

**Peacehaven Community School**  
**Admissions Arrangement Consultation For Admissions Year 26-27 (Full Version)**

In accordance with the DfE's 2021 statutory 'School Admissions Code' guidance, as a school we must consult on our admission arrangements when changes are proposed, and at least once every seven years.

Peacehaven Community School is proposing changes to its Admissions Arrangements.

In accordance with statutory DfE guidance, the consultation will run for at least six weeks. The consultation period will run from Monday, November 11th 2024 until Monday, December 23rd 2024; during this time, parents and interested parties are invited to express their views, whether in support or if they have any concerns about the admission arrangements at Peacehaven Community School.

All responses to the consultation should be made in writing and submitted before 3pm on Monday, December 23rd 2024 using either this form or by emailing [pcs-admissions@swale.at](mailto:pcs-admissions@swale.at). Please label the email's subject as "Admissions Consultation".

**[PCS Admissions consultation for 2026/27](#)**

Please note that written responses should outline your personal details, including your name, address, and relationship to the school.

At the end of the consultation period, the Local Governing Body will meet to consider responses. The outcome of the consultation will be published on the school website as soon as possible following a decision being reached by the Local Governing Body. Hard copies of the final report will be made available on request to all respondents of the consultation.

**Proposed changes to Admissions Arrangements**

The school is consulting to alter the Admissions Oversubscription Criteria and Tiebreaker. The proposal also includes updates to the wording of the policy and layout to ensure clarity of the process for parents/carers whilst maintaining compliance with the admissions code.

**Current Admission Arrangements**

These can be found on our school website [Admissions Policy - Determination 2025-26](#) or a hard copy can be requested via the School Office.

The proposed changes and the rationale behind the changes are detailed below together with the full policy and admissions arrangements.

### **Proposed Oversubscription Criteria**

If there are more applications than places available at the school, the criteria below will be used to determine which children are offered the available spaces, and will be applied in the following order of priority:

- 1) Looked after children and children who were looked after**, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after\*.
- 2) Children who live in the community area and are siblings\*\* of students who attend the school, and will still be attending when the child starts.**
- 3) Children who live in the community area**
- 4) Children who live outside the community area and are siblings\*\* of students who attend the school, and will still be attending when the child starts.**
- 5) Children living outside the community area**

\*A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function at the time of making an application to a school (see section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). Children accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 are included in this priority. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or special guardianship order. This may include children previously in state care outside the UK

\*\*Children are "siblings" if they are full, step, half, adopted or fostered brothers or sisters living permanently at the same address. The school reserves the right to ask for proof of relationship such as a birth certificate and proof of residence

### **Rationale behind the proposed change**

**Proposal to restrict the application of the sibling link so that children living within the community area are a higher priority than siblings living outside the community area**

This change is being proposed to ensure we remain a community school, supporting the families in the local community and helping to ensure that children are able to attend their nearest local school.

### **Proposed Tiebreaker**

If there are more applicants who qualify under an oversubscription criterion than places available, place allocation will be decided on the basis of home to school distance, measured in a straight line. This will be measured from the address point in the school (supplied by Ordnance Survey) to the address point in the family home. Distances will be measured on behalf of the Local Governing Body by East Sussex County Council, using the Geographical Information System (GIS).

If applicants cannot be prioritised by distance, i.e. the distance from home to the school is equal for multiple applicants, this will be resolved by random allocation. This process will be independently verified.

### **Rationale behind the proposed change**

#### **Proposal to change the measurement of the home to school distance tie-break from shortest walking distance to straight line**

By changing the measurement system to be a straight-line measurement from school to the applicant's home we will come in line with how most other East Sussex Schools and the Local Authority (for schools within their control) measure distance.

The current method of shortest walking route via surfaced passable routes presents some considerable challenges such as keeping up with new building projects and keeping the online routing network up to date. The Local Authority who carry this measurement out on our behalf have recommended this change given the difficulties that the existing method can cause. The Local Authority has confirmed to us that they will not be supporting our current method of measurement in the coming years.