

School Admissions Code 2014 references to Service Children

Oversubscription Criteria

1.8 Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. Admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs, and that other policies around school uniform or school trips do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child. Admission arrangements must include an effective, clear and fair tie-breaker to decide between two applications that cannot otherwise be separated.

1.9 It is for admission authorities to formulate their admission arrangements, but they must not:
[...]

f) give priority to children according to the occupational, marital, financial or educational status of parents applying. The exceptions to this are children of staff at the school and those eligible for the early years pupil premium, the pupil premium and the service premium who may be prioritised in the arrangements in accordance with paragraphs 1.39 - 1.39B;

Children eligible for pupil premium or Service premium

1.39A Admission authorities may give priority in their oversubscription criteria to children eligible for the early years pupil premium, the pupil premium and also children eligible for the service premium (33). Admission authorities should clearly define in the arrangements the categories of eligible premium recipients to be prioritised.

1.39B Admission authorities may give priority in their oversubscription criteria to children eligible for the early years pupil premium, the pupil premium or the service premium who:

- a) are in a nursery class which is part of the school; or
- b) attend a nursery that is established and run by the school. The nursery must be named in the admission arrangements and its selection must be transparent and made on reasonable grounds.

(33 The service premium is additional funding paid annually to schools under section 14 of the Education Act 2002 for the purposes of supporting the pastoral needs of the children of Armed Services personnel)

Maintained Boarding Schools

1.41 Boarding schools must give priority in their oversubscription criteria in the following order:

- a) looked after children and previously looked after children;
- b) children of members of the UK Armed Forces who qualify for Ministry of Defence financial assistance with the cost of boarding school fees;
- c) children with a 'boarding need', making it clear what they mean by this.

Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces)

2.18 For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to their area, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in that area, admission authorities must:

- a) allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address when considering the application against their oversubscription criteria. This must include accepting a Unit postal address or quartering area address for a service child. Admission authorities must not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area, or reserve blocks of places for these children;
- b) ensure that arrangements in their area support the Government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children. Arrangements must be appropriate for the area and be described in the local authority's composite prospectus.