

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

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| Date policy approved | January 2025 |
| Date of next review | January 2026 |
| Frequency of review | Annually |
| Governors Consultation Committee | Policy Ratification Group |
| Lead person | Ms Clare Williams |

Introduction

This policy will apply to all admissions from 1 September 2026, including in-year admissions. It will be used during 2026-27 for allocating places for September 2026 as part of the main admission round for Year 7.

Outside the normal admissions round, the authority's Fair Access protocol may be applied alongside this policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups. The guiding principles of the College Admissions Policy are that each Hampshire child is offered a school place; that each school should serve its local community; that as many children as possible attend their parents' preferred school; 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.

Admission Criteria

The Governing Body of Applemore College is the admission authority for the School. The admission arrangements are determined by the Governing Body, after statutory consultation.

The Governing Body will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on Friday 31 October 2025. Notifications to parents offering a secondary school place will be sent by the County Council on 1 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.

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.

If the College is oversubscribed, places will be offered up to the published admission number (PAN) of 155 in the following priority order. Places for applications received after the deadline will be allocated using the same criteria:

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after (*see (i) in Definitions as well as* those children 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.)
2. (*For applicants in the normal admission round only*) Children or families who have a serious medical, physical or psychological condition which makes it essential that the child attends the preferred school rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence must be provided in support.)
3. Children living **in** the catchment area of the College (*see (ii) in Definitions*) who at the time of application have a sibling (*see (iii) in Definitions*) on the roll of the College who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [See 5 for additional children who may be considered under this criterion.]
4. Other children living **in** the catchment area of the College.
5. Children living **out** of the catchment area of the College who at the time of application have a sibling (*see (iii) in Definitions*) on the roll College who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [Where a sibling was allocated a place at the College in the normal admission round in a previous year because the child was displaced (*see (iv) in Definitions*) from the catchment school for their address, the application will be considered under 3, above, subject to the siblings still living in the catchment area. In future normal admissions rounds a younger sibling will be considered to have been displaced where they were allocated a place at the College under this criterion as a consequence of their elder sibling's displacement and they remain living in the catchment area].
6. Children living **out** of the catchment area of the College who are on the roll of a linked Junior or Primary School.
7. Children of staff (*see (v) in Definitions*) living **out** of the catchment area of the College 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.
8. Other children living **out** of the catchment area of the College.

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 previously 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).]

(ii) The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week, and should be used for the application. The permanent address 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.

(iii) '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 3 and 5 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.

(iv) '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 use this link:

<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

(v) 'Staff' includes all those on the payroll of the school. 'Children of staff' refers to situations where the staff member is the natural parent, the legal guardian or a resident step parent.

Tie-Breaker

If the College 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 College 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. An explanation of the random allocation procedure is available on the County website.

Additional Information

1. Students with an Education, Health and Care plan

The Governors will admit any child whose Education, Health and Care Plan names Applemore College. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

2. 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 College PAN.

3. In-Year Fair Access placements by the Local Authority

The Local Authority must ensure that all pupils are placed in schools as quickly as possible. It may therefore sometimes be necessary for a student to be placed by the Local Authority, or a local placement panel acting on behalf of the authority, in a particular school even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements will be made in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authority's In-Year Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

4. School Closures

In the event of a school closure, pupils from the closing school may be given priority for any school nominated as the receiving school. Specific arrangements will be determined by the Local Authority in accordance with the School Admissions Code and will be published at the time for the specific schools affected.

5. Waiting lists

When all available places have been allocated, waiting lists will be operated by schools on behalf of the Local Authority. Any places that become available will be allocated 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. Fair Access admissions and school closure arrangements will take priority over the waiting list.

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;

At the time of receiving an application decision from the County Council or a school, parents will be advised of the process for adding their child's name to the College waiting list. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools as they wish.

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 31st 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.

6. Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents can seek places outside their normal age group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case; parents may be offered a place in another year group at the College.

7. 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).

Administrative Ownership

Headteacher

Date of implementation / review: January 2025 / January 2026

Signed  Chair of Governors

Signed  Headteacher

Date January 2025