

### Policy Directive

# CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A PARENT/CARER REQUEST FOR AN OUT OF CATCHMENT AREA STUDENT (PC-OSAS) PLACEMENT MAY BE AGREED

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Contact:	Director of Strategy, Policy & Quality Assurance			
<b>⊠:</b>	educationsportandculture@gov.gg			
■:	Sir Charles Frossard House			
	La Charroterie			
	St Peter Port			
	GY1 1FH			
<b>~</b> :	+44 (0)1481 733000			
	www.gov.gg/education			

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#### CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A PC-OCAS PLACEMENT MAY BE AGREED

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#### 1.0 Introduction

The Education Services' Admissions Policy states that if parents wish to request a placement in a school other than the catchment school, they need to explain why it would be unreasonably detrimental for their child's education to attend the allocated catchment school. Circumstances where it might be appropriate to request a change of school are described below. Decisions in each case will be taken with regard to all the circumstances submitted by the parents and such other relevant factors as Education Services is aware of.

## 1.1 Applications in respect of children with 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 catchment school 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 Applications made where an elder brother or sister attends and will continue to attend the requested 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 Applications 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 where a parent worked. 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 catchment school. 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 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 catchment school and Education Services agrees with the facts as presented, such requests may be approved, subject to the avoidance of unreasonable expenditure and that space is available.

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