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1. Introduction

All Local Authorities in England are required, under the [School Admissions Code](#), to operate a coordinated scheme.

All Secondary schools within North Somerset are participants within this Scheme.

The Local Authority is the admission authority for all Voluntary Controlled and Community schools. The Governing Body is the admissions authority for a Foundation or Voluntary Aided school. The Trust is the admissions authority for Free schools and Academies.

It should be noted that this Scheme is subject to alteration to reflect any changes in legislation, case law, Council policy or to ensure legal compliance.

2. Timetable for Coordinated Secondary Admissions

| Date | Action |
|---|---|
| By 12 September 2019 | <p>The Composite Prospectus (parent guide) and the application form will be available. North Somerset parents will be able to express up to three preferences, and give reasons for their preferences, for a new intake admission place at any maintained Secondary, Upper (with an entry age after 11) or Year 10 intake school in England for their child. All preferences should be made in rank order to the applicants home Local Authority by the closing date and time to be considered in the first round of school place allocations.</p> <p>All preferences (1st, 2nd and 3rd etc) will be initially considered equally regardless of ranking.</p> |
| 31 October 2019 | National closing date for secondary school applications. North Somerset residents' applications will be accepted up to 23:59 on the national closing date. |
| By 8 November 2019 | North Somerset Council will send to other Local Authorities, details of applications for their schools. |
| By 22 November 2019 | North Somerset Council will send in confidence to Own Admission Authority schools within North Somerset details of all applications for their schools. Schools will not reveal this information to anyone until after the National Offer Day. The order of the applicant's preferences will not be revealed to schools. |
| By 10 January 2020 | Own Admission Authority schools in North Somerset will apply their over-subscription criteria and send to North Somerset Council, a list indicating the ranking order of all applicants. |
| By 7 February 2020 | North Somerset Council will send to other Local Authorities lists of initial outcomes of applications made by their residents for schools in North Somerset. |
| Once initial outcomes from other local authorities have been received | North Somerset Council will determine the highest preference school that can be offered for each applicant. Where a child qualifies for a place at more than one school, only the highest preference school will be allocated. If no preference can be offered North Somerset Council will determine the school to be allocated for North Somerset Council residents. Only one school will be offered per child. |
| By 17 February 2020 | North Somerset Council will send to other Local Authorities, details of the intended final list of offers for their residents applying for North Somerset schools |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| By 2 March 2020 | North Somerset Council will send to all schools in North Somerset the intended final lists of pupils to be allocated places. Schools must not notify parents of the results of the application process. |
| On 2 March 2020 | North Somerset Council will inform North Somerset residents, whose application has been accepted as on-time, of the result of their application. |
| By 15 March 2020 | The acceptance or refusal of an offer of a school place should be returned by the applicant. |
| 17 April 2020 | Closing date for applications to be considered for the second round of allocations. |
| Up to and including 17 April 2020 | Application details will be exchanged between Local Authorities to enable the next round of allocations to be made. |
| Week commencing 27 April 2020 | Second round of allocations will be made and applicants will be informed of the outcome by post. |
| From May 2020 | Secondary appeals start to be heard. The coordinated process will continue with subsequent rounds of allocations being completed until the coordinated admissions process ends. |
| 31 August 2020 | The coordinated admissions process ends. Applications for school places received after this date will be considered under the in-year transfer process. |
| September 2020 | Child begins school. |

The stated dates for sharing data between Councils and schools and for sending offer/refusal letters to parents are intended target dates. It may not be possible for the data to be exchanged or letters to be sent on those actual dates.

3. Information

3.1 Who can apply

For the 2020-21 school year, entry to Year 7 in schools in North Somerset is for children born between 01/09/08 and 31/08/09.

3.2 How to apply

Regardless of which schools' parents' express preferences for, the application is required to be returned to the Local Authority in the area that they live. The home Local Authority must then pass information on applications to other Local Authorities about applications to schools in their area.

For North Somerset residents the application form is available for submission using the online system on the North Somerset Council [website](#) or in paper form. Applicants are strongly advised to read the parent guide, which is available on the Council [website](#), before applying. See below for details:

North Somerset Council
People and Communities
School Admissions Team
Town Hall
Walliscote Grove Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ

Tel No: 01275 884 078 / 014

Email: admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk

Website: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions

3.3 On time applications

Only applications classed as having been submitted on time will be considered in the first round of school place allocations. Applications received after the closing time and date will not be considered in the first round of allocations unless North Somerset Council considers there is an extenuating reason(s) (see below) for allowing them to be accepted as on time and the application was received before North Somerset Council has sent details of applications to other Local Authorities.

Examples of an extenuating reason may include the following:

- i. The child is from a family of a Crown Servant or of UK Service Personnel and the MOD, FCO or GCHQ has provided a letter declaring a return date and residency area.
- ii. The application was late due to significant health/medical reasons and independent confirmation of this is provided.
- iii. The child is or becomes a 'Child in Care'.

3.4 Applications to be accepted

Applications will be accepted for children who meet one or more of the following:

- they are resident in the UK
- they hold full British Citizen Passports
- they are from countries whose passports have been endorsed to show that they have the right to abide in this country
- they are from the European Economic Area (EEA)

Those who live outside of the United Kingdom (UK) and are wishing to attend a North Somerset school should apply directly to North Somerset Council. However, applications for children who do not meet one of the above will not be accepted until the child is in this country.

Parents of children moving from within the United Kingdom into North Somerset, who wish to be considered as on time application, must have made an original application to their previous home Local Authority by the closing time and date. The application will be processed with the original preferences.

Applications, confirmation of new addresses and any changes to applications, submitted by post but received one working day after the closing date will be deemed to have been submitted on-time.

It is recommended that some form of proof is provided, to confirm an application/change(s) was submitted on time. For example, a Post Office document that confirms it was posted by the closing time and date.

3.5 Parental responsibility

Applications must be made and signed by a person with parental responsibility for the child. If applicants do not have parental responsibility, the person completing the form should send an accompanying letter (in paper or electronic format) explaining the reasons why they are applying rather than a person with parental responsibility. Any evidence to support the case should accompany the letter. The reasons will be considered by North Somerset Council and if deemed acceptable, the application will be processed accordingly. If not deemed acceptable, the application will be returned for the signature of a person with parental responsibility for the child.

Where parents share parental responsibility for a child and two applications are received for the one child from his/her parents, North Somerset Council will ask the parents to determine which application it should consider and which application should be withdrawn. This is because North Somerset Council can offer only one school place to a child at any one time. If parents cannot agree, they should resolve the issue through the court system, for example to obtain a 'Specific Issues Order' which specifies which parent has responsibility to make decisions on school preferences. In the absence of any Order, the decision as to which application should be accepted will be determined by drawing lots. Whichever parent's application is accepted, the

address the child spends the majority of his/her time, will be the one considered by North Somerset Council to be the home address.

3.6 Additional supporting information

Some schools may require additional supporting information to enable them to consider applications under a specific criterion, such as Supplementary Information Forms (SIF's) or religious certificates.

Applicants should check the relevant Council's parent guide and the school's own [admissions policy](#) for their preference school(s) for any additional information/evidence that may be required and the details of where and when to submit it.

3.7 Incomplete applications

Where North Somerset Council receives an application that has not been fully completed with all the information necessary to enable the application to be considered, North Somerset Council will contact the parent to request the outstanding information. Applicants may be asked to provide documentation, for example a copy of a recent gas or electricity bill, to prove that they reside at their stated home address.

If the required information/documentation is not provided, the application will not be considered.

3.8 Alternative school offers

Where applicants are not offered any of the school(s) they have applied for, they may be offered a place at an alternative school. The alternative school offered will be the nearest school to the child's home address with a place available as measured by [shortest available walking route](#).

The school may be a North Somerset school, or a school within another Local Authority (excluding Catholic schools).

Where there are more applications than places remaining at the nearest available school, priority will be given to those living closest to the school by [shortest available walking route](#).

After having had regard to any reasons expressed by the parent for their preferences, North Somerset Council may decide it is appropriate to offer a different alternative school to the nearest one with a space. For example, if the nearest school was incompatible with the parent's religious convictions.

If the child does not live in North Somerset, their home Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that they are allocated a school place.

3.9 Waiting list

North Somerset Council and/or Own Admission Authority schools must hold a list of those applicants still seeking a place at their preferred school(s) until at least 31 December 2020. Please see the school's own [admissions policy](#) for waiting list details. If parents would like their child's name to be added to the waiting list they must let North Somerset Council know, as no child is added automatically.

Priority will not be given on the basis of the date an application was added to the list. All applications must be ranked in line with the admission authority's [oversubscription criteria](#) and any allocations will be made using this. Each child added to a waiting list will require the list to be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria. Waiting list positions can go up as well as down as additional applicants are added to or removed from the waiting list and ranked in accordance with the specific oversubscription criteria.

Any application or appeal that is yet to be processed will be considered for a vacancy along with those already on the waiting list.

If your child is on a waiting list for a school, and a place subsequently becomes available, that place will be offered in accordance with the school's [oversubscription criteria](#). In line with the [School Admissions Code](#), a child may only have one offer of a place at a time. This means when a child is offered a place from the waiting list, it will result in **any currently allocated school being automatically withdrawn**. If you have decided to keep the offered school place and no longer wish to stay on a waiting list, it is imperative that you contact the School Admissions Team and ask to be taken off the waiting list.

Governing Bodies/Academy Trusts of Own Admission Authority schools may, if they wish, delegate the functions of determining the order of priority of applications, maintaining their waiting list and/or considering applications to North Somerset Council. However, legal responsibility for fulfilling their statutory functions would remain with the Governing Body/Academy Trust.

3.10 Changes to an application

If after an application has been made, the School Admissions Team is made aware that a child:

- is, was or has become a Child in Care,
- has an appropriate brother sister/link,
- any other detail that may affect the application of over-subscription criteria (not including changes of address),
- has had changes to their application accepted by their home Local Authority and North Somerset Council has been informed by the home Local Authority,

the School Admissions Team will endeavour to include the information in the first round of allocations. However, this may not be possible if the allocation process has reached a stage where it would not be practical to include such information. It may not

be considered if schools have already ranked their applications. It is ultimately the responsibility of parents to provide all details relevant to their application.

3.11 Changing preferences

Altering the order of preferences is also considered as a change of preferences.

Before the closing date for applications

Parents can change their preferences, up until the Closing Date and time. This can be done instantly when applying [online](#) and a confirmation email that the changes have been made will be received. This will override any previous applications.

If parents apply on a paper application form, they may contact the School Admissions Team in writing to notify them of any changes to their application.

After the closing date, but before North Somerset Council has sent details of applications to other Local Authorities

Changes of preference(s) will not be accepted after the Closing Date for the first round of allocations, unless North Somerset Council consider there are extenuating reasons for allowing it to be treated as on time. To enable the Council to consider this, parents must submit their reasons in writing to the School Admissions Team.

If there are no reasons or evidence is submitted with a change of preferences, the original application will be considered in the first round of allocations and the revised application will be in subsequent rounds of allocations. If parents do not wish the original application to continue, they will have to specifically state that this application is to be withdrawn.

Parents can also change their preferences once they have been notified of the outcome of the original application. Please note that if parents change their preferences then the school place that has been offered will be withdrawn.

If you submit written reasons to North Somerset Council and these are considered to be extenuating, the application will be considered as an on time application.

After North Somerset Council has sent details of applications to other Local Authorities but before offers have been made

Changes of preference(s) will not be accepted after the Closing Date for the first round of allocations.

The preferences on any on time application will be considered in the first round of allocations unless parents have specifically stated that the application can be withdrawn.

Parents can also revise their preferences once they have been notified of the outcome of your original application. Any new preferences will be considered in subsequent rounds of allocations and the previously offered school place will be withdrawn.

After offers have been made (after 2 March 2020)

If a parent wishes to change their preferences after having received an offer based on a previous application, the parent may reject the offer made and submit a new application which will be considered in the next round of allocations. The new application will be treated as a late application. This applies even if the offered school was not one of the parent's original named preferences.

The place that has been rejected by the parent submitting the new application will not be kept open for their child and may be offered to other applicants in the next round of allocations.

When changing preferences, there is no guarantee that the application will be successful at obtaining a preferred school place as this will depend on available in the next round of allocations.

3.12 Late applications

Late applications are applications submitted after the Closing Date and time. Late applications will not be considered in the first round of allocations unless North Somerset Council considers there is an extenuating reason(s) for allowing them to be accepted as On Time, and the application was received before North Somerset Council has sent details of applications to other Councils. Late applications will not receive an outcome on the National Offer Day.

Late applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application after the first round of allocations has been completed.

Details of:

- all late applications
- on time applicants still seeking a place at one of their preferred schools
- on time applicants who have decided to change their school preference(s)
- allocation of any places declined by parents from the first round of allocations

will be exchanged between Local Authorities up to and including 17 April 2020, to enable the next round of allocations to be completed by week commencing 27 April 2020.

Further admission rounds will take place until the end of the coordinated admissions process.

3.13 Admitting above PAN

If applicable, a governing body/academy trust of an Own Admission Authority school must notify North Somerset Council of their intention to admit above their Admission Number in good time to allow the Council to deliver those co-ordinated arrangements.

3.14 Distances

Shortest walking route is the shortest available walking route between the child's home address and the nearest entrance to the school site. North Somerset Council use the

road and footpath network as defined by Ordnance Survey to calculate the route. The distance is calculated from the point on the road and footpath network which is closest to the child's home as indicated on the North Somerset Council computerised mapping system and does not include the distance between the property and the road.

If it is not possible to measure a distance on North Somerset Council computerised system(s), North Somerset Council will use an alternative computerised system. Nearest school, unless stated otherwise is;

- i. the distances used to determine the nearest school will be measured in a direct line. If direct line distances are equal the nearest school will be determined by drawing lots.
- ii. the nearest appropriate one. An appropriate school is defined as a maintained school, not private or fee charging, (excluding Catholic schools) that is appropriate to the child's age on joining the school.

3.15 Council

Within this document references to 'Council' mean either North Somerset Council or any local Council. 'Home Local Authority' means the Council within which the child lives.

3.16 Parent

This includes all those people, including carers, who have parental responsibility for a child as set out in the Children Act 1989. All references within this document to parent(s) therefore include carers.