

# Leek High School

## Admissions Policy 2020-2021



Early in the autumn term of Year 8 you will receive a letter from the LA advising you of your catchment High School. You will be asked to complete a form stating which school you wish your child to attend. Forms should be returned to the LA by the deadline stated (normally towards the end of October).

At the beginning of March, the LA will inform you of the name of the school at which your child has been offered a place. If you are unhappy with their decision you have the right to appeal. Appeals are heard during the first part of the summer term by an independent appeal panel.

In accordance with legislation, children who have a statutory statement of special educational need or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names Leek High School must be admitted to that school. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.

If the number of students requesting a place at Leek High exceeds the Published Admission Number (PAN), which is currently 175, the LA will use the following criteria to allocate places:

- 1) Children in Care and children who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
- 2) Children previously in care outside of England or Wales who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order)
- 3) Children who satisfy both of the following tests:

**Test 1:** the child is distinguished from the great majority of applicants either on their own medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances.

Medical grounds must be supported by a medical report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application). This report must clearly justify, for health reasons only, why it is better for the child's health to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

Exceptional circumstances must relate to the choice of school and the individual child, i.e. the circumstances of the child, not the economic or social circumstances of the parent/carer. It should be supported by a professional report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application), e.g. social worker. This report must clearly justify why it is better for the child to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

**Test 2:** the child would suffer hardship if they were unable to attend the preferred school.

Hardship means severe suffering of any kind, not merely difficulty or inconvenience, which is likely to be experienced as a result of the child attending a different school. Applicants must provide detailed information about both the type and severity of any likely hardship at the time of application.

- 4) Children who have an elder sibling in attendance at the preferred school and who will still be attending the school at the proposed admission date; (For admission purposes, a brother or sister is a child who lives at the same address and either: have one or both natural parents in common; are related by a parents marriage; are adopted or fostered by a common parent or are unrelated children who live at the same address, whose parents live as partners.)
- 5) Children living within the catchment area of the preferred school
- 6) Children who attend certain primary schools defined as major contributory primary schools. The Board of The Talenum Learning Trust has named Churnet View Middle School as the major contributory Middle School for Leek High School.
- 7) Other children arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the main gate of the school, determined by a straight-line measurement as calculated by the Local Authority's Geographical Information System.

Where it is not possible to accommodate all children applying for places within a particular category then the Local Authority will allocate the available places in accordance with the remaining criteria. If for instance, all the catchment area children cannot be accommodated at a school, children who are resident within the catchment area will be arranged in order of priority according to distance i.e. category (6).

If you wish your son/daughter to transfer to Leek High School at a time other than the start of Year 9, please contact the school directly.

**ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNORS ON: February 2019**

**POLICY REVIEW DATE: February 2020**