



Statutory Policy	
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Deer Park School Admission Policy for 2025-2026

This policy will be used during 2024/25 for allocating places in the main admission round for entry to Year 7 in September 2025. It will also apply to in-year admissions during 2025/26.

Deer Park School is part of the Wildern Multi Academy Trust. The Academy Trust is the admission authority for the school. The admission criteria are determined by the Academy Trust, after statutory consultations.

Applications to the school will be processed in accordance with the local authority's scheme for coordinating school offers. To apply for a place, parents/carers must complete a Common Application Form available from the local authority in which they live.

The Trustees of Wildern Multi Academy Trust will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on 31 October 2024**. Applications received after 31 October 2024 will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications. Late applications received on or after 01 March 2025 will be considered from **13 March 2025** onwards in order of receipt.

Notifications to parents offering a secondary school place will be sent by the County Council on 03 March 2025.

Published admission number (PAN)

The school has an admission number of **210** for entry to Year 7 in September 2025. The school will admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applications than the published admission number are received, the Academy Trust will offer places to all those who have applied.

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 priority 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. Each application must include supporting evidence from an independent professional 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 (see definition 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 and supporting evidence is submitted with the application.

3. Children living **in** the catchment area of Deer Park (see definition iii) who at the time of application have a sibling (see definition iv) 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.] Children living in the catchment area of Deer Park (see definition iii) who at the time of application have a sibling (see definition iv) on the roll of the school who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [See **both** 6 and '**transitional arrangements**' for additional children who may be considered under this criterion.]
4. Children living **in** the catchment area of Deer Park School who, at the time of application, attend one of the linked primary schools: Boorley Park Primary School, Botley CE Primary School and Wellstead Primary School.
5. Other children living **in** the catchment area of Deer Park School.
6. Children living **outside** of the catchment area of Deer Park School who at the time of application have a sibling (see definition iv) 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 v) 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 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 **outside** the catchment area of Deer Park School who, at the time of application, attend one of the linked primary schools: Boorley Park Primary School; Botley CE Primary School and Wellstead 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 after 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. A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship Proposed 4 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) 'Medical need' does not include common medical conditions supported in mainstream schools, 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 by the school based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at one school above any other.

(iii) The catchment area is a geographical area from which children may be afforded priority for admission to a particular school. A map of the school's catchment area can be viewed on the school's details page on the Hampshire County Council website www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool.

(iv) 'Sibling' refers to brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, foster brother or foster sister, stepbrother or stepsister living as one family unit at the same address. It will also be applied to situations where a full, half or adopted brother or sister are living at separate addresses. Categories 4 and 6 of the primary oversubscription criteria 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. Criteria 4 and 6 of the secondary oversubscription criteria 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.

(v) 'Displaced' refers to a child who was refused a place at the catchment school in the normal admission round having named it on the application and was not offered a higher named preference school. To identify the child's catchment school please use <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-break

In the event of any of the above criteria being oversubscribed, 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. An explanation of the random allocation procedure is available on the County website. Hampshire schools' admission arrangements | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk). This method of prioritising admissions will also apply to any 'school specific' criterion unless otherwise stated in the school's brochure.

Additional Information

Permanent Address

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 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 offered the last place available within the PAN, any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will also be offered a place, 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 2025. At all other times, and for other year groups, waiting lists will be operated by schools on behalf of the local authority.

Any places that become available will be offered to the child at the top of the list on the day the place becomes 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. 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;

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.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. For information about the appeal process, including how to lodge an appeal, please visit: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/guidance/appeals>.

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 2021).

Transitional arrangements for admission to Deer Park School

A child starting school for the first time who has a sibling on roll at Wildern School or Deer Park School who was on roll prior to the catchment change and would still be on roll at the time of the younger child's admission would also be given catchment priority for Wildern School or Deer Park School up to and including admission in September 2026.

Children living in housing on the North Whiteley development which was previously in the catchment area for Deer Park School, who are applying to the school for the first time and have a sibling on roll at Deer Park School who was on roll prior to the catchment change in September 2023, and will still be on roll at the time of the younger child's admission will be given 'catchment, sibling' priority for Deer Park School up to and including admission in September 2026.