

Excepted Children

Until fairly recently, Tamba Consultants regularly dealt with referrals from parents who had been offered places in different schools for their multiples.

This is fortunately now a rare occurrence, due mainly to the inclusion of multiple birth children as 'excepted children' – children who may be admitted to school even if this exceeds the 30 infant class size limit.

Section 2.15 of the School Admissions Code applies:

*2.15 Infant classes (those where the majority of children will reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the school year) **must not** contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher. Additional children may be admitted under limited exceptional circumstances. These children will remain an 'excepted pupil' for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit.*

The excepted children are:

- a) children admitted outside the normal admissions round with statements of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plans specifying a school;*
- b) looked after children and previously looked after children admitted outside the normal admissions round;*
- c) children admitted, after initial allocation of places, because of a procedural error made by the admission authority or local authority in the original application process;*
- d) children admitted after an independent appeals panel upholds an appeal;*
- e) children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round for whom there is no other available school within reasonable distance;*
- f) children of UK service personnel admitted outside the normal admissions round;*
- g) children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted otherwise than as an excepted pupil;**
- h) children with special educational needs who are normally taught in a special educational needs unit⁴⁷ attached to the school, or registered at a special school, who attend some infant classes within the mainstream school.*

Although the Code only says these children **may be** admitted, rather than 'must be', it is usually possible to use this provision as a strong argument for a school to accept multiple siblings.

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Most Local Authorities have inserted paragraphs about Twins, Triplets etc in their School Admission Policies, saying they will do their utmost to ensure they are not offered places in different schools.

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