These proposed changes affect children going into the first year of primary school or the first year of secondary school in September 2016.

They affect nine secondary schools and 80 primary schools.

See lists of schools affected on page 2.
The changes to the admissions rules affect these primary schools:

Abbey Hey Primary Academy
Abbott Community Primary School
Abraham Moss
Acacias Primary School
All Saints Primary School (Gorton)
Alma Park Primary School
Armitage C.E. Primary School
Ashbury Meadow Community Primary School
Barlow Hall Primary School
Birchfields Primary School
Brower Vale Primary School
Briscoe Lane Academy
Broad Oak Primary School
Broadhurst Primary School
Brookburn Community School
Button Lane Primary School
Cavendish Road Primary School
Chapel Street Primary School
Charlestown Community Primary School
Cheetham CE Academy
Cheetwood Primary School
Chorlton C.E. Primary School
Chorlton Park Primary School
Claremont Primary School
Crab Lane Primary School
Crawford Primary Academy
Cringlebrook Primary School
Crossacres Primary Academy
Crosslee Primary School
Crowcroft Park Primary School
Crumpsall Lane Primary School
E-Act Blackley Academy
Green End Primary School
Haveley Hey Primary School
Heald Place Primary School
Higher Openshaw Community Primary School
Holy Trinity C.E. Primary School
Irk Valley Community School
Ladybarn Primary School
Lily Lane Primary School
Manchester Communication Primary Academy
Manley Park Primary School
Mauldeth Road Primary School
Medlock Primary School
Moston Fields Primary School
Moston Lane Community Primary School
New Moston Primary School
Newall Green Primary School
Northenden Community School
Oasis Academy Aspinal
Oasis Academy Harpur Mount
Old Hall Drive Primary School
Old Moat Community Primary School
Oswald Road Primary School
Park View Community Primary
Peel Hall Primary School
Pike Fold Primary School
Plymouth Grove Primary School
Rack House Primary School
Ravensbury Community School
Ringway Primary School
Sandilands Primary School
Seymour Road Academy
St Agnes CE Primary School
St Augustine's C.E. Primary School
St Barnabas’ CE Primary Academy
St Chrysostom’s CE Primary School
St Clement's C.E. Primary School
St James’ CE Primary School (Gorton)
St John's CE Primary School (Longsight)
St Luke's C.E. Primary School
St Margaret's C.E. Primary School
St Mary's CE Primary School (Moss Side)
St Pauls CE Primary School
St Wilfrid's C.E. Primary School (N.H.)
The Willows Primary School
Varna Street Primary School
Wilbraham Primary School

The changes to the admissions rules affect these secondary schools:

Abraham Moss Through School
Levenshulme High School for Girls
Manchester Communication Academy
Manchester Creative and Media Academy
Manchester Enterprise Academy
Manchester Health Academy
Parrs Wood High School
The Co-operative Academy
Whalley Range High School

There are two secondary schools have their own admission rules so are not part of this consultation. But they are making similar changes:
Burnage Academy for Boys
Chorlton High School
Consultation on the arrangements for 2016/2017

1. Manchester City Council (as local authority – LA) is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools and sets their admission arrangements.

2. Consultation on the community high school arrangements for 2016/2017 is being carried out on the basis that changes may be needed to take account of operational developments over the past few years and in response to a recent adjudicator ruling affecting one Academy in Manchester.

3. Admission arrangements for voluntary aided schools, foundation schools, and academies are set by each individual governing body or academy trust, which is the Admission Authority for their establishment. The governing body is responsible for drafting, consulting on and determining its own admission arrangements.

4. Nine academies in Manchester mirror the admission arrangements of the LA community high school arrangements and as such a joint consultation process is being held

4. This document explains the need to make a mandatory change to admission arrangements to amend the following points:

   i. The oversubscription criteria for community high schools and Manchester Enterprise Academy, Manchester Health Academy, Manchester Creative and Media Academy, Manchester Communication Academy, Co-Operative Academy Manchester, Whalley Range High School, and Levenshulme High School be amended to give a fourth priority based on straight line distance from the school to the home address.

   ii. The two and three mile test of reasonableness be removed from the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools and Manchester Enterprise Academy, Manchester Health Academy, Manchester Creative and Media Academy, Manchester Communication Academy, Co-Operative Academy Manchester, Whalley Range High School, and Levenshulme High School;

   iii. The arrangements for Abraham Moss be amended to reflect the prescribed alteration to an all through school.

   iv. The oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools, community high schools and Manchester Enterprise Academy, Manchester Health Academy, Manchester Creative and Media Academy, Manchester Communication Academy, Co-Operative Academy Manchester, Whalley Range High School, and Levenshulme High School for inyear admissions to remain unchanged.

If you would like to make comments on any aspect of the admission arrangements the consultation period will run until 2 March 2015. Comments can be made at any time up to and including 2 March 2015. They must be made in writing and can be submitted as follows:

By post, to:
All contributions to the consultation will be reported to the City Council’s Executive, which will formally endorse new admission arrangements. These will then be formally published on the City Council’s website for information.

Admission Arrangements - Admission to Year 7

6. The parents/carers of any child (regardless of where they live) may state a preference for any school they so wish. Where there are fewer or the same number of applications than places, every child will be offered a place as of right. Where there are more preferences than places, the applicants will be placed in admission order, according to the current oversubscription criteria.

7. During the 2014 transition round, an objection was made to the school adjudicator (appointed by DfE to judge on matters relating to school admissions) in regards to the oversubscription criteria applied by Chorlton High School. Chorlton applied the same criteria as that applied by the City Council. This objection was made on the grounds that individual feeder schools are not named in the policy, and that the implicit naming of all Manchester primary schools as feeder schools is not reasonable and does not comply with the current School Admissions Code.

8. This ruling requires admission authorities currently using this criterion to consult on an amendment to their oversubscription criteria which removes it from their arrangements.

9. To reflect the adjudicator’s determination, it is proposed that the oversubscription criteria for community secondary schools (which are expected to continue to be mirrored by some other schools in the City) be amended. Category one of the criteria will remain unchanged as, in line with the admissions code, this must be the highest category within all admission arrangements. Category two and three will remain unchanged for community high schools as priorities for children with exceptional medical or social needs and siblings. Both of these categories are important in protecting vulnerable groups and supporting families with more than one child with school continuity where possible. Category four would be amended to read as shown below:
New Oversubscription Criterion

Category 1  Children who are looked after by a local authority and children who were previously looked after by a local authority. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order);

Category 2  Children with exceptional social and/ or medical needs. A panel of Local Authority officers will consider Category 2 applications on behalf of the Director of Children’s Services. If a parent has chosen a particular school because the child has exceptional social or medical circumstances or the parent is disabled, this should be indicated with the reasons for choosing the school. Parents must also provide a letter from a doctor or social worker as supporting evidence. The LA will then send a category 2 application form allowing the parent to state in full the exceptional social/medical reasons why the child should attend this school. If supporting evidence is not supplied with a category 2 application the application will be refused.

Category 3 - Children with a sibling at the school; A sibling is defined as a brother or sister attending the applied for school when the applicant will take up the place and living at the same address. This includes adopted siblings, stepsiblings and foster children;
Sibling criteria, as specified above will be applied with the exception of siblings who are attending the 6th form of a secondary school or academy;

Category 4 – all other children

Within each category applicants, will be prioritised according to the distance between the child’s permanent address and the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the child’s permanent home address to the centre point of the school as defined by Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), and using the Local Authority’s computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority.

A Test of Reasonableness for Primary and Secondary admissions

10. With more families choosing the City to live and bring up their children, there are now a small number of occasions where the Council can fulfil its statutory duty to offer a school place but that place lies outside the distances defined by the Council as ‘reasonable’.

   The current arrangements state that a reasonable offer is defined as:

   a) A primary school or academy within 2 miles of the home address;
   b) A secondary school or academy within 3 miles of the home address.

   All measurements are straight line measurements as described above.

11. The Council is committed to enforcing the offer of a place at school to ensure that children access the place available to them. The current arrangements have made this difficult: where an offer has been made outside of the council's definition of reasonable, it is difficult to enforce the offer of a place as seen through recent
challenge through the statutory school attendance order processes in relation to these small numbers of offers.

12. It is proposed that the tests of reasonableness (which are not statutorily required) be formally removed from the arrangements. Where school places are offered to children over and above the statutory walking limits as outlined in national home to school transport guidance, the LA will ensure its duty to provide free travel arrangements to support attendance at the place are discharged.

13. With a high number of children arriving in the City outside of normal admissions rounds, seeking a school place, in a small number of cases offers cannot be made within the required timescale at schools within the distances previously defined as ‘reasonable’. The changes to the test of reasonableness will support the council in ensuring that children arriving new to the city can be offered a school place within the required timescale.

14. The offer of such places does not impact on the parental right of appeal (to the Independent Appeal Panel) for a place at another school, nor does it affect positions on waiting lists for the applied for schools;

Changes to arrangements for Abraham Moss through school

14. Abraham Moss School is a community school in the North of the city. In 2012 the school formally consulted as part of a prescribed alteration to become an all through school. The Primary phase of the school opened in 2013

15. The admission arrangements for the school must now state that children attending the primary phase of the school do not need to apply to attend the secondary phase and children will automatically transfer. Children attending the primary phase will only need to apply as part of the transition to high school if they wish to express a preference for another school. The primary phase is 60 places per year group, therefore it is proposed that the arrangements for Abraham Moss are amended to:

16. The agreed admissions number for year 7 of the school will be 180. That is the number of places that will be offered annually and applies only to those applicants being admitted from outside the school. If fewer than 60 of the school’s own Year 6 pupils transfer from Year 6 to Year 7, additional external pupils will be admitted until Year 7 meets its capacity of 240.

Admission arrangements for inyear admissions (all year groups)

17. It is proposed that the oversubscription criteria for inyear applicants remains unchanged and will continue to be applied for applications received during the academic year for all years groups for primary and secondary school. It is proposed that the distance criteria used for identifying alternative offers would be amended as set out in paragraph 12 above.

Waiting Lists – All year Groups

It is proposed that the waiting list arrangements remain unchanged for all applicants for all schools described within this consultation document.