



# Applying for secondary school for 2024 to 2025

Information for Parents and Carers

Apply online from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Welcome to Stockport School Admissions

Dear Parents and Carers,

The transition between primary and secondary school is a significant and exciting time for both you and your child. It is important to be sure that you have got all of the information necessary for you to make your selection of preferred schools and give yourself the best opportunity to gain a preferred school place in September 2023.

The information in this booklet aims to help clarify the process and assist you in making these important decisions.

Alongside the information contained in this booklet, you should also read Stockport's full School Admissions Policy and Procedures document which can be viewed at [www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Some items in this booklet have been marked with an asterisk\* which means they are explained in more detail in the above document.

If you have any further questions or concerns, you can contact our Frontline Team at the Contact Centre on 0161 217 6022 who will be happy to help you or alternatively you can visit [www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions) for more information.

Stockport secondary schools educate an average of 14,000 pupils each year. Our high schools are proud of their inclusive philosophy and the excellent quality of education that they provide. Our schools aim to ensure a challenging and enjoyable learning environment as well as support for young people and their families throughout their school career.

We hope that your child will enjoy the exciting times ahead of them and will settle well into their new school.

Yours faithfully,

**Tim Bowman**  
**Director of Education**

# Dates for your diary

<b>15<sup>th</sup> August 2023</b>	Online application system becomes available.
<b>31<sup>st</sup> October 2023</b>	Closing date for receipt of applications
<b>1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – National Offer Day</b>	Emails will be sent to applicants informing them of the outcome of their application
<b>March- April 2024</b>	Appeals are lodged
<b>Summer Term 2024</b>	Appeals heard
<b>1<sup>st</sup> September 2024</b>	Pupils start school in Year 7

Apply online at [www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Applications received **after** the **closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023** will be ranked in the last category of the oversubscription criteria for all secondary schools. It is important to make sure you complete your application by the closing date to ensure the best possible chance of gaining a place at one of your preferred schools in September 2024.

# What can Secondary Schools in Stockport offer my child?

## A Family of Schools

Schools in Stockport work to provide an inclusive environment in which all young people are able to enjoy the full curriculum and a wide range of opportunities to develop.

Stockport's family of maintained schools, Voluntary Aided (VA) schools and academies educate approximately 14,000 11-16 year olds each year. The group of secondary schools includes 5 community schools (maintained) and 3 Catholic High Schools (VA) providing 11-16 education, together with Stockport Academy, an all ability school which is sponsored by the United Learning Trust (a non-profit charity) and is free of charge to all students. It is a non-selective school and caters for young people aged 11-16. Cheadle Hulme High School (Academy) provides 11 – 18 education. Laurus Cheadle Hulme (Academy), Reddish Vale High School (Academy) and The Kingsway School (Academy), Hazel Grove High School (Academy) provides education for 11 – 16 year olds.



## Curriculum and Learning

Stockport schools have a strong tradition of providing a broad and balanced curriculum, offering all students stimulating, challenging and enjoyable programmes of study at each key stage. Wider learning opportunities for learners to develop individual interests and aspirations are essential to the curriculum offer. Expertly trained teachers and school staff work hard to provide the high quality education that young people deserve and enjoy. There is also a high level of support to ensure that individuals and groups of learners are able to meet their potential. Learners are encouraged to take advantage of their strengths and develop their independence throughout their school career.

## Working Together

Our schools are supported by teams of professionals including Education Advisers; Psychologists; Curriculum Experts; Young People Workers; and a number of other agencies in order to support each school as fully as possible. Stockport aims to ensure that all young people reach independence as safe, healthy and well-educated individuals.

Schools are managed and supported by their governors who represent the school community and aim to steer the school for the benefit of that community. The strong network of support that our schools enjoy allows them to give your child the best education possible, focusing on progress in all aspects of their development

# Deciding which schools to apply for

## What different types of schools are available?

**Local Authority (LA) Maintained Schools** - A Local Authority maintained school is run by the Local Authority and can be a Community School or a Voluntary School. Community Schools are completely maintained by the Local Authority, who are responsible for admission arrangements. There are currently 5 Community Secondary Schools in Stockport.

**Voluntary Schools** – This covers Voluntary Aided (VA) schools which are maintained by the LA but the premises are owned by the Diocesan Authorities who are responsible for building improvements and repairs. There are 3 Catholic Voluntary Aided secondary schools in Stockport. This also covers Voluntary Controlled schools, where the LA provides maintenance and running costs but does not own the premises. There are no Voluntary Controlled secondary schools in Stockport.

**Academies** - Academies are publicly funded independent schools, free from local authority and national government control. These schools are their own admissions authority and employ their own staff. There are 6 secondary academies in Stockport, Cheadle Hulme High School, Laurus Cheadle Hulme, Hazel Grove High School, Reddish Vale High School, The Kingsway School and Stockport Academy. All of Stockport's Academies currently use the LA admissions process; therefore, applications should still be submitted to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team using the online application system. Stockport Academy is a state maintained independent school that is sponsored by the United Learning Trust and although it is not maintained by the LA, the two collaborate closely. Cheadle Hulme High School, Hazel Grove High School have on site Sixth Form Provision.

**Free schools** - Free Schools are all-ability state-funded schools set up in response to parental demand. They can be set up by a wide range of proposers, including charities, universities, businesses, educational groups, teachers and groups of parents. Initiative launched June 2010; the first Free Schools opened in September 2011.

**Independent Schools** – Independent schools are not maintained by the Local Authority. Tuition fees are usually charged although bursary schemes may be operated. The Local Authority does not have responsibility for these schools, or their admissions and applications should be made directly to the school.

**Elective Home Education** - Elective Home Education is a term used by the Department for Education to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school. (This is different to home tuition provided by a Local Authority or education provided by a Local Authority other than at school).

**Other Local Authority Schools** - These are schools maintained by another Local Authority. Stockport has no responsibility for admissions to these schools; **however, you must still apply through Stockport Local Authority if you live in Stockport.**



## How can I find out more about a school?

Many parents will choose to send their children to a local school; however, you may wish to find out more about some other schools before making your decision.

Each school has a website which will give you some more information, for example about policies, results, etc.

There are often strong links between associated primary and secondary schools and your child may have already had some contact with a school.

You can also find useful information on the Department for Education website ([www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)) including Ofsted reports and school profiles.

You can also attend the schools' open evenings where you will have a chance to look around the schools and raise any questions.

Ofsted reports and school profiles can also be viewed at [www.schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk](http://www.schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk).

## What are the chances of getting a place at my preferred school?

Stockport has always maintained a consistently high rate of meeting parental preferences (over 90%) although it is very difficult to predict from year to year.

It is not possible to guarantee places at any school; however, the higher in the oversubscription categories your child is in, the more chance you have of gaining a place. See pages 10 to 14 for the criteria used to allocate places.

You always increase your chances of gaining a place at a preferred school if you **name six different schools**.

Although you don't have to include your catchment area school in your selection, please consider you may be in a higher category for that school than other preferred schools.

Pages 17 to 21 look at the answers to some 'Frequently Asked Questions', which will help you to further understand the application process.

See also 'How places are allocated' on pages 14 to 16.

Details of the outcome of the admissions process for September 2023/2024 admissions will be available to view on the Council's website [www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions) in September 2023.

## Remember to apply by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Every year some applicants miss out on the opportunity to be allocated a place at their preferred school because they miss the closing date.

Applications received after the closing date are the last category to be considered for places.

# The application process for entry into Year 7

## How does it work?

The admissions process for secondary schools is 'co-ordinated'\*, which means that all Local Authorities work together to make sure the process is similar for all parents, regardless of where they live or which school they wish to apply for.

- If you live in Stockport, you **must** make your application to Stockport Council, even if you wish to apply for schools in a different Local Authority area. You **must** apply using the online system available at [www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions)
- If you live outside of Stockport but wish to apply for a school in the Stockport area, you **must** make your application to your own Local Authority, who will liaise with Stockport about your child's application.

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013, you **need to** apply for a secondary school place for the school year beginning September 2024 by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**.

You **must** apply using the online system available from **15<sup>th</sup> August 2023**. To apply, visit [www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions) where you will find step by step instructions.

When you apply, you will need to answer questions about your child including name, address, date of birth, and other questions about your relationship to the child, religion, medical / social issues, other children in the family attending your preferred schools (siblings\*). It's important to include sibling details because it can place your application in a higher oversubscription category at the relevant schools.

If you are applying for a Catholic school, you will be asked if your child has been Baptised Catholic or not. **Please note** you should only answer **YES** if your **child's Baptism has actually taken place**, intention to have your child Baptised Catholic at a later date will not be considered. If a place is allocated on the basis of a declaration on your application that your child is Baptised Catholic and it is subsequently found that the Baptism hasn't taken place, the place may be withdrawn.

**All applications are based on the child's Principal Parental Home Address\***. This must be where the child and parents are normally resident. A temporary or relative/friend/childminders's address **cannot** be used. See page 24 for further details.

You can apply for up to 6 schools and give your reasons for wanting a place at a particular school. **We strongly recommend** that you use your six preferences to **name 6 different schools** in order to maximise your opportunity of gaining a place at one of your preferred schools. Also please consider that you may be in a higher category for your catchment area school than other preferred schools when making your selection. You will not automatically be offered a place at your catchment school if do not include it as a preference just because a place cannot be offered at your preferred schools.

You will have the opportunity to give your reasons for applying for a particular school, however, no places can be guaranteed at any school and parents should not make assumptions about entitlement to a place. In very limited circumstances some applications may be considered as having highly exceptional medical/social reasons\*. Any supporting evidence you have **must** be submitted to the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team **by the closing date 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**. This can be sent by post to the address provided at the end of the booklet. If you do not provide evidence by this date, **it will not be considered**.

**If your address/circumstances change\*** – If the details, you have declared on your application change at any time you **must** inform the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team **immediately**. All changes will be re-assessed according to the oversubscription criteria for each



school you have named. If the changes occur after places have been offered it will be necessary to reassess your application using the new details to see if your child is still entitled to a place, this may result in one of the following:

- The offer is confirmed because your child is still entitled to the place.
- Your child's name is placed higher or lower on the waiting lists for your preferred schools based on your new circumstances.
- The original offer made based on your old circumstances is withdrawn because you no longer qualify for the place offered using your new circumstances and the offer of a new place will be made.

The Council reserves the right to seek further information in order to determine the outcome of your application.

**Don't miss the closing date - it is essential that we receive your application by the prescribed closing date.** All applications submitted after that date will be ranked in the oversubscription criteria and distance order and will **only** be considered **after** all those received before that date.

**Remember the closing  
date is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

# Admissions Policies

## Admissions criteria for Community Schools as well as Hazel Grove High School and The Kingsway School (Academies)

For Community Schools, the Local Authority develops the admissions policy following statutory consultation with parents, the School Governing Bodies and other interested parties. In the case of Cheadle Hulme High School, Laurus Cheadle Hulme, Hazel Grove High School, Reddish Vale High School and The Kingsway School (which are academies) it is the Governing Body. The Governing Body of Hazel Grove High School & The Kingsway School currently retain the same admissions policy, oversubscription criteria and procedures as those set for community schools which are administered through the Local Authority.

After placement of pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number\* (PAN) of the school.

**NB: Categories A – G refer to applications received by the closing date 31st October 2023**

A. Looked after children and previously looked after children*
B. Children considered to have highly exceptional medical/social reasons*
C. Children who live in the catchment area* of the school and will have a sibling* at the school at the time of admission
D. Children who live in the catchment area* of the school
E. Children of staff* who have been employed at the school for a minimum of two years or are offering a shortage subject/area
F. Children who will have a sibling* at the school at the time of admission and reside outside the catchment area*
G. Any other applicants, in order of straight-line distance* measured between home and the school
H. Application received after the closing date ordered by the criteria detailed A-G above

## Admissions criteria for Cheadle Hulme High School

After placement of pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number\* (PAN) of the school.

**NB: Categories A – H refer to applications received by the closing date 31st October 2023**

A. Looked after children and previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admissions authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because immediately after, they become subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.
B. Children considered to have highly exceptional medical/social reasons*
C. Children who are currently in attendance at Cheadle Hulme Primary School prior 1st September 2023 ordered by categories D-H
D. Children who live in the catchment area* of the school and will have a sibling* at the school at the time of admission
E. Children who live in the catchment area* of the school
F. Children of staff* where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
G. Children who live outside the catchment area* and will have a sibling* at the school at the time of admission
H. Any other applicants, in order of straight-line distance* measured between home and the school
I. Application received after the closing date ordered by the criteria detailed A-G above

## Admissions criteria for Stockport Academy

After placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number\* (PAN) of the school:

**NB: Categories A – D refer to applications received by the closing date 31st October 2023**

A. Looked after children and previously looked after children*
B. Children who have specific medical needs, social needs and special needs where the application is supported by written professional advice.
C. Siblings* of pupils who will be attending the Academy on the proposed start date
D. Children whose permanent address is nearest to the academy
E. Applications received after the closing date

## Admissions criteria for Laurus Cheadle Hulme

After placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number\* (PAN) of the school:

**NB: Categories A – F refer to applications received by the closing date 31st October 2023**

A. Looked after children and previously looked after children* and all previously looked after children including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because immediately after, they became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.
B. Priority will next be given to the children based on their exceptional medical/ social reasons*
C. Priority will next be given to the pupils attending Cheadle Hulme Primary School at the time the application is received
D. Priority will next be given to the siblings of pupils attending Laurus Cheadle Hulme or Cheadle Hulme Primary School at the time the application is received and at the date of admission
E. Priority will next be given to the Children of staff* <b>employed by Laurus Cheadle Hulme in either or both of the following circumstances:</b> <i>a. where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or</i> <i>b. the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.</i>
F. Other Children
G. Applications received after the closing date ordered by the criteria detailed A - F above



## Admissions criteria St Anne's RC Voluntary Academy

**Looked After Children and previously looked after children** - All schools must give looked after children and previously looked after children the highest priority in their oversubscription criteria. In the case of Catholic High Schools in Stockport, Catholic looked after children and previously looked after children will be admitted in advance of the outlined criteria of Category A. Non-Catholic looked after children and previously looked after children will be admitted in advance of the outlined criteria of Category H.

The categories listed below are used for the allocation of places. In order to fit into a category your child must meet all of the conditions listed; **and will only fit into one category**. A nominated area may be a parish or part of a parish\*.

After placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number\* (PAN) of the school:

**NB: Categories A – K refer to applications received by the closing date 31st October 2023**

A. Your child is Baptised Catholic* You live in a Parish (or part Parish)* which is associated with the secondary school Your child attends an associated Catholic Primary School*
B. Your child is Baptised Catholic* You live in a Parish (or part Parish)* which is associated with the secondary school Your child goes to Catholic Primary School Your child has a sibling* attending the school
C. Your child is Baptised Catholic* You do not live in a parish (or part Parish)* which is associated with the secondary school Your child goes to a Catholic Primary School Your child has a sibling* attending the school
D. Your child is Baptised Catholic* You do not live in a parish (or part Parish)** which is associated with the secondary school

Your child goes to a Catholic Primary School
E. Your child is Baptised Catholic* You live in a parish (or part Parish)* which is associated with the secondary school Your child goes to a non-Catholic Primary School
F. Your child is Baptised Catholic* Your child goes to a Catholic Primary School
G. Your child is Baptised Catholic* Your child goes to a non-Catholic Primary School
H. Your child is NOT a Baptised Catholic* Your child has a sibling attending the school Your support the Catholic ethos of the school
I. Your child is NOT a Baptised Catholic* Your child attends an associated Catholic Primary School You support the Catholic ethos of the school
J. Your child is NOT a Baptised Catholic* Yours is a practising Christian family*
K. Your child is NOT a Baptised Catholic* You want your child to receive a Christian Education*
L. Application received after the closing date ordered by the criteria detailed at A-K above

**Admissions criteria for Harrytown  
Catholic High School**

After placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number\* (PAN) of the school:

**NB: Categories 1 - 8 refer to applications received by the closing date 31st October 2023**

- a. St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
- b. St. Christopher's Catholic Primary School
- c. St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
- d. St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marple Bridge
- e. St. Peter's Catholic Primary School
- f. St. Philip's Catholic Primary School
- g. St. Simon's Catholic Primary School

1. Catholic looked after and previously looked after children
2. Catholic children who live in an associated parish or part parish (see notes)
3. Catholic children who attend a feeder Catholic primary school (see notes)
4. Other Catholic children
5. Other looked after and previously looked after children
6. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church
7. Children of other Christian denominations and children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader (see notes)
8. Any other children

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order. (i) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made. (ii) The children of staff will be given increased priority within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above.

The Parishes or Part Parishes that are associated with Harrytown Catholic High School are as follows:

- a. St Bernadette's Parish
- b. The Holy Spirit Parish
- c. St Joseph's Parish
- d. St Mary's Parish
- e. Our Lady and St Christopher's Parish
- f. St Peter's Parish
- g. St Phillip the Apostle Parish

The feeder Catholic primary schools are as follows:

**Admissions criteria for St James' Catholic High School**

After placement of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order up to the Published Admission Number\* (PAN) of the school:

**NB: Categories 1 – 7 refer to applications received by the closing date 31st October 2023**

1. Catholic looked after and previously looked after children
2. Catholic children who live in an associated parish or part parish (see notes)
3. Catholic children who attend a feeder Catholic primary school (see notes)
4. Other Catholic children
5. Other looked after and previously looked after children
6. Other Children who attend a Catholic primary school
7. Any other children

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order. (i) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of

the category in which the application is made. (ii) The children of staff will be given increased priority within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above.

The Parishes or Part Parishes that are associated with St James' Catholic High School are as follows:

- Christ Church
- Our Lady's and the Apostles (part)
- Sacred Heart
- St Ambrose
- St Anne's
- St Chad's
- St Vincent's
- St Peter's (Part)

The Primary Schools that are associated with St James' Catholic High School are as follows:

- Cheadle Catholic Junior School
- Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
- St Ambrose Catholic Primary School
- St Peter's Catholic Primary School
- St Simon's Catholic Primary School





# How Places are Allocated

## Equal Preference System

The statutory 'equal preference system' is used to allocate school places. This means that:

- All preferences you have stated are initially looked at individually, regardless of the order in which you have ranked the schools
- The order you have ranked your preferences becomes important when it is possible to allocate a place for your child at more than one of your preferred schools. In this instance you will be offered a place at the available school you have ranked the highest
- It is possible that applicant (A) who ranked a school as a lower preference, could be allocated a place ahead of other applicants who ranked the same school as a higher preference, if they (A) meet one of the higher oversubscription criteria.

The places are allocated according to the school's admissions policy criteria, which are detailed on pages 10 to 14.

## Allocating Places

**Please note that places cannot be guaranteed at any school.** Each school has a Published Admission Number (PAN)\* for the Year 7 intake. If there are more applications for a school than places available, places will be allocated to children up to the PAN using the Admissions Policy oversubscription categories (criteria). The names of children

within each category are ordered by straight-line distance\* from home to school starting with the shortest distance. If there are two or more applications with distances which are exactly the same competing for a final place **random allocation** will be used to determine which applicant will be allocated the final place.

Whilst every effort will be made to place your child in one of your preferred schools, **no places can be guaranteed**, regardless of where you live or which primary school your child has attended. It is, therefore, very important to apply for **six different schools**. If your first preference cannot be offered and you have not indicated another option, your child will be allocated the nearest school with a place available. Unfortunately, this may not necessarily be in your immediate locality. **We suggest you consider including your catchment area school** as one of your preferences, as you will be higher in the oversubscription criteria for this school than you may be for other schools you have named.

**PLEASE NOTE** - Any applications submitted after the closing date **31<sup>st</sup> October 2023** will be placed in the last of the oversubscription categories for all schools and therefore, will **not** be considered until after all applications submitted by the closing date have been allocated. Those applications received after the closing date will be ordered by the published admissions oversubscription criteria (see pages 10 to 12)

The names of children not allocated a place at their preferred school will be kept on a waiting list until the end of the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. If a place becomes available at that

school during that period, you will be contacted and given the opportunity to accept the place. The waiting lists will then be cleared, and the normal in-year admissions process will take over, any parents wishing to have their child's name included on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year will need to re-apply.

Applications for all year groups other than Reception will remain on the waiting list for the full academic year.

### **If your address/circumstances change**

If the details, you have declared on your application change at any time you **must** inform the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team **immediately**. All changes will be assessed according to the oversubscription criteria for each school you have named. If the changes occur after places have been offered, it may result in the withdrawal of the offer made based on your old circumstances and the offer of a new place will be made. This may not necessarily be at your preferred school.

### **Applications submitted after the closing date**

Submitting your application after the closing date is likely to severely affect a parent's chance of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools, as places will already have been allocated to those parents / carers who applied by the closing date.

If you fail to submit your application before the closing date it will be treated as being 'received after the closing date' and processed according to the published oversubscription criteria\*.

Applications 'received after the closing date' will be in the last category of the oversubscription criteria\* and placed on waiting lists for each school, regardless of whether you live in the catchment area\* of the school and/ or have siblings\* at the school.

This designation as being 'received after the closing date' will remain up to and including 14 calendar days follow the relevant national offer day after which point the designation will be removed resulting in a reassessment according to the published oversubscription criteria.

## **The online system will close on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 – remember to apply by this date.**

The online system will reopen 2 days after the closing dates to enable parents/ carers to apply which will be considered as detailed above.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Can I choose the school I want my child to go to?

The law, through the School Admissions Code, does not give you a right to choose a school for your child, however it does entitle you to express a preference for the school you would prefer your child attend. It also gives you the right to give the reasons for your preferences and the opportunity to have each of your preferences considered equally in line with the School's Admissions Policy criteria.

## How many schools can I apply for?

You can apply for up to six schools on your application, in your preferred order. ***It is strongly advised that you name six different schools. We also suggest*** you consider including your catchment area school as one of your choices because you will be higher in the oversubscription criteria than you may be for other schools you have named.

If your preferred schools cannot be allocated and you have not shown any other preferences, you will be allocated the nearest school with a place available. This may not necessarily be your closest school, as the closest schools may have already been filled to the PAN\* with applicants who stated the school as one of their preferences.

Using all six of your preferences **does not** affect your chance of getting your first preference.

## How do I apply for my child to go to an Academy in Stockport?

You can apply in the same way as for any Stockport community school, by completing the online application form at [www.stockport.gov/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov/schooladmissions)

Academies are required to adopt clear and fair admission arrangements, as all admission authorities must do, to comply with admission regulations and the School Admissions Code.

Two of the academies in Stockport (Hazel Grove High School, and The Kingsway School) have the same admissions arrangements as Community Schools (see pages 10-14)

Stockport Academy and Laurus Cheadle Hulme do not have a defined catchment area. If either school is oversubscribed, the published oversubscription criteria's will be applied (see pages 10 to 14)

## What is a catchment school?

Each of Stockport's Community Schools and Academies (excluding Stockport Academy and Laurus Cheadle Hulme) has a geographical area around it called a catchment area\*.

Every address in Stockport falls within the catchment area\* of only 1 secondary school.

**You can check which catchment school your address falls within online:**

[www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions) Your catchment school, may not always be your nearest school.

## Am I entitled to a place at my catchment school?

**No. National Legislation stipulates that parents are not guaranteed a place at the catchment\* school or any other school.** Being resident within the catchment area\* of a school would place you within one of the higher categories of the Admission Policy criteria (see from pages 10 to 14).

While you must apply for any school you wish to be considered for, you do not have to include your catchment\* school, neither will you automatically be allocated this school if you do apply. **However, you may wish to consider including your catchment school** as one of your preferences as it will be in your locality.

Whilst living in the catchment area\* of a school may place your child in a higher category, the allocation of a place at the school is also dependent on the combined number of siblings in catchment\* or catchment area\* category applications there are in total. Where the number of these exceeds the PAN\*, applications will be ordered by straight-line distance\*.

You will always be allocated the school you have ranked the highest if a place is available.

### What are highly exceptional medical/social reasons?

Although not statutory, Stockport Local Authority and the Governing Bodies of some Academies have included a category for highly exceptional medical/reasons in the oversubscription criteria for their schools. Only **in very limited circumstances** will some applications be considered as having highly exceptional medical/social reasons. As such applications in this category would be placed in a higher category of the admissions oversubscription criteria for a particular school than they would be otherwise.

Where applicants feel this may be the case, they **must** indicate this by ticking the boxes provided on the online application and state the nature of the condition and/or circumstances.

You may wish subsequently wish to provide written evidence from a recognised professional such as a consultant, doctor or social worker in support of their application.

**The supporting evidence must relate specifically to the child or family and the school for which the application is being made and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the needs of the child. It should also explain any difficulties that would arise if the child has to attend any alternative school.**

**This evidence must be submitted to the Admissions Support & Advice Team either with the application OR by the closing date for applications at the latest. If the required evidence is not provided, the Local Authority cannot give consideration to any unsubmitted circumstances.**

This category is not intended to replace or supplement the well-established system in Stockport for identifying, supporting and providing for families with children who have varying degrees of Special Educational Needs. **As such, very few applications are considered under this category in any one year**, those that have been, have for example, been situations related to the sudden death or terminal illness of a parent or similar life changing/traumatic event.

The Admissions Support & Advice Team **will not** respond to applicants who have included reasons for a particular preference or contact any party which the applicant may suggest.

### What counts as a siblings?

A sibling\* for the purpose of allocating a school place, means one who is still in attendance at the school (excludes Sixth Form provision) at the time the younger child starts and is resident in the same household.

### What if I have twins or triplets?

If you have children from a multiple birth, the admissions team will try to keep them together should you prefer that.

### Can I apply for a faith school if I am not part of that faith?

Yes – you can apply for any school regardless of denomination. However, in Stockport all faith secondary schools are Voluntary Aided and children Baptised into the faith fall into a higher category.

### Can I apply for a school outside of Stockport?

If you live in Stockport and wish to apply for a maintained school in another Local Authority, you should still apply through Stockport's online system, and include the school in your selection. You are advised to apply for a school in Stockport as well in case your preferred school cannot be allocated in another Local Authority.

### What if I don't get offered a place at my preferred school?

Where it has not been possible to allocate a preferred school place your child will be offered a place at the nearest school with a place available. This may not necessarily be your closest school, because places cannot be guaranteed, and closer schools may have already been filled with applicants who named the school as one of their preferences.

### How do I apply for an independent school?

You would need to contact the school directly. If a place in an independent school has not been confirmed, **we strongly recommend** you apply for a school in Stockport as well until you are certain of the place in the independent school. If you are successful in gaining a place at an independent school, you **must** notify the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team.

### Can I apply from any address?

You can only apply from the address that is the child's principal parental home, i.e., where the child usually resides. **You cannot**, for example, use a temporary address, childminder's address, the address of a grandparent or anyone else who looks after the child during the day or apply from a property you own but do not live in. Equally, if you own a property and temporarily rent another property, the Council would need to be satisfied this wasn't simply for the purpose of obtaining a school place.

In cases where parents have shared responsibility for a child but do not live together, **only 1 address can be used**. The address used will usually be the one considered to be where the child is normally resident. Further advice is contained in the Local Authority's School Admissions Policy document available to view at [www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Please bear in mind that addresses will be checked, and you will be asked for evidence to verify your residence and/or parental responsibility.

If you move address after you have applied, you **must** notify the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team. Places allocated on the basis of an address declared on the application form, which is subsequently found not to be the child's principal parental home, will be withdrawn subject to further investigation.

### Can I apply from any address?

If you are moving to or within the Stockport area, you should apply for your preferred school from your current address by the closing date (**31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**); and contact the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team as soon as you have a confirmed date for your move into your new address.

The School Places, Admissions and Transport Team cannot allocate a place on the basis of an address until you are permanently residing there and can provide evidence to support this.

If the change in circumstance requires a change to the preferences you have expressed, you will be given the opportunity to make these alterations, provided you have told the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team about your change in circumstances.

All changes will be re-assessed according to the oversubscription criteria for each school you have named. If the changes occur after places have been offered it may result in the withdrawal of the original offer made based on your old circumstances, and a new offer being made.

Places allocated on the basis of circumstances declared on the application form which are subsequently found to have changed without notifying the Admissions Support and Advice Team, will be withdrawn subject to further investigation.

### What if I want to change my preferences?

You can make these changes online at any time up to the closing date.

If you decide to change your preferences after the closing date, these **cannot** be accepted unless there are exceptional reasons for doing so.

### What if I don't live in Stockport?

You can still apply for a place at a school in Stockport if you live in a different Local Authority area – you should apply to your own Local Authority.

### What if my child has Special Education needs?

Schools always endeavour to meet the needs of individual children, and most will find their needs can be met within a mainstream school. Some children however may have additional needs which require additional support; for example, when children have a learning difficulty or a disability that means they find it harder to learn than other children in their age group.

Children may have a range of needs, including physical or sensory difficulties, language difficulties and emotional/behavioural difficulties. The network of services that work with schools in Stockport means that each young person's need can be addressed with additional support to overcome the barriers they face.

For pupils with an Education, Health & Care Plan you must contact Stockport's Special Education Needs and Disabilities Team to discuss the transition arrangements for your child. Please **do not** apply via the normal application process.



### **What if I am unhappy with my child's school after they have started?**

If you are unhappy with your child's school, you should initially contact the school and make an appointment to discuss the problems with the Headteacher. Moving schools can cause a great deal of disruption to a young person and it is important to ensure that all avenues have been explored before taking this step as a last resort. If you still wish to go ahead with the transfer, the school will issue you with a three part transfer form to complete having considered all the options.

### **What if I have further questions?**

If you have any further questions that are not answered in this booklet, please check our website

[www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

If you still have questions, you can call our Frontline Team in the Contact Centre on 0161 217 6022.

## **Other Useful Information**

### **Appealing against being refused a place at your preferred school(s)**

If you are not happy with the school your child is offered, you may wish to appeal against the outcome through an Independent Appeals Panel. This means that the panel that makes the decision is entirely independent from the Admissions Service.

If you wish to appeal against the decision, you must contact the Clerk to the Independent Appeals Panel to obtain an 'appeal request form' or download a form from [www.stockport.gov.uk/admissionappeals](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/admissionappeals)

Before deciding whether or not to appeal, you are advised to think about:

- (i) The school's policy for admitting students.
- (ii) Your reasons for wanting your child to attend the school and the strength of your case.

For further information on the process and how to appeal, please visit [www.stockport.gov.uk/admissionappeals](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/admissionappeals)

## Travelling to school

Most young people will live within 3 miles of their local community school and the area is generally well served by public transport. Children under 16 can travel on buses at a concessionary rate.

Some children may qualify for free school transport, please refer to our published policy to determine if your child is eligible for free school transport: [www.stockport.gov.uk/travel-to-school](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/travel-to-school)

Applications for free school transport should be made on our free school transport portal: [www.stockport.gov.uk/travel-to-school](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/travel-to-school)

## Free School Meals and School Uniform Grants

For information on free school meals please visit the following page: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

For information on school uniform grants please visit the following page: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/clothing-grants>

## Term Dates

School term dates can be found on the following page: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/school-term-dates/2023-to-2024-term-dates>

Please refer to the individual school's websites for information on their In Service Training Days.

## Admissions Fraud

**It is an offence to purposely mislead or misrepresent your circumstances to the Council in order obtain a school place.**

**Admissions Fraud can be characterised as:**

- Declaring residence at an address which neither the Child / Principal parent lives at
- Misrepresentation of childcare arrangements including custody, contact and those possessing parental responsibility
- False claims about a child's religion, siblings or public care status



**In all cases of suspected fraud:**

- The application will be suspended
- Any school place offered will be withdrawn immediately and held for a limited time
- Applicants will be required to prove their circumstances within a set timeframe leaving the Council in no doubt
- If satisfactory evidence is provided within a set timeframe, then the application will be progressed/offer of school place reinstated
- If satisfactory evidence is not provided within the timeframe or doubt remains about the applicant's circumstances, then the Council will determine what it deems are the correct circumstances (based upon an absence of information or using information held by the Council and/or other Government Departments). Applications will be progressed using the circumstances determined by the Council, an offer of a school place will only be reinstated if the applicant is still entitled to that place according to the school's oversubscription criteria and other ranked applicants.
- Advice will be taken to determine whether an offence has been committed and where necessary the case will be forwarded to the relevant authorities

# The Schools

Individual catchment area maps for Community Schools, Cheadle Hulme High School, Hazel Grove High School, Reddish Vale High School, Werneth School and The Kingsway School (Academies) can be obtained from the School Places, Admissions and Transport Team upon request via email to [admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk)

## Community Schools

School	Headteacher	Address	Contact	Year 7 Places for September 2023
<b>Bramhall High School</b>	Mr P Williams	Seal Road, Bramhall, SK7 2JT	0161 439 8045	270
<b>Marple Hall School</b>	Mr J Barker	Hilltop Drive, Marple, Stockport, SK6 6LB	0161 427 7966	300
<b>Priestnall School</b>	Mr C Burns	Priestnall Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, SK4 3HP	0161 432 7727	255
<b>Stockport School</b>	Mr I Irwin	Mile End Lane, Stockport, SK2 6BW	0161 483 3622	250
<b>Werneth School</b>	Mr A Conroy	Harrytown Lane, Romiley, Stockport, SK6 3BX	0161 494 1222	250

## Academies

School	Headteacher	Address	Contact	Year 7 Places for September 2023
<b>Stockport Academy</b>	Ms J McCann	Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, SK3 0UP	0161 286 0330	210
<b>Cheadle Hulme High School</b>	Mrs L Magrath	Woods Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, SK8 7JY	0161 485 7201	270
<b>Hazel Grove High School</b>	Mr M Stewart	Jacksons Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 5JX	0161 456 4888	270
<b>Reddish Vale High School</b>	Mrs L Hanson	Reddish Vale Road, Reddish, Stockport, SK5 7HD	0161 477 3544	210
<b>The Kingsway School</b>	Mrs A Fowler	Foxland Road, Gatley, Cheadle,	0161 428 7706	270

		Stockport, SK8 4QA		
<b>Laurus Cheadle Hulme</b>	Mr J Peet	Cheadle Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 5GB	0161 485 7201	210

### Catholic High Schools

School	Headteacher	Address	Contact	Year 7 Places for September 2023
<b>Harrytown Catholic High School</b>	Mr K Turmeau	Harrytown Lane, Romiley, Stockport, SK6 3BU	0161 430 5277	165
<b>St Anne's RC Voluntary Academy</b>	Mr S Logue	Glenfield Road, Heaton Chapel, Stockport, SK4 2QP	0161 432 8162	150
<b>St James' Catholic High School</b>	Mr A Pontifex	St James Way, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 6PZ	0161 482 6900	165

**For help and advice about  
school admissions, please  
telephone our frontline team at  
the Contact Centre:**

**Tel: 0161 217 6022**

More complex matters may be referred to the School Places,  
Admissions and Transport Team via  
[admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk)

An interpreting service is available, if you need help with this information.

Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000. Email: [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

تتوافر لدينا خدمة مثيرة للاهتمام فاذا كنت في حاجة لفهم هذه المعلومات باللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بوحدة الترجمة في ستوكبورت على الرقم التالي: 01614779000 أو على البريد الإلكتروني: [Eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:Eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

এই তথ্য বাংলা ভাষায় বুঝতে সাহায্যের দরকার হলে ইন্টারপ্রিটারের (দোভাষীর) ব্যবস্থা আছে। দয়া করে স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে ফোন করুন: 0161 477 9000 বা ইমেইল করুন: [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

如果你需要他人為你解釋這份資料的內容，我們可提供傳譯服務，

請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。電郵 [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

اگر در مورد این اطلاعات احتیاج به کمک داشتید خدمات مترجمی رایگان موجود است لطفاً با سازمان مترجمی استاکپورت با شماره تلفن و یا [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk) ایمیل آدرس زیر تماس بگیرید. 0161 477 9000

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy z tą informacją dostępne są darmowe usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Wydziału Tłumaczeń w Stockport pod numer 0161 477 9000. Email: [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

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