Northamptonshire Schools - Equal preferencing

The School Admissions Code prohibits the use of unfair oversubscription criteria which includes giving priority to children according to the order of other schools named as preferences by their parents, including 'first preference first' arrangements.

This means that all schools must consider **all** pupils stating a preference regardless of whether it is a first, second or third preference.

Parents living in Northamptonshire are able to state up to three preferences for a Secondary school place. Pupils will be considered for all three schools and (if oversubscribed) will be ranked according to the admission criteria for all three. We will always meet the highest **available** preference. The following scenarios demonstrate this:

Scenario 1

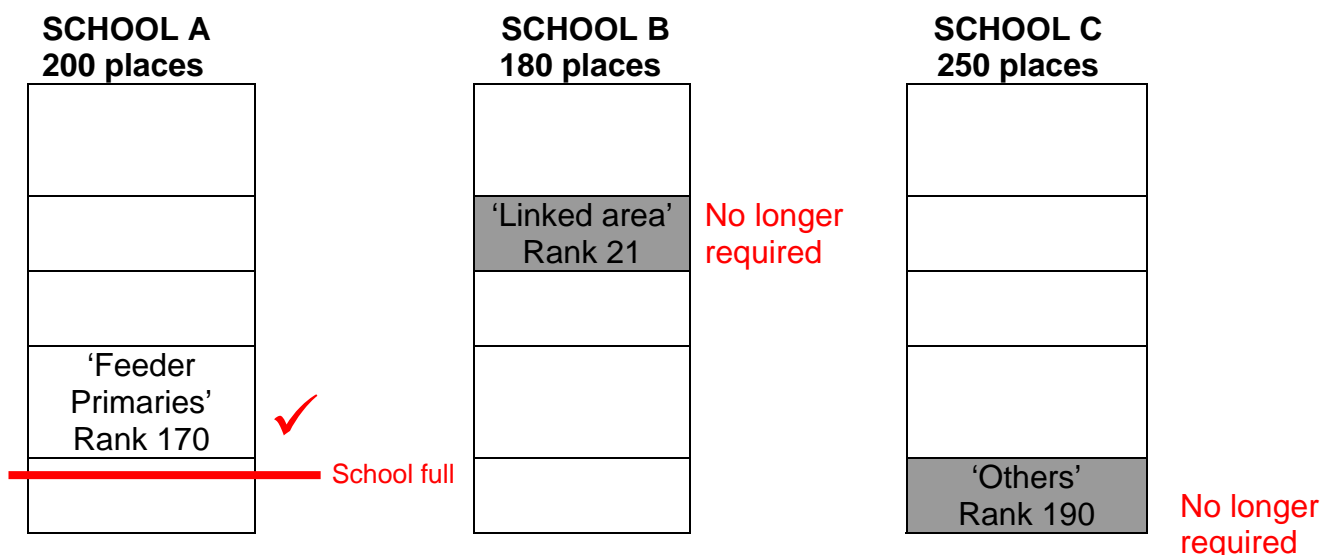Parent makes preferences for Secondary school in the following order:

1. School A – pupil attends a feeder primary school for this school
2. School B – pupil lives in linked area for this school
3. School C – pupil falls in 'others' category so is ranked according to distance to the school

All three schools are oversubscribed.

The pupil is considered for all three of these schools and ranked within the criteria as shown:

SCHOOL A 200 places	SCHOOL B 180 places	SCHOOL C 250 places
	'Linked area' Rank 21	
'Feeder Primaries' Rank 170		
		'Others' Rank 190

When the allocations are made, the pupil will be allocated a place at School A as they are ranked at number 170 and there are 200 places available. Their position in the list for school B and C will be discarded as these are lower preferences than the school allocated.
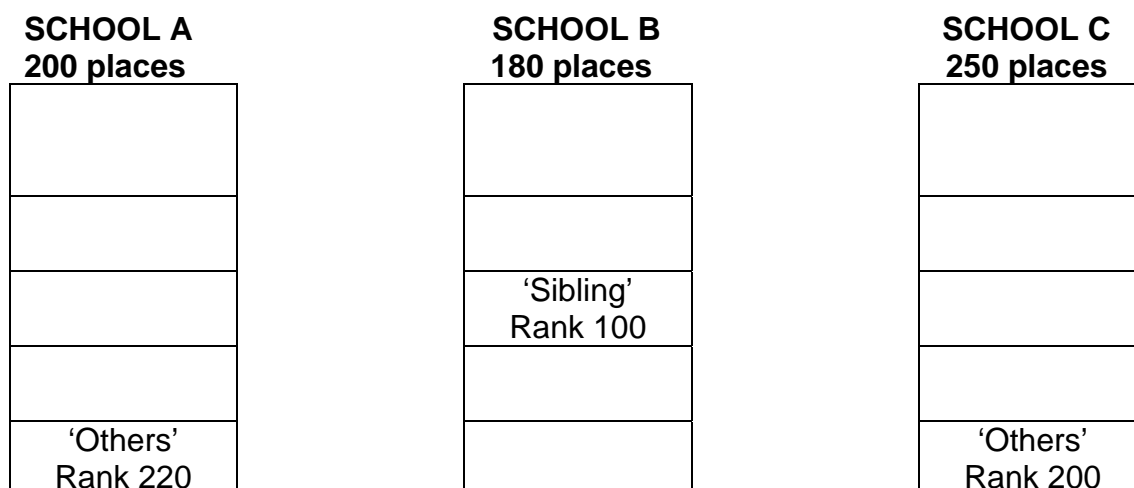
SCHOOL A
200 places

SCHOOL B
180 places

SCHOOL C
250 places

'Linked area'
Rank 21

No longer
required

'Feeder
Primaries'
Rank 170

✓

School full

'Others'
Rank 190

No longer
required

Scenario 2

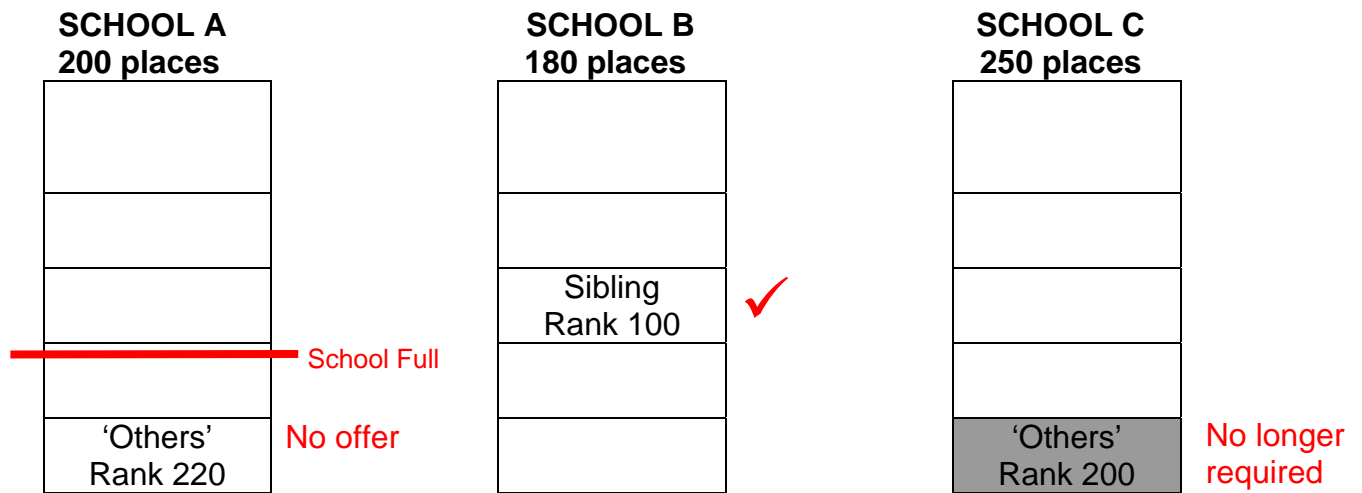Parent makes preferences for Secondary school in the following order:

1. School A – pupil falls in the 'others' category and is ranked according to distance to the school
2. School B – pupil has a sibling at this school
3. School C – pupil falls in the 'others' category and is ranked according to distance to the school

All three schools are oversubscribed.

The pupil is considered for all three of these schools and ranked within the criteria as shown:

SCHOOL A
200 places

SCHOOL B
180 places

SCHOOL C
250 places

'Sibling'
Rank 100

'Others'
Rank 220

'Others'
Rank 200

When the allocations are made, the pupil will not be allocated a place at School A as they are ranked at number 220 and there are 200 places available. They will be allocated a place at School B as they are ranked at number 100 and there are 180 places available. Their position in the list for School C will be discarded as this is a lower preference than the school allocated.
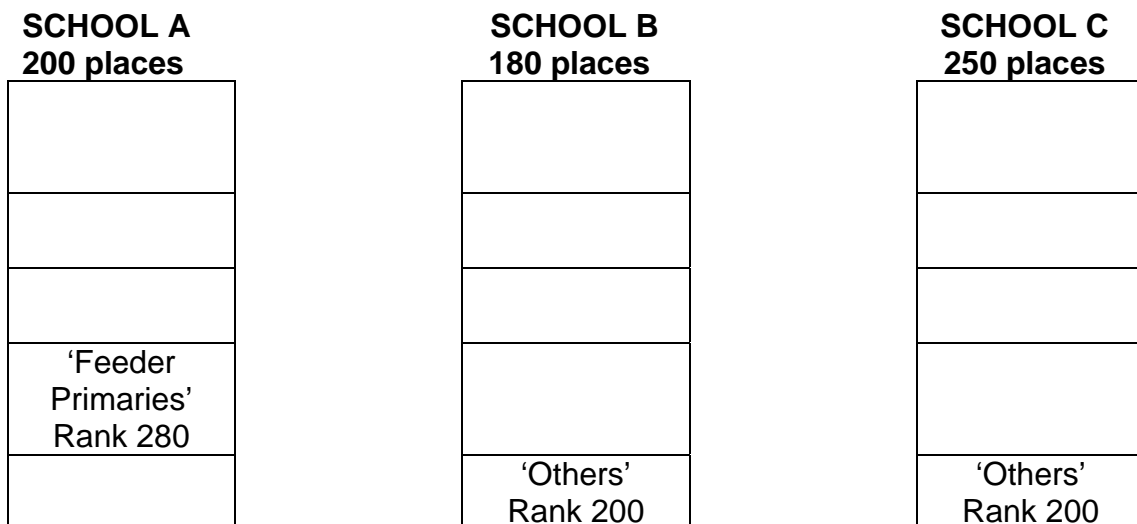
SCHOOL A
200 places

SCHOOL B
180 places

SCHOOL C
250 places

	School Full
'Others' Rank 220	No offer

Sibling Rank 100 ✓

'Others' Rank 200	No longer required

Scenario 3

Parent makes preferences for Secondary school in the following order:

1. School A – pupil attends a Feeder Primary for this school
2. School B – pupil falls in the 'others' category and is ranked according to distance to the school
3. School C – pupil falls in the 'others' category and is ranked according to distance to the school
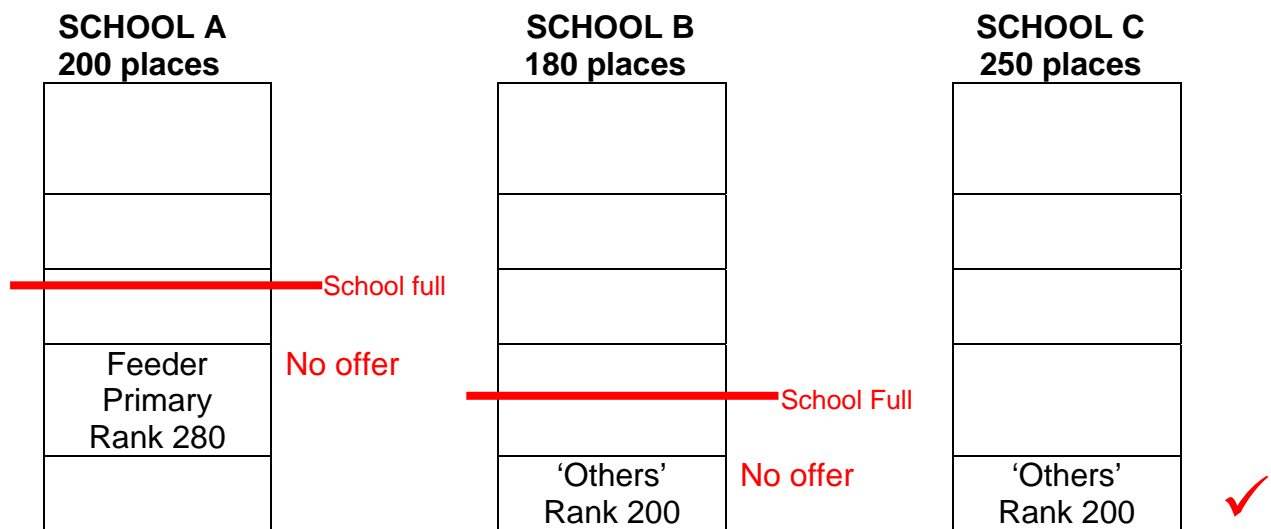
All three schools are oversubscribed.

The pupil is considered for all three of these schools and ranked within the criteria as shown:

SCHOOL A
200 places

SCHOOL B
180 places

SCHOOL C
250 places

'Feeder Primaries' Rank 280

'Others' Rank 200

'Others' Rank 200

When the allocations are made, the pupil will not be allocated a place at School A as they are ranked at number 280 and there are 200 places available. The pupil will not be allocated a place at school B as they are ranked at number 200 and there are 180 places available. They will be

allocated a place at School C as they are ranked at number 200 and there are 250 places available.

SCHOOL A 200 places	SCHOOL B 180 places	SCHOOL C 250 places

Feeder Primary Rank 280 — School full — No offer

'Others' Rank 200 — School Full — No offer
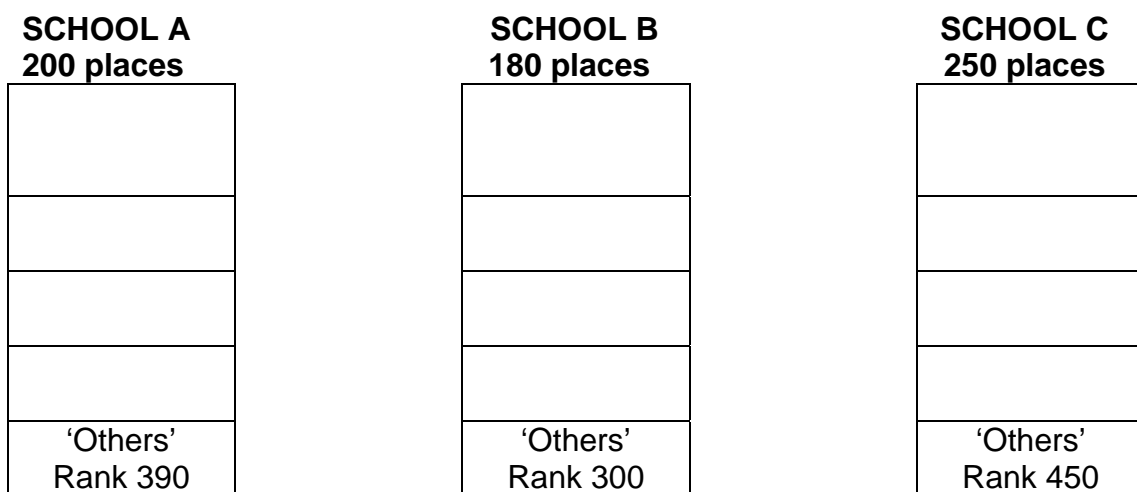
'Others' Rank 200 ✓

Scenario 4
Pupil lives in an urban area and makes preferences in the following order:

1. School A – A rural school
2. School B – An Academy in another town
3. School C – A faith school

Pupil does not live in the linked area for School A and the school is oversubscribed. Pupil is ranked in the 'others' category according to their distance to the school.
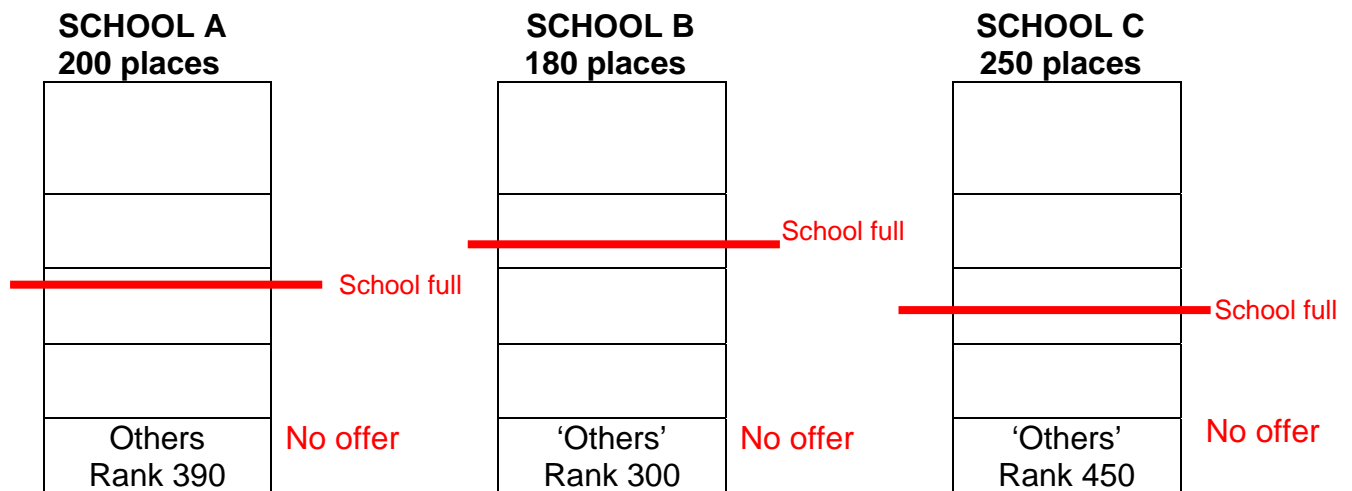
School B is oversubscribed on pupils living in the town in which it is situated. Pupil is ranked according to distance to school.

School C is oversubscribed with applications made on faith grounds.

SCHOOL A 200 places	SCHOOL B 180 places	SCHOOL C 250 places

'Others' Rank 390

'Others' Rank 300

'Others' Rank 450

When the allocations are made, the pupil will not be allocated a place at School A as they are ranked at number 390 and there are 200 places available. The pupil will not be allocated a place at school B as they are ranked at number 300 and there are 180 places available. The pupil will not be allocated a place at School C as they are ranked at number 450 and there are 250 places available.

The pupil will be allocated a place at School D which is the closest school to their home address with available places. School D was not one of the original preferences made.

SCHOOL A 200 places	SCHOOL B 180 places	SCHOOL C 250 places

School full (School A)

School full (School B)

School full (School C)

| Others Rank 390 | No offer | 'Others' Rank 300 | No offer | 'Others' Rank 450 | No offer |

Offer = School D