

Applying for a place under Priority 5, Medical, Compassionate/ Social grounds for a school in the Herefordshire Local Authority area only.

You can request priority for a place at your preferred school if your child has an exceptional medical and/or social need that makes attendance at a particular school essential

Please note that if the panel agree - your application is only ranked at the top of the criteria that your application would originally fall within

'Medical need' does not include mild medical conditions, such as asthma or allergies. 'Social need' does not include a parent's wish that a child attends the school because of a child's aptitude or because their friends attend the school or because of routine child minding arrangements.

- Tick the appropriate box on the application form to show that you wish your application to be considered on medical and/or social grounds.
- Submit supporting evidence from a professional, such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical need or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for social need. The supporting evidence must confirm the child's medical and/or social need and set out why that need makes it essential that your child attends the named school rather than any other. Your child's exceptional medical and/or social need cannot be considered if you do not submit supporting evidence by the 31 October 2020
- Send your evidence to Mrs Dawn Skyrme Secondary Transfers Admissions Officer, Plough Lane Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE. All information submitted will be regarded as confidential
- Providing evidence does not guarantee priority at the preferred school. Decisions will be made based on the merits of each case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at a particular school above any other.

What happens next

- For all community and voluntary controlled schools
- A panel of local authority senior officers will consider your evidence, the panel of officers will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to determine that the school applied for is the only one that can meet the need of the child. You will be notified of the panel's decision in writing and the letter will indicate which criterion we will use to process your application. All Herefordshire schools have experience in dealing with children with diverse social and medical needs, and so your case must be clearly exceptional in order to be considered under this criterion.
- The panel need to agree that your child's admission is essential. If not, your application will be considered against the school's remaining oversubscription criteria

For Academies, Foundation, Aided and Trust Schools

- If you are applying under this criteria and the school that you are applying for is either, Voluntary Aided, Foundation or Academy Schools you will need to see if this priority is in their admissions criteria. (Please refer to the Secondary Transfer Book Appendix 4) you will need to send the supporting evidence directly to the school.
- If you are applying on these grounds for a school in another authority you will need to check with them if this priority is in their admissions criteria and what supporting information is required.

Not all schools give priority to children or family members with exceptional medical or social needs. Refer to the individual school's admission policy to see how places are allocated