

## **Admissions Policy**



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| <b>STATUTORY / NON STATUTORY</b>   | <b>STATUTORY</b>        |
| <b>MEMBER OF STAFF RESPONSIBLE</b> | <b>CFO</b>              |
| <b>DATE APPROVED BY SLT</b>        | <b>JANUARY 2024</b>     |
| <b>TRUST BOARD OR COMMITTEE</b>    | <b>TRUST BOARD</b>      |
| <b>DATE OF APPROVAL</b>            | <b>28 FEBRUARY 2025</b> |
| <b>REVISION DATE DUE</b>           | <b>AUTUMN 2025</b>      |

## **Admission Policy for Noadswood School 2026 – 2027**

This policy will be used during the academic year 2026-2027 for allocating places in the main admission round for entry to Year 7 in September 2026. It will also apply to in-year admissions during 2026/27.

Noadswood School is an Academy. The Academy Trust is the admission authority for the school. The admission criteria are determined by the Academy Trust, after statutory consultations.

The guiding principles of the school admissions policy are that each school should serve its local community; that siblings, as far as possible, can attend school together; and that children can benefit from continuity between schools serving the same community. The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and complies with all relevant legislation.

### **Published Admission Number (PAN)**

Each school has a published admission number (PAN)<sup>1</sup> for entry to Year 7. The school will admit this number if there are enough applications. Where fewer applications than the published admission number are received, places will be offered to all those who have applied. For 2026/2027, the PAN number is **210**.

### **Admissions Process**

The County Council will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of midnight on 31 October 2025. Notifications to parents offering a secondary school place will be sent by the County Council on Monday 2nd March 2026.

Applications made after midnight on 31 October 2025 will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

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<sup>1</sup> The PAN applies to the relevant year\* only. For other year groups at the school, different admission limits may be applied. Please ask the school or local authority for details.

\* The relevant year is the age group at which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school i.e. reception, year 3, year 7 and year 12 where the school admits external applicants to the sixth form (Section 142 of the SSFA 1998).

For the normal admission round, all preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

### **Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan**

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school will be admitted if, when considering the detail within the EHCP, we are able to meet the needs of that child.

### **Oversubscription criteria**

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to children in the following order:

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after (*see definition i*).
2. Children or families with an exceptional medical and/or social need (*see definition ii*). Supporting evidence from a professional is required such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical needs or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for social needs. This evidence must confirm the child or family's medical or social need and why that need(s) makes it essential that the child attends this school rather than any other.
3. Children of staff (*see definition iii*) who have, (1) been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or (2) have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
4. Children living **in** the catchment area (*see definition iv*) who at the time of application have a sibling (*see definition v*) on the roll of the school who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [See 6 for additional children who may be considered under this criterion.]
5. Other children living **in** the catchment area of the school.

6. Children living **out** of the catchment area who at the time of application have a sibling (see *definition v*) on the roll of the school who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [Where a sibling was allocated a place at the school in the normal admission round in a previous year because the child was displaced (see *definition vi*) from the catchment school for their address, the application will be considered under 4, above, subject to the siblings still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced. In future normal admissions rounds a younger sibling will be considered to have been displaced where they were allocated a place at the school under this criterion as a consequence of their elder sibling's displacement and are still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced].

7. Children living **out** of the catchment area who at the time of application are on the roll of a linked junior or primary school.

8. Other children.

### **Definitions**

(i) Looked after children are defined as those who are (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). Previously looked children are those who were looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order. An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians). Previously looked after children also includes those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

(ii) Applicants will only be considered under this criterion if on the application form (online or paper) they have ticked the appropriate box explicitly indicating that they wish for their application to be considered under medical / social need. 'Medical

need' does not include mild medical conditions, such as asthma or allergies. 'Social need' does not include a parent's wish that a child attends the school because of a child's aptitude or ability or because their friends attend the school or because of routine childminding arrangements. Priority will be given to those children whose evidence establishes that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Equally this priority will apply to children whose evidence establishes that a family member's physical or mental health or social needs mean that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Evidence must confirm the circumstances of the case and must set out why the child should attend a particular school and why no other school could meet the child's needs. Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at a particular school and in each case a decision will be made based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at one particular school above any other.

(iii) 'Staff' includes all those on the payroll of the school who (specific to clause (1)) have been an employee continuously for two years at the time of application. 'Children of staff' refers to situations where the staff member is the natural parent, the legal guardian or a resident step parent.

(iv) A map of the school's catchment area can be viewed on the school's details page on the Hampshire County Council website. A catchment area refers to *"A geographical area, from which children may be afforded priority for admission to a particular school"*.

[www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool](http://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool).

(v) 'Sibling' refers to brother or sister, half brother or half sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, foster brother or foster sister, step brother or step sister living as one family unit at the same address. It will also be applied to situations where a full, half or adoptive brother or sister are living at separate addresses. Criteria 4 and 6 include children who at the time of application have a sibling for whom the offer of a place at the preferred school has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending.

(vi) 'Displaced' refers to a child who was refused a place at the catchment school in the normal admissions round having named it in the application and was not offered a higher named preference school. To identify the child's catchment school please visit <https://maps.hants.gov.uk/SchoolCatchmentAreaFinder/>. Note that some addresses are in catchment for more than one school and in this case, 'displaced' refers to a child who was refused a place at any of their catchment schools.

### **Tie-Breaker**

If the school is oversubscribed from within any of the above categories, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the school

have priority. Distances will be measured from the Ordnance Survey home address point to the school address point using Hampshire County Council's Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Distances to multiple dwellings will give priority to the ground floor over the first floor and so on. On individual floors, distances will be measured to the stairs leading to the communal entrance. Where two or more applicants are equidistant, random allocation will be used to allocate the place.

## **Additional Information**

### **Permanent Address**

The permanent residence of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time. Where a child's time is evenly divided between the parents, parents must agree which address they would like to be considered for the purposes of the application. In the event of a dispute, in the absence of a relevant court order, the admission authority will make a judgement about which address applies, taking into account the address registered with the child's current school, nursery, preschool or childminder, the address registered for child benefit and the address registered with the child's GP.

### **Multiple births**

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a school under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the school's PAN.

### **Waiting lists**

Waiting lists will be established for each year group where more applications are received than places available. For main round admissions to Year 7, the waiting list will be maintained centrally by the local authority until 31 August 2026. At all other times, and for other year groups, waiting lists will be operated by school.

Any places that become available will be offered to the child at the top of the list on the day the place became available. The waiting list is ordered according to the criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part of the main admission round.

The waiting list will be reviewed and revised –

- each time a child is added to, or removed from, the waiting list;
- when a child's changed circumstances affect their priority;

For entry to Year 7, the waiting list will remain open until 31 August 2026, at which point all names will be removed. For all other year groups, waiting lists will remain open until 31 August of each year. Parents who want their child to be considered for a place at the school in the following school year must submit a new in-year application in the August preceding the new school year. Schools will send a decision letter within the first 10 days of the new term.

### **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so, parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission outside the normal age group is being requested and which year group they wish their child to be admitted. Decisions will be made based on the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child.

### **Legislation**

This policy takes account of all Equalities legislation, together with all relevant regulations and the School Admissions Code (published by the DfE in September 2021).