

Darlington Local Authority Admissions Oversubscription Criteria
Secondary Education 2013/14

(i) Public Care

Pupils in the care of the Local Authority (known as a Looked After child) or a child who was previously looked after but became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order.'

For definitions see Section 22(1), Section 8, Section 14A of the Children's Act 1989 and Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

(ii) Medical Reasons

Pupils with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement. Applications under this criterion should be supported by written evidence from a doctor (see explanation).

(iii) Family Links

Pupils who have a brother or sister already attending the school and who are expected to be on roll at that school at the time of admission (see explanation).

(iv) Distance

Pupil's who live nearest the preferred school measured from the front door of the home address (including flats) to the main school gate, by the shortest walking route judged to be safe (lighting at regular intervals and paved/tarmaced). This will be based on the child's permanent home address. (To remain consistent the LA uses a Geographical Information System to measure all distances).

Tie Break

In the event of a tie-break in any oversubscription criteria, distance will be the deciding factor, which may involve an officer walking the route using a pedometer.

Multiple Births

Where a single place remains and the next child to be offered is a twin or other multiple birth, then the LA will use its discretion in deciding whether to offer over the Published Admission Number (PAN).

Medical Criterion

If a parent states a preference for a school and indicates their reason for doing so is 'medical', then they will be required to send a supporting letter from a professional practitioner. The supporting evidence should set out the particular reasons why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties it would cause if their child had to travel to another school. The Authority reserves the right to make contact with the District Medical Officer for independent information regarding the child's condition. The LA may also seek advice from other qualified professionals, e.g. Psychologists or other specialists where necessary.

Family Links

Children have a family link if:

- They are half brother of full brother or sister.
- They are adoptive brother or sister.
- Their carers are co-habiting and children live together in the same household.