

Policy Directive

CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH AN EDUCATION–SPECIFIED OUT OF CATCHMENT AREA/PARTNER SITE (ES-OCAPS) PLACEMENT MAY BE CONTESTED

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Summary of Changes¹ from Previous Versions

Version no/Date	Change	Comment	Section/ Page
V2.8	Annual review / republication	Cover page updated	n/a
V2.7	Annual review / republication	Cover page updated	n/a
V2.6	Annual review / republication	Cover page updated	n/a
V2.5 (June 20)	Annual review / republication	Minor changes to dates Change of nomenclature from “Education Services” to “the Committee <i>for</i> Education, Sport & Culture”	n/a
V2.4 (Aug 19)	Annual review / republication	Minor changes to dates	n/a
	<i>(Table started August 2019)</i>		

¹ Material changes only. Minor changes (such as to punctuation, grammar, etc.) will not be listed

1.0 Introduction

The Committee for Education, Sport & Culture's Primary and Secondary Admissions Policies state that it may be necessary a child to be allocated a place at a school or site other than their catchment school/Partner Site. Such allocations will be determined by the Head of Education Operations, acting on the Committee's behalf.

If parents/carers wish to contest a child's placement at a school/site other than their catchment school, or, as appropriate, Partner Site, they need to explain why it would be unreasonably detrimental for their child's education to attend the allocated (i.e. non-catchment) school/site. Circumstances where a planned placement may be reconsidered are described below. Decisions in each case will be taken with regard to all the circumstances submitted by the parents/carers and such other relevant information as The Education Office is aware of.

1.1 Medical, psychological or specific social needs

The circumstances described in the application must relate to the child, and parents/carers will be expected to provide supporting evidence from a recognised Health or Social Care professional. The evidence must support the case as to why a place at the allocated school/Partner Site would be unreasonably detrimental to the child's education. If The Education Office believes the case is made, an alternative place will be allocated.

1.2 Representations made where an elder sibling attends and will continue to attend his/her catchment school during the next school year

In these circumstances, the case is normally considered to be made. The Education Office is generally able to allow requests for siblings to attend the same school, subject to two conditions: the avoidance of unreasonable expenditure and that space is available.

1.3 Representations made by school-based employees of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture

Some employees would find it difficult to work in a school-based environment where their child is a pupil and similarly some children would not want to attend a school/site where a parent works. The Education Office will approve a request from employees where there are strong grounds to believe that it would be unreasonably detrimental to their child's education for them to attend the allocated school/site on this basis. In such circumstances, it will be at the discretion of The Education Office to allocate the nearest appropriate school, subject to space and other considerations.

1.4 Representations made to avoid ‘unreasonable’ transport arrangements

Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school. However, there may be instances where the child lives outside the defined walking distance², public/school bus routes are not accessible or practicable and transportation by other means is not possible. If such circumstances can be demonstrated The Education Office would seek to offer a suitable alternative placement, subject to the availability of space and resources.

1.5 Any Other Substantial Reason

If parents/carers can present circumstances which clearly show it would be unreasonably detrimental to their child’s education to attend the allocated school/site and The Education Office agrees with the facts as presented, the planned placement may be reconsidered.

² Walking distance is defined by the Education (Guernsey) Law, 1970 (as amended) as: “in relation to a child who has not attained the age of eight years one mile, and in the case of any other child two and one half miles, measured by the nearest available route.”