Cheshire West and Chester Council

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CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SC HOOLS:

1) **A 'Looked After Child'** or a child who was previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence, or special guardianship order). A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

2) **Children for whom there are particular medical or social reasons which, in the Council's view, justifies admission to a particular school.** Supporting evidence from a registered professional, such as a medical practitioner, psychologist or social worker, must be provided which sets out the particular reasons why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. A panel of officers will consider the information presented and will determine whether the evidence is sufficiently compelling to apply this criterion to the application. The Council, if it is considered appropriate, will seek the views of the School Doctor or Educational Psychologist in the event of parents requesting admission on medical or psychological grounds. This criterion cannot be considered if the required documents have not been received. Few applications fall within this category.

3) **Siblings** – pupils with elder brothers or sisters, step-brothers or step-sisters, half-brothers or half-sisters, adopted brothers or adopted sisters **living together as part of one household**, already attending the preferred school (in years Reception through to Year 10 and year 12) and expected to continue at the school in the following school year. (i.e. at the time of admission)

4) **Children resident within the designated catchment zone of the school.** Children will be classed within this category if they and their parents/carers are resident within the area served by the school on the closing date for applications.

5) **Children** not resident within a school's local catchment zone but **attending a school designated as a partner school for admissions purposes**, as out-of-zone pupils.

6) **Pupils living nearest to the school** measured using an Ordnance Survey address-point system which measures straight line distances in miles from the address point of the school to the address point of the place of residence.

Further notes: Where a school cannot accommodate all pupils qualifying under one of the criteria stated above, the next criteria will also be applied to determine priority for admission. For example, if a school cannot accommodate all siblings for whom an application has been received, all sibling applicants will be prioritised in the order of:• Siblings (criterion 3) who live within the school's designated catchment area (criterion 4)

• Siblings (criterion 3) who **do not** live within the school's designated catchment area (criterion 6)

All applicants within each criterion will be put into a distance order with priority being given to those that live nearest to the school, as stated in criterion 6 above.

Where it is identified that there are a limited number of places available and the Local Authority cannot differentiate between the applications using the nearest school criterion (criterion 6) a random allocation tie-breaker will be applied. This may be required for example, where applicants reside in the same block of flats or are children of a multiple birth living at the same address.

Where a school can accommodate some, but not all pupils qualifying for one of the preceding criteria, priority will be given to pupils having regard to the subsequent criteria.