

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Out of Catchment Area Students (OCAS)

It is the policy of Council that children are only allowed to attend a school out of the catchment area in which they live under the following circumstances:

1. That they are the children of teachers.
2. That there are medical or quasi-medical reasons or compassionate grounds.
3. That in the case of a one parent family the child may attend the school closest to the work place, or, if the child is looked after by grandparents or friends, the child may attend the school of the catchment area in which they live.
4. That children of regular supply teachers may attend the school of the catchment area of their childminder.
5. That once a child has started a particular sector of education, i.e. primary or secondary, and then moves out of catchment, the child may remain at the school if the parents wish until the end of that particular phase.

In all cases which fall within the above categories, OCAS placement is arranged without further reference to the Council and is subject to the following conditions:

- (i) parents must put their request in writing to the office;
- (ii) parents will have to provide/arrange/pay for transport;
- (iii) children will have to transfer to the secondary school within their catchment area at the end of their primary education;
- (iv) younger brothers and sisters will have to attend the school of their catchment area with regard to 5 above. However, in all other instances younger brothers and sisters will be able to attend as an OCAS placement.

All OCAS requests will be discussed with the relevant headteacher(s) and in all cases clearance will need to be obtained from Council staff before a child can be designated as OCAS. This will then be followed by a letter from the Council to the parents, with copies to the schools concerned and to the Council's OCAS file.

All OCAS requests that do not satisfy one or more of the above conditions will initially be refused with a right of appeal to the Education Council. In exceptional cases, Council may agree to an OCAS placement if these conditions are not met.

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