allergies can usually be supported in all mainstream schools, therefore priority under a school's exceptional medical criterion would not normally be given for these. Some mainstream schools have units attached which provide specialist provision for children with an education, health and care plan which names the school. The facilities in these units are not normally available to children in the mainstream school and as such priority under a school's exceptional social or medical criterion would not normally be agreed for a mainstream place on the basis of a specialist unit being attached to the school.

In addition, routine child minding arrangements would not normally be considered to be an exceptional social reason for placement at a particular school.

Places may be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the local authority may also ask schools to admit over their published admission number at other times under this criterion.

11. Children of a member of staff

Priority will be given to a child if their parent is a permanent member of staff at the school and meets either or both of the following circumstances:

- a) 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, on a full or part time basis; and/or

- b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

A person will be considered to be a child's parent for the purpose of this criterion if they are living in the same family unit as the child at the same address and are:

- their mother or father:
- any other person who has parental responsibility, such as an adoptive parent, step-parent, a special guardian or person named in a child arrangements order
- any other person who does not have parental responsibility but otherwise has the care of the child, such as a foster carer.

A supplementary information form (Appendix 7) must be completed and returned by the application closing date for all applicants wishing to apply under this criterion.

For applications made as part of a normal intake, the length of employment will be considered as of the closing date for applications. For in year applications and for the purpose of maintaining a waiting list, the length of employment will be considered as of the date the application is received or the date a place becomes available, if a place is considered from the waiting list.

12. Siblings for community and voluntary controlled schools

A sibling will be considered to be a brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), a half-brother or half sister or a step-brother or step-sister or an adoptive or foster sibling, ordinarily living as part of the same family unit at the same address.

A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling on roll at the school concerned or a linked school and that sibling is still expected to be on roll at that school at the time of the child's admission. **A child will not be eligible for sibling priority if their sibling is attending or due to attend a nursery that is attached to the school.**

If a sibling leaves the school concerned or a linked school after the application but before the national offer day, the applicant must let the School Admissions team know as this may affect the child's sibling priority. We reserve the right to withdraw an offer of a place that has been made on the basis of sibling priority if information comes to light that the applicant had claimed that priority in the knowledge that the child's sibling would have left the school or linked school by the time of the child's admission; or if the applicant failed to tell us of a change that took place prior to the national offer day that would affect the child's sibling priority.

For the initial intake to an infant/junior school, a child will also be given sibling priority for admission if their sibling is attending an infant/junior school which operates shared sibling priority with the school and that sibling is still expected to be on roll at either school at the time of the child's admission. See Appendix 2 for community and voluntary controlled schools that will operate shared sibling priority for admission in 2024 for the purpose of the sibling criterion. This will apply both at the initial allocation of places and also when prioritising the waiting list. Giving sibling priority has the effect of maximising the opportunity for children in the same family to be educated at the same school or at a school which operates shared sibling priority.

At the initial allocation, when an applicant is applying for a Reception place at an infant school that has both a feeder and sibling link to a junior school and the child has a sibling currently attending Year 2 of the infant school but who will have left by the time the younger child starts, the younger child will be considered under the sibling criterion as part of the

initial allocation. This is because, due to the feeder link, they will be expected to still have a sibling at the linked junior school at the time of admission. The schools for which this will apply are as follows:

- Bagshot Infant and Connaught Junior (Academy)
- *Beauclerc Infant School and Chennestone Primary School
- Earlswood Infant and Earlswood Junior
- The Grange Community Infant and New Haw Community Junior (Academy) Horley Infant and Yattendon (Foundation)
- The Mead Infant and Auriol Junior (Academy)
- Meath Green Infant and Meath Green Junior
- **Marrow CofE Infant and Bushy Hill Junior (Foundation)
- Shottermill Infant and Shottermill Junior
- Trumps Green Infant and St Ann's Heath Junior
- Walsh Memorial CofE Infant and Walsh CofE Junior
- West Byfleet Infant and West Byfleet Junior

* Shared sibling priority only applies to Beauclerc Infant School

** Shared sibling priority only applies to Marrow CofE Infant School

At the initial allocation, when an applicant is applying for both a Reception place and a Year 3 place at a primary school which has an intake at Reception and Year 3, or at separate infant/junior schools which operate shared sibling priority, if a place can only be offered to one child, the waiting list position for the other child will be adjusted to reflect the fact that they are expected to have a sibling in the school or another school which operates shared sibling priority in September 2024.

A mainstream child will also be given sibling priority for a school if they have a sibling with a final EHCP that names the same school, as long as the sibling with the EHCP is expected to start at the school before or on the same date as the mainstream child. Applicants will have to declare the details of any child whose EHCP names the school in order to be considered for sibling priority.

13. Home address

Within the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools, the child's home address excludes any business or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence. It also excludes any relative's address unless the child lives at that address as their normal place of residence. Where the child is subject to a child arrangements order and that order stipulates that the child will live with one parent/carer more than the other, the address to be used will be the one where the child is expected to live for the majority of the time. For other children, the address to be used will be the address where the child lives the majority of the time. In other cases, where the child spends an equal time between their parents/carers, it will be up to the parent/carers to agree which address to use. Where a child spends their time equally between their parents/carers and they cannot agree on who should make the application, we will accept an application from the parent/carer who is registered for child benefit. If neither parent/carer is registered for child benefit we will accept the application from the parent/carer whose address is registered with the child's current school or nursery.

We will not generally accept a temporary address if the main carer of the child still possesses or rents a property that has previously been used as a home address, nor will we

accept a temporary address if we believe it has been used solely or mainly to obtain a school place when an alternative address is still available to that child. All distances will be measured by the computerised Geographical Information System maintained by Surrey's admissions team.

The address to be used for the initial allocation of places to Reception, Year 3 and Year 7 will be the child's address at the closing date for application. Changes of address may be considered in accordance with Surrey's coordinated scheme if there are exceptional reasons behind the change, such as if a family has just moved to the area. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation, will be the child's current address. Any offer of a place on the basis of address is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Applicants have a responsibility to notify Surrey County Council of any change of address.

14. Tie breaker and the admission of twins, triplets, other multiple births or siblings born in the same academic year

Unless stipulated otherwise, if within any criterion there are more children than places available, any remaining places will be offered to children who meet the criterion on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the school, with children living nearest receiving the greater priority. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the address point of the child's home address, as set by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest official school gate for pupils to use. This is calculated using the admissions team's Geographical Information System.

Where two or more children share priority for a place, e.g. where two children live equidistant from a school, Surrey County Council will use random allocation to determine which child should be given priority.

In the case of multiple births, where children have equal priority for a place, Surrey County Council will use random allocation to determine which child should be given priority. If after the allocation one or more places can be offered but there are not sufficient places for all of them, each child will be offered a place.

15. Waiting lists

Where there are more children than places available, waiting lists will operate for each year group according to the oversubscription criteria for each school without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list.

Waiting lists for each year group at each community and voluntary controlled school will be maintained until **the last day of the summer term 2025** when they will be cancelled. Applicants who wish a child to remain on the waiting list for the 2025/26 academic year must complete a Continuing Interest form through Surrey County Council between 1 July and 31 August 2025. Fully completed forms received during July 2025 will be used to reform the waiting list during August 2025. Applications received between 1 August and 31 August will be added to the waiting list as soon as they have been processed. If a Continuing Interest form is not received by 31 August 2025, the applicant will be required to submit a new in year application.

16. In-year admissions

The following applications will be treated as in-year admissions during 2024/25:

- applications for admission to Reception which are received after 1 September 2024;
- for any school which has a published admission number for Year 3, applications for admission to Year 3 which are received after 1 September 2024;
- applications for admission to Year 7 which are received after 1 September 2024;
- all other applications for admission to Years 1 to 6 and 8 to 11.

Applications for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools must be made to the local authority on Surrey's common application form. Where there are more applications than places available, each application will be ranked in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria for each school.

17. Starting school

The community and voluntary controlled infant and primary schools in Surrey have a single intake into Reception. All children whose date of birth falls between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 will be eligible to apply for a full time place in Reception at a Surrey school for September 2024. Applicants can defer their child's entry to Reception until later in the school year, but this will not be agreed beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the final term of the academic year for which the offer was made. Applicants may also arrange for their child to start part time until their child reaches statutory school age.

18. The admission of children outside of their chronological year group

Applicants may choose to seek a place outside their child's chronological (correct) year group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and what is in the best interests of the child concerned.

- Applicants who are applying for their child to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, should initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age. If, in liaison with the headteacher, the local authority agrees for the child to have a decelerated entry to a community or voluntary controlled school the place cannot be deferred and instead the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the decelerated cohort.
- Applicants who are applying for their child to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If, in liaison with the headteacher, the local authority agrees for the child to have an accelerated entry to a community or voluntary controlled school, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry to a community or voluntary controlled school, the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort.

Applicants must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interest and provide what evidence they have to support this. More information on educating children out of their chronological year group and the process for making such requests is available on [Surrey's admissions web page](#)

19. Nursery admissions

The local authority has delegated the admissions of nursery children to the governing body of community and voluntary controlled schools/nurseries. Applicants wishing to apply for a place must complete the application form and submit it directly to the school or nursery that they wish to apply for in accordance with the dates set by the school.

In considering these arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools/nurseries, see sections 9 to 15 for more information on:

- Looked after and previously looked after children
- Exceptional social/medical need
- Children of a member of staff
- Siblings
- Home address
- Tie breakers

Community and voluntary controlled infant and primary schools which operate a nursery during term time only, will offer sessions totalling 15 or 30 hours a week, depending on the school and the eligibility of the child. Each school will identify which sessions constitute the child's universal entitlement and which are their extended entitlement.

Places for two year olds

Some nurseries admit two year olds who meet the eligibility criteria to receive Funded Early Education for Two year olds (FEET). Where there are more applications than places available, eligible children will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- a) Looked after and previously looked after children
- b) Exceptional social/medical need
- c) Children of a member of staff
- d) Children who will have a sibling attending the nursery or the main school at the time of admission
- e) Any other children

Where any category is oversubscribed, children will be ranked according to the straight line distance that they live from the school with priority being given to children who live closest to the school.

Once such children are placed on roll at a nursery, they will be automatically entitled to take up a three year old place and the number of places available for three year olds will reduce.

Places for three year olds

All children will be eligible to be considered for admission to a nursery class in a community or voluntary controlled school or nursery in the term after they turn three years old, although admission will be subject to an application being made and places being available.

When a nursery in a community or voluntary controlled infant or primary school is oversubscribed for a three year old place, applications for entry in 2024/2025 will be ranked according to the following criteria, which will be applied in the first instance to children wishing to take up the free early years provision:

- a) Looked after and previously looked after children
- b) Exceptional social/medical need
- c) Children of a member of staff

- d) Children who will have a sibling attending the nursery or the main school at the time of admission
- e) Children who will turn 4 years old between 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 (this is to give priority to older children who will be due to transfer to Reception in the next academic year and hence only have one year left to attend nursery)
- f) Children who will be 3 years old between 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 (these children will be able to stay on in nursery for another year in 2025/26 as they will not be due to start Reception until September 2025)

Where any category is oversubscribed, children will be ranked according to the straight line distance that they live from the school or nursery, with priority being given to children who live closest.

Procedures for admission

Each school will endeavour to inform applicants of the outcome of their application by letter, at least one term before admission. A school will only allocate nursery sessions once it has determined that a place can be offered in accordance with the admission criteria. If an applicant is offered a place they must confirm acceptance directly with the school by the date stipulated in their offer letter.

The final decision with regard to admission and the allocation of sessions rests with the governing body of the school.

Where a school is oversubscribed it will maintain a waiting list in criteria order.

Admission to a school's nursery does not guarantee admission to the Reception class at that school. Applications for Reception must be made on a separate application and be submitted by the statutory deadline in order to be considered.

Some schools or nurseries may allow parent/carers to pay for extra nursery provision, beyond their funded entitlement. However such requests will only be considered once all applications for the funded early year's entitlement have been processed.

In addition to nurseries within some community and voluntary controlled infant and primary schools, Surrey also has four stand-alone Nursery schools, some with attached Family Centres, in Chertsey, Dorking, Godalming and Guildford. These may provide a mix of full and part time places. Whilst these schools will also follow the admission criteria set out above, under the social and medical need criterion they may also consider the individual learning need of a child, if it can be demonstrated that no other school can meet the child's learning needs.

20. Providing false or misleading information

If an applicant is found to have supplied false or deliberately misleading information or to have withheld any relevant information, the local authority reserves the right to withdraw any offer of a place, even if the child has already started at the school.

21. Travel assistance

Surrey County Council has a **Travel Assistance** policy that sets out the circumstances in which children might qualify for **travel assistance**.

Generally, **travel assistance** will only be considered if a child is under 8 years old and is travelling more than two miles or is over 8 years old and travelling more than three miles to

the nearest school with a place. **Travel assistance** will not generally be provided to a school that is further away if a child would have been offered a place at a nearer school had it been named as a preference on the application form, although exceptions may apply to secondary aged children whose families are on a low income if they are travelling to one of their three nearest schools and to children whose nearest school is out of County but over the statutory walking distance.

Eligibility to **travel assistance** is not linked to the admission criteria of a school. Some schools give priority to children who are attending a feeder school, but attending a feeder school does not confer an automatic right to **travel assistance** to a linked school. In considering admission criteria and school preferences it is important that applicants also consider the **travel assistance** policy so they might take account of the likelihood of receiving **assistance** to their preferred school before making their application.

In considering eligibility for **travel assistance**, the local authority will take account of all state funded schools, including free schools and academies.

Applicants should note that the opening of a new school or the permanent relocation of an existing school might change which school is assessed to be the nearest to an address when compared to assessments made in previous years. If for any reason a school educates children on a temporary site, the assessment of nearest school for the purpose of **travel assistance** eligibility will disregard the temporary site and will instead use the intended permanent site of the school or, if that has not yet been determined, the current main site of the school. Where a school is operating on a temporary site and that school's permanent/current site is deemed to be a child's nearest qualifying school, the home to school walking distance will be measured to the school's temporary site to determine if the child lives over the statutory walking distance and is eligible for travel assistance. Eligibility will be reassessed at the point a child ceases to be educated at the temporary site.

A full copy of Surrey's **Travel Assistance** policy is available on [Surrey's website](#) at or from the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on 0300 200 1004.