

## Admissions to Secondary Schools 2022-23

### How does an Equal Preference Scheme work?

When you apply for a school place you are advised to list 3 schools. The school that you name as your highest preference would normally be the one you really want. For instance;

1. Bluefield Community High School
2. Brownfield CE (Aided) School
3. Greenfield Grammar School

Once all the preferences have been collated and put on to our admissions system, the admission policy for each school is applied to your child's application along with all the other applications for the same school. (At this stage, it doesn't matter whether you have listed the school as preference 1, 2 or 3, that is not considered as all are considered equally against each school's policy, and it is where your child is placed within that policy that counts.)

All applicants for a particular school are put into order according to the oversubscription criteria in that school's policy – which may differ greatly depending on the status of the school – ie. Community or Voluntary Controlled, Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Academy, or Free school.

Places at the school are filled up to the published admission number, taking those at the top of the list first. Lancashire LA will collate the rankings for each school, the answer for each child against each preference will either be a yes (place available) or no (place not available).

If more than one school can offer a place, then, and only then is the order of preferences looked at. You will only get one offer, this will be the highest of those that can offer a place. If all three schools can offer, you will only be offered your top preference. Sometimes not all schools can offer a place, e.g.;

- |                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Bluefield Community High School | No  |
| 2. Brownfield CE (Aided) School    | Yes |
| 3. Greenfield Grammar School       | Yes |

In this case the offer will be Brownfield CE School, and the parent will be advised of procedures for waiting/reserve lists and appeal procedures. The Greenfield place will be offered to someone else.

If none of the schools preferred can offer, the Local Authority will make an allocation where places remain at a school.