






Policy Directive

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

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1.0 Introduction

Education Services' Primary and Secondary Admissions Policies state that it may be necessary for Education Services to allocate a child a place at a school or site other than his/her catchment school/Partner Site.

If parents/carers wish to contest a child's placement at a school/site other than his/her 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 Education Services 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 Education Services believes the case is made, an alternative place will be allocated.

1.2 Representations made where an elder brother or sister 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. Education Services 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 and 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. Education Services 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 him/her to attend the allocated school/site on this basis. In such circumstances, it will be at the discretion of Education Services to allocate the nearest appropriate school, subject to space and other considerations.

1.4 Transport

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 distance¹, public/school bus routes are not accessible or practicable and transportation by other means is not possible. If such circumstances can be demonstrated Education Services 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 Education Services agrees with the facts as presented, the planned placement may be reconsidered.

¹ 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."