

Factsheet 1: School Admissions

Many Service families move at times which do not fall in line with school term dates. This can cause issues when pupils move into an existing class structure, and have budget implications when pupils do not trigger AWPU for some time after their arrival. Even so, schools need to take into account the needs of incoming pupils. Many schools and academies are now their own admissions authorities whilst others use the local authority.

In all cases the Admissions Procedures and Policies should be available from the school. Some general advice

Whenever children are involved in selecting schools to apply for and are given information about the process of making applications they tend to be in a better position to anticipate and manage their emotional responses to the changes.

Prior visits to new areas and new schools are always helpful to children to help alleviate any anxieties about starting a new school and making new friends.

Encourage children to take as much responsibility as possible for helping their moves to go smoothly - without them feeling they are to blame if problems arise!

Peer to peer support systems can be very helpful when a new child joins a school allowing them to be shown around by a friend in their class or tutor group.

Moving house is regarded as one of the most stressful experiences there is in modern life. For service families this is often a regular part of their lives and schools need to be mindful that when a child arrives with them that it might not have been the first move the family has made.

Support for families leaving your school may also be needed. A phone call with the headteacher of the receiving school can, in some cases, help with moving the admissions process on so that the family suffers less stress in worrying whether they can get their child into the school in the local catchment area.