



## **GEP Admissions Policy George Abbot School and Sixth Form 2020-21**

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| <b>Responsible Committee:</b> | <b>GEP Board of Trustees</b>         |
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b>   | <b>Chief Executive Officer</b>       |
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**We seek to be a network of schools where every pupil receives the best possible education**

## **Allocating Places**

Applications for George Abbot School must be made by 31 October 2019. Places at Surrey secondary schools, including George Abbot, will be offered on the basis of the preferences that are shown on the application form. Parents will be asked to rank up to six preferences and these will be considered under an equal preference system.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that name George Abbot School will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered. In this way, the number of places available will be reduced by the number of children with an EHCP that has named George Abbot School.

The admission number for Year 7 is 300. In the event of over-subscription, places will be allocated in 2020/21 in the following order:-

1. Looked After and Previously Looked After Children
2. Exceptional Circumstances
3. Sibling(s) at the school at the time of the child's admission
4. Children of Staff
5. Nearest School to home address
6. Any Other Applicant

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

### **1. Looked After and Previously Looked After Children**

Looked after and previously looked after children will receive the top priority for a place. Looked after and previously looked after children are those who are registered as being in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a), e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and children who have previously been in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a) and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangement order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989).

Places will be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the local authority may also ask schools to admit over their published admission number at other times under this criterion.

### **2. Exceptional Circumstances**

Occasionally there will be a very small number of children for whom exceptional social or medical circumstances will apply which will warrant a placement at a particular school. There are two categories under exceptional circumstances:

- a) Children with a serious or life-threatening medical condition or disability, or children where there are sensitive and/or serious individual and/or family circumstances that make attendance at George Abbot School essential, can be considered under the exceptional circumstances criteria. A case should be provided which demonstrates clearly why you feel it is essential for your child to attend George Abbot School, and why no other school can meet your child's needs. In the case of a medical condition or disability, this should be stated on the application form and can only be considered if substantive medical evidence from a professional such as a doctor and/or hospital consultant is attached and for other circumstances, evidence from a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer. Please note that a letter from a GP will not normally be deemed sufficient evidence. If there are sensitive and/or serious individual and/or

family circumstances, these should be stated at the time of application. Substantive evidence, such as a report from a support service, must be provided.

Common medical conditions and allergies can usually be supported in all mainstream schools, therefore priority under a school's exceptional circumstances criterion would not normally be given for these. In addition, routine child minding arrangements will not normally be considered to be an exceptional circumstance for placement at a particular school.

- b) Children who were previously in state care **outside of England**, and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, may be considered under this criterion. A child will be regarded as having been in state care **outside of England** if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Evidence will need to be provided to demonstrate that the child was in state care **outside of England** and left that care as a result of being adopted.

Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at George Abbot School and in each case a decision will be based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at George Abbot School above any other.

Places may be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at George Abbot School and the Local Authority may also ask George Abbot School to admit over their Published Admission Number at other times under this criterion.

### **3. Siblings**

A sibling will be considered to be a brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), a half-brother or half-sister or a step-brother or step-sister or an adoptive or foster sibling, living as part of the same family unit, at the same address.

A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling at George Abbot School at the time of the child's admission. For the initial intake to the school a child will be given priority for admission only if their sibling will still be at George Abbot School in September 2019. This will apply both at the initial allocation of places and also when prioritising the waiting list. Giving sibling priority has the effect of maximizing the opportunity for children in the same family to be educated at George Abbot School.

Where a sibling is in Year 11 or Year 12 at George Abbot School at the time of application for a younger child to start Year 7 in September 2019, they will be deemed as being in the school at the time of admission, unless the parent/carer has specifically expressed that they will not be continuing in the following academic year.

### **4. Children of Staff**

Priority is given to the children of staff where the member of staff has been employed at George Abbot School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made. The member of staff must complete the supplementary information form attached.

### **5. Nearest School to home address**

The nearest school is defined as the school closest to the child's home address that admits students of the appropriate age range, as measured by a straight line from the address point of the student's home, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest school gate for students to use. This is calculated using the Admission & Transport Team's Geographical Information System.

## **6. Any Other Applicant**

Remaining places will be offered on the basis of nearness to the school measured in a straight line from the address point of the student's home, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest school gate for students to use. This is calculated using the Admission & Transport Team's Geographical Information System.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Home Address**

The home address of the child excludes any business, relative or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence. In the case of formal equal shared custody, it will be up to the parents to agree which address to use. In other cases it is where the child spends most of their time. We will not generally accept a temporary address if the main carer of the child still possesses a property that has previously been used as a home address, nor will we accept a temporary address if we believe it has been used solely or mainly to obtain a school place when an alternative address is still available to that child. All distances will be measured by the computerised Geographical Information System maintained by Surrey's Admissions and Transport Team.

The address to be used for the initial allocation of a place for Year 7 will be the child's address at the closing date for application. Changes of address may be considered if there are exceptional reasons behind the change, such as if a family has just moved into the area. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation, will be the child's current address. Any offer of a place on the basis of address is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Parents have a responsibility to notify Surrey County Council and George Abbot School of any change of address.

#### **Tie Breaker**

Where two or more children share a priority for a place when using distance as a tie breaker, eg where two children live equidistance from a school, George Abbot School will draw lots to determine which child should be given priority.

In the case of multiple births, where children are ranked consecutively in their order of priority for a place and there are not sufficient vacancies remaining for each of them, wherever it is logistically possible, each child will be offered a place. Where it is not logistically possible to offer each child a place the child(ren) to be offered the last remaining place(s) will be determined by their rank position.

#### **Waiting Lists**

Where there are more applicants than places available, waiting lists will operate for each year group according to the oversubscription criteria shown for George Abbot School and without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list.

Waiting lists for the initial intake to George Abbot School will be maintained until the last day of the Autumn Term 2020 when they will be cancelled. Parents wishing to remain on the waiting list after this date must write to George Abbot School by 31 December 2020, stating their wish and providing their son/daughter's name, date of birth and the name of the son/daughter's current school.

After 31 December 2020, parents whose children are not already on the waiting list, but who wish them to be so must apply for in-year admission via the In Year Application Form available on George Abbot School's website [www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) . Waiting lists for all other year groups will be cancelled at the end of each academic year.

#### **Children of Staff**

The child of a member of staff who does not qualify for priority admission, because the member of staff joined the school less than two years before the admissions deadline, will have priority on

the waiting list from the time when their parent has been employed at the school for two years or more.

### **Out of Year Group requests**

Applicants may choose to seek a place outside their child's chronological (correct) year group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and what is in the best interests of the child concerned.

Applicants who are applying for their child to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age. If, in liaison with the headteacher, governors agree for the child to have a decelerated entry to the school the place cannot be deferred and instead the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the decelerated cohort.

Applicants who are applying for their child to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If, in liaison with the headteacher, governors agree for the child to have an accelerated entry to the school, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry to the school, the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort.

Applicants must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interest and provide what evidence they have to support this. More information on educating children out of their chronological year group and the process for making such requests is available at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions).

### **In Year Admissions**

The following applications will be treated as In Year Admissions during 2020/21:

Applications after 1 September 2020 for admission into Year 7

All other applications for admission to Years 8 to 11

In Year applications for George Abbot School must be made directly to the school via George Abbot School's website [www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) . Where there are more applications than places available, each application will be ranked in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria for George Abbot School.

### **Sixth Form Admissions**

George Abbot School will welcome applications from internal students who have attended Year 11 of the school during the 2019/20 academic year.

George Abbot School will also accept applications for entry to the Sixth Form from external applicants. The Published Admission Number for external applicants for entry to Year 12 in September 2020 will be 15, but more places may be available subject to the take up by internal applicants. Acceptance onto a programme of subjects/courses is subject to a student having achieved the entry requirements. Students should refer to the Sixth Form Prospectus for the individual subject requirements. Individual subjects may be limited in the number of students they can accommodate.

Should applications from suitably qualified external students exceed the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will apply.

1. Looked After and Previously Looked After Children – as above
2. Exceptional Circumstances - as above
3. Other applicants on the basis of nearness to George Abbot School, measured in a straight line from the address point of the student's house, as set by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest

school gate for students to use. This is calculated using the Admission and Transport Team's Geographical Information System – as above