

Exceptional medical, social and pastoral need criterion for school admissions

If you feel that there are exceptional medical, social or pastoral reasons associated with your child and/or family which support admission to a particular school you must indicate that this is the case on your admission application.

These may include serious medical or psychological needs or disabilities. Pupils with special educational needs (without an education, health and care (EHC) plan) may be admitted under this criterion.

Please bear in mind that all schools can make provision for special educational needs, and can also manage common conditions e.g. asthma, epilepsy, diabetes.

Where exceptional medical, social or pastoral reasons are identified compelling supporting written evidence will be required from an appropriate professional. This may be from whatever sources you feel are most appropriate. Examples of providers of evidence are doctors, health visitors, social workers, your parish priest, psychologist or other professional involved with your child. Only exceptional reasons relevant to a particular school will be considered and clearly demonstrate why it is only that school that can meet your child's needs in a way that no other school can. Your evidence should explain exactly what your child's needs are, and what specialist support and/or facilities your child requires.

Exceptional social reasons do not, in the view of the Trust, include domestic inconvenience arising from parents' work patterns, child-minding arrangements or separation from particular nursery/primary school friends. Problems of this kind are widespread and cannot be classed as exceptional. Medical evidence **must** be current and demonstrate the exceptional nature of your child's condition(s). A confirmation of diagnosis is insufficient on its own as all mainstream schools are able to cope with a wide range of medical needs encountered by children.

If you do not provide supporting evidence then it will not be possible to consider the application under the exceptional medical, social and pastoral need criterion.

What is the deadline for submitting my evidence?

The closing dates for providing evidence of exceptional medical, social and pastoral need reasons are the same as the normal applications closing dates.

Failure to provide supporting evidence by the closing date will mean your application will not be considered under the social, medical or pastoral need criterion. Instead the normal oversubscription criteria will apply.

How will my claim be considered?

All claims of exceptional medical, social and pastoral need are considered separately by a panel of officers appointed by the Admission Authority. This will involve considering all information and evidence provided by parents. The focus of the assessment of each medical, social and pastoral need claim will be linked to the claimed reasons for the pupil to

attend a specific school. Where the reasons claimed are not considered exceptional then the application will be dealt with under the other admission criteria for the school requested. Evidence must demonstrate to the Trust's officers that the child would suffer a significant degree of harm if he/she went to any other school.

Please note it is up to the applicant to provide any evidence. Neither the School or Panel will seek information about your child or telephone other people on your behalf. The decision will be based solely on the information you send in. The decision of the Panel is final.

All information which is submitted will be treated as confidential.