



The Victory Primary School

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

The Victory Primary School

Admissions Policy

2026-2027



THE VICTORY PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2026/27

This policy will apply to all admissions for the academic year 2026/27 including in year applications. The Published Admission Number is 30.

If the school is oversubscribed, applications will be considered first according to the priorities in the order set out below: -

1. Looked after Children – These are defined as Looked after Children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear 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 they were adopted or became subject to child arrangements order or special guardianship order. See "Additional Information".
2. Children or families who have a significant medical, physical, psychological, or social need. Evidence must be attached. Applications under this criterion must be supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional involved stating clearly why the preferred school is the most appropriate for the child and reasons why other schools in the city are inappropriate. Please see "Additional Information".
3. Children living within the school's designated catchment area. (If the school cannot admit all applications from the catchment area, applicants will be ranked within this category in accordance with priorities 4(i) to (iv) below.)
4. Children living outside the school's catchment area in the following priority order: -
 - i. Children who have a brother or sister (living in the same household) already on role and who will still be attending the school the following academic year:
Note – this category does include stepbrothers/stepsisters, adoptive brothers/sisters living within the same household or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household.
 - ii. Children eligible for service premium
Note – service premium is paid to eligible children of armed services personnel under S14 of the Education Act 2002.
 - iii. Children of staff employed at the school
 - a. Where a member of staff has been employed at the school for 2 or more years at the time at which the application is made, and or
 - b. The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage



- iv. Children who live closest to the school, based on the shortest distance from home to school, measured 'as the crow flies'. (This distance will be used where necessary to prioritise applications). Should there be two or more identical distances requiring prioritisation, this will be done by casting lots. Please see "Additional Information. Note - should the school be oversubscribed from within any of the criteria 4(i) above, then any additional criteria as given in 4(i) to 4(ii) will be used to prioritise applications within these categories

Pupils with a statutory education, health and care plan

The Admissions code states "all children whose Education Health and Care (EHC) plan names the school must be admitted". These children will have priority for admission over and above all other admission applications and will be included in the admissions allocation process.

Ukrainian Refugees

The Secretary of State has made clear in communications with Directors of Children's Services that schools should use flexibilities to admit above PAN and exceed infant class size caps (under the 'exceptional circumstances' element of the Admissions Code) 'where necessary' to accommodate Ukrainian children arriving into England. All United Learning academies are encouraged to admit Ukrainian Refugees wherever possible.

In line with the guidance here about admitting children from overseas, children who are part of a family entering and residing in the UK under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme or Ukraine Family Scheme can attend school. This also applies to children from Hong Kong and Afghanistan under similar resettlement arrangements.

Additional Information

Looked after children

A "looked after child" is a child who is in a) the care of a local authority, or b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A child is regarded as being in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12 Adoption orders) and children adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002(Section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22/4/14 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a "special guardianship order" as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian/s.



Medical, physical, psychological or social need

If a child or a family member has a significant medical, physical, psychological or social need that you would like taken into account when places are allocated, applicants should tick the relevant box on the application form and submit supporting evidence to support their request. The evidence must be in writing from a doctor or other appropriate professional involved with the child/family member's health, wellbeing or specific family circumstances. In all cases evidence must show why it is appropriate that the child attends the preferred school and why other schools in the city are inappropriate.

Catchment Areas

A catchment area is a geographical area defined by the council. The idea of having a catchment area is to give some priority for the admission of children living in the local area of the school. Please note: living in the catchment area does not guarantee a place at the school. Your catchment area is determined by your home address (the child's permanent residence). Further details of the individual school's catchment area will be provided on the council's website or by contacting the Admissions Team.

Sibling links

A sibling link is defined as a child's brother or sister (living in the same household) already on roll and attending the school you have applied to or at an adjacent infant/junior school and who will still be attending the school the following academic year. This category includes stepbrothers/stepsisters; adoptive and foster brothers/sisters living in the same household or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household. This does not include siblings who live in a different household. Twins, triplets and other children of multiple birth will be admitted above the admission limit of a school if the limit has been reached by admitting one of the multiple birth children. A sibling link at the school does not guarantee admission to the school.

Distance

Where it is necessary to prioritise applications, the criterion will be prioritised based on the shortest distance from the child's home to school, measured in a straight line 'as the crow flies'. Distances will be measured using the council's Geographical Information System (GIS) department. The Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) unique property reference co-ordinates will be used to represent the school, whilst home co-ordinates will be primarily derived from the LLPG, with Ordnance Survey's ADDRESS-POINT® product used as support. Only distances measured by GIS will be taken into account for the purposes of the distance criterion. Should there be two or more identical distances, the prioritisation will be done by casting lots. The Admissions Team will arrange for this to be carried out by the LA's Democratic Services who are independent of the school and the admissions process.

Children eligible for Pupil Premium or Service Premium

Under section 14 of the Education Act 2002 children may be eligible for pupil premium or Armed services personnel may be eligible for the service premium.



The Armed forces Covenant Board, for which Portsmouth is signed up means the admission authorities may give priority in their oversubscription criteria to children eligible for the Service Premium. This is for the purposes of supporting pastoral needs of the children of Armed Services personnel.

Pupils attract the service premium if they meet the following criteria

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- One of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years
- One of their parents dies whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil is in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Service and the War Pensions Scheme
- The child must live with the service parent to be eligible for the service premium

Children of Staff

Children of staff employed at the school

- Where a member of staff has been employed for 2 or more years at the time at which the application is made, and/or
- The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which is a skills shortage

Fair Access Protocol

The Local Authority operates a Fair Access Protocol which prioritises admissions for certain categories of secondary school age children. This protocol relates to admission applications throughout the year (but not the transfer of Year 6 pupils from primary/junior to secondary schools in September 2025). The protocol takes priority above the school's admission policy for those on a waiting list and the LA may require the school to admit above their published admission number.

Appeals

If a parent is unsuccessful with any of their preferences, they will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel and will be provided with the relevant documentation.

Waiting lists

All parents who have been refused a place at the school will have the option to indicate their wish to remain on the waiting list – via a tick box on the allocation response form online or on a paper reply slip.

Children will be held on the waiting list by order of the criteria in the Admissions Policy. No account can be taken of the length of time a pupil is on the list. A pupil's position can change on the list as new applicants join or other applicants come off the waiting list.

Children will remain on a waiting list only until the end of the academic year August 2026, if parents/carers want their children to be on the waiting list for the following academic year, they must reapply.



Objections to the OSA (Schools Adjudicator)

Objections to these admissions arrangements can be made to the OSA by 15 May - see link below

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-adjudicator-make-an-objection-appealorreferral#objections-to-and-referrals-about-determined-school-admission-arrangements>

or contact the OSA

osa.team@schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk

OSA, Bishopsgate House, Feethams, Darlington, DL1 5QE

The Victory Primary School's Published Admission Number (PAN) for 2026/2027 is 30.