



School Admissions - Implications of the change to the Medical / Social Oversubscription Criterion



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Dear colleagues,

Many thanks for your help and support in responding to the decision made by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) which required Hampshire County Council to revise its admission policies. These updated policies came into effect on 28 February 2023 for community and voluntary controlled schools (which can be accessed [here](#)), and I am aware that a significant number of own admission authority schools have responded quickly to ensure their own admission policies were changed by 28 February 2023.

You will recall that one of the required changes was to the medical and / or social criterion. Previous arrangements have limited this criterion to the normal admissions round only. The varied arrangements in the admission policy now allow evidence to be submitted with in-year and late applications, and that this criterion can be considered outside the normal admissions round. As advised in the School Communication issued in February, this change regrettably has some workload implications for schools and the Admissions Team.

It remains the case that parents seeking priority for a school under the medical and / or social criterion are required to tick the relevant box on the application **and** provide supporting evidence alongside their application, with the onus on the parent to provide that evidence. Where it is not provided, the child or family member's medical or social need cannot be considered. The Admissions Team will not be contacting parents to request evidence from those who have only ticked the medical and / or social box on the form, nor will it pursue evidence on the parent's behalf.

What this means for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools

The Admissions Team has adopted the process used over many years for the main round. All requests for priority under the medical and / or social criterion which have been accompanied by supporting evidence will be considered by a panel of Admissions Officers and the school. The Admissions Team will forward relevant paperwork to the school for consideration when it is received. Where the school and the LA panel agree that an application satisfies the necessary conditions, it will be considered under the medical criterion.

In all cases the Admissions Team will write to the applicant confirming whether their request for consideration under this priority has been agreed or not.

What this means for Own Admission Authority (OAA) schools who include a medical and / or social criterion within their oversubscription criteria

Any supporting medical and / or social evidence received will be sent to the school for their consideration in line with their own processes. Own admission authority schools are asked to notify the Admissions Team of the outcome so that the child's record can be updated accordingly, and we would ask that the school write separately to any applicants to confirm whether their request for consideration under this priority has been agreed or not.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and patience with these changes.

