

Parent / Carers guide to applying for 1b Priority for School Admission



What is 1b Priority?

This is an application to be given a priority for admission to one specific school because the child has exceptional needs that can only be met at that specific school.

It applies to pupils without an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) who have

- Special Educational Needs that can only be met at a specific school, or
- exceptional medical or mobility needs that can only be met at a specific school

This priority forms part of the Leeds City Council admissions policy for primary and secondary schools, meaning that all Leeds Community and Voluntary Controlled schools offer this priority.

What about other types of school?

This priority may be included in the admission policy for schools that are Academies, Foundation Schools, Free Schools or Voluntary Aided Schools. However, it is not mandatory for a school to include it as a criteria. Parents/carers are advised to read the school's individual admissions policy to see if it is included and to check how they apply.

How do I know whether to apply for Priority 1b?

Leeds City Council promotes inclusion for all children and young people across the city.

Every child, where possible, should be able to have their needs met in local mainstream provision. It is the expectation in Leeds that all mainstream schools are able to provide for all children with

- low level Special Educational Needs (SEN),
- the majority of children with Complex SEN Needs.
- the majority of children with medical or mobility needs
- the majority of vulnerable children who have social, emotional and mental health needs.

'Social need' does not include a parent's wish that a child attends the school because of a child's aptitude or ability or because their friends attend the school.

'Medical need' does not include mild medical conditions as all Leeds schools are expected to be able to meet these needs.

Leeds schools are highly inclusive and have developed provision over a number of years to ensure the inclusion and progress of children and young people with complex needs – very rarely is a school unable to cater for a child or young person's needs.

If you feel your child has complex needs that require provision and support only available in one particular setting you may wish to consider applying for admission under 1b priority.

What do I need to evidence as part of a 1b application?

When making an application, you must be able to:

- state the provision that is needed to meet your child's specific need and
- demonstrate why only that single school can provide that provision.

Applications must be made in the method set out in the individual school's admission policy

For **Community and Voluntary Controlled schools** – you provide the information we need to be able to assess your claim for this priority by completing a 1b Supplementary Information Form (SIF) available on school admission pages of the www.leeds.gov.uk website. The application must include a statement in writing from a paediatrician/doctor or other relevant professional who can evidence why a particular provision is needed over another. The supporting statement must also evidence why the school of choice is the only school that can meet the particular need in question. This is necessary as the LA panel will be assessing if your child has a stronger case than other children.

For **other types of school** – the way of applying for this priority will be set out in the admission policy itself and often it can require you to return the application directly to the school - see **What about other schools?** above.

How is my application considered?

Priority 1b requests at Community and Voluntary Controlled schools are considered individually by a Local Authority panel and where necessary in consultation with the school that has been preferenced.

Funding for inclusion (FFI) is the Leeds model of ensuring that children with complex and significant needs receive additional funding in order to ensure that their needs are fully met within the school. In the majority of cases where 1b priority is granted, the 1b panel would expect the child has funding for inclusion (FFI) already in place - especially where the child has already attended a primary school or nursery setting.

In what circumstances would 1b priority be granted?

The below is not an exhaustive list, but we have provided some examples of when the priority may or may not be granted.

It may be granted in the following circumstances:

A child with complex communication and sensory needs, who has been attending a school nursery and struggles with transition. All professionals involved agree that the offer of a place in Reception at the same school would be of benefit to my child. The 1b panel would need specific evidence from professionals that to move the child to a different setting would be detrimental to their well-being and unsupportive of their complex needs.

A child has physical difficulties and requires an accessible building but the local school is over 2 floors and has no lift. The 1b panel would require a physiotherapist and/or medical professional to provide evidence to describe the child's needs and the particular access arrangements that are required.

A child who requires to be taught in braille and needs access to specialist teachers. The 1b panel would require a medical professional to provide evidence to describe the child's needs and the particular access arrangements that are required.

It is not likely to be granted in the following circumstances:

- **A child has learning needs and requires additional classroom support from a Teaching Assistant** - the reason is that all schools are expected to provide in class support when this has been identified as required to support learning needs. All schools have a duty to make reasonable adjustments.
- **A child has diabetes and requires insulin injections** - the reason is that all schools are able to provide this level of support to a child.
- **A child has additional reading support and interventions-** the reason is that all schools provide this level of support as part of their local offer if it is deemed to be required.
- **A child has eczema and requires support to administer creams at particular times of the day** - the reason is that all schools are able to provide this level of support to a child.
- **A child whose needs have been assessed by the SENCO and is on low to medium level SEN Support** - the reason is that all schools are able to provide the level of support to meet a child's needs.

What happens if I am not granted the 1b priority?

Your child's application will still be considered under all the other oversubscription criteria in the admission policy. If on national offer day, you are not offered a place at the school, you will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Is there anywhere that I can contact for further advice?

Advice and support can be sought from the Leeds SEND Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) who can be contacted on 0113 3785020.