

Hertfordshire County Council School Admissions

Rule 2: Medical and Social Needs School Application Form

Parents/carers making an application for ‘children adopted but previously looked after abroad’ should not complete this form. Evidence confirming the child’s previously looked after status and adoption should be sent to the Admissions & Transport team direct and Hertfordshire’s “Virtual School” will be asked to verify all such applications.

There is no requirement to complete this form to submit an application under Rule 2. It is provided for guidance only.

Please read the guidance available at www.hertfordshire/admissions before completing this form.

An application may be made under Rule 2 if your child has a medical or social need or disability and needs to attend a specific school. Please be aware that few applications under Rule 2 are agreed.

Rule 2 applications will only be considered at the time of the initial application, unless there has been a significant and exceptional change of circumstances within the family since the initial application was submitted.

All schools in Hertfordshire have experience in dealing with children with diverse social and medical needs. However, in a few very exceptional cases, there are reasons why a child has to go to one specific school. All applications are considered individually but a successful application should include the following:

- a. Specific recent professional evidence that justifies why only one school can meet a child’s individual needs, and/or
- b. Professional evidence that outlines exceptional family circumstances making clear why only one school can meet the child’s needs.
- c. If the requested school is not the nearest school to the child’s home address clear reasons why the nearest school is not appropriate.
- d. For medical cases – a clear explanation of why the child’s severity of illness or disability makes attendance at a specific school essential.

Evidence should make clear why only one school is appropriate. A Rule 2 application will generally not be upheld in cases where more than one school could meet the child’s need.

In exceptional cases relating to a disability, where more than one school in the county can meet the child’s specific needs, a clear and compelling case can be made for the “nearest” school with the relevant facilities, environment or location. You must clearly explain why attendance at the “nearest” school with these facilities is essential.

Applications under Rule 2 will only be considered when supported by recent evidence from a professional involved with the child or family, for example a doctor, psychologist or police officer. The supporting evidence needs to demonstrate why only one named school can meet the social/medical needs of the child.

Applications for children adopted but previously looked after abroad will be considered under this rule and accepted if the child’s previously looked after status and adoption is confirmed. Hertfordshire’s “Virtual School” will be asked to verify all such applications. Applications for children previously “looked after” but not meeting the specific criteria outlined in Rule 1, may be made under this rule.

Further details on the Rule 2 process can be found in the [Rule 2 protocol](#)

Part A: Child Details

Forename:		Surname:	
Address:			
Date of Birth:		Year group:	

Part B: Your Child's Needs

Please explain your child's specific and individual needs in relation to their education. There are some prompts below to help you provide this information but you can present it in any way that you like.

Your child's journey so far:
<i>Please provide any background about your child that may be relevant to their school placement.</i>

What are your child's needs in relation to attending school?
<i>You must provide recent independent evidence from a professional to support the case outlined.</i>

Part C: About the school

In this section you need to explain why only the school you are applying for under Rule 2 can meet the needs of your child as described in Part B. If applicable, your explanation should explain why other nearer schools cannot meet the needs of your child.

All schools can meet the needs of children with a wide range of medical and social needs, disabilities and, under the Equality Act, must make reasonable adaptations and adjustments to meet an individual child's needs as necessary.

Where necessary the Rule 2 Panel will ask other professionals within the Local Authority or in schools (including academies) to verify statements made about a school's facilities or environment.

What school are applying for under Rule 2?	
Explain how this school will meet your child's needs in a way that other schools cannot:	
If the school is not your nearest school, explain why other nearer schools cannot meet your child's needs:	

Part D: Professional Involvement

Recent, independent and relevant supporting evidence from a professional(s) must be included with this application or it will **not** be considered under Rule 2.

Have you provided supporting evidence from a professional that:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fully outlines your child's needs.Explains why the school applied for under Rule 2 is the only school (or in some cases nearest school) that can meet your child's needs.Why other schools cannot meet your child's needs.	
Please list below the names of professionals involved with your child who have provided evidence to support your Rule 2 application:	
Name:	Profession:

Part E: Continuing Interest

This section is only relevant if you're applying under Rule 2 at the continuing interest stage of the process.

Rule 2 applications can only be considered **after** the initial application stage on the following grounds:

- There has been a **significant and exceptional change of circumstances** which prevented a Rule 2 application being made at the time of the school application being submitted. An example of this could be a newly diagnosed medical condition that was not previously in existence.
- If new evidence is disclosed which was not reasonably available at the time of the original Rule 2 hearing. An example of this could be a medical condition that has changed significantly since the initial Rule 2 hearing.

You **must** provide independent objective evidence for example from a doctor, psychologist, social worker or other professional involved with your child/family to demonstrate that one of the above grounds apply, or the Rule 2 application will not be considered.

Part F: Consent for Rule 2

- I would like you to consider my application and give permission for relevant officers to contact my school/college, health services, social care or other professionals as necessary.
- I agree for relevant professionals to seek and to share information with agencies regarding my child's school application.
- I have read and understood both the guidance on "Applying under Rule 2" and privacy notice, which contains full details on how HCC retains and uses your data for admission purposes. This is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Name:		Relationship to child:	
Signed:			
Date:			