



**SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL
HUNSTANTON**

Admissions Policy 2026-27

Reviewed by: Governing Body

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain how to apply for a place at Smithdon High School
- Set out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply
- Explain how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place

2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [School Admissions Code](#)
- [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

The school is required to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

3. Definitions

The **normal admissions round** is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

The **PAN** is the Published Admission Number for every year group into which pupils can be admitted.

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order

'Siblings' for the purposes of our school includes:

- step siblings,
- foster siblings
- adopted siblings

A child reaches **compulsory school age** on the prescribed day following their fifth birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

4. How to apply

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by your residential home local authority (regardless of which local authority the school is in). You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order.

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from your local authority.

5. Making A Decision About A Request To Accelerate Admission

The majority of children, including those who are deemed gifted or talented, or born early in the year, are best placed within the year group indicated by their date of birth. Accelerated admission should only take place when it is agreed the needs of the child cannot be met within their year group and the benefits of moving out of group outweigh any social or emotional disadvantage.

Our Key Principles

- 5.1 All children and young people should normally be educated in their chronological year group.
- 5.2 Schools assess the learning needs of children and young people so that the curriculum they provide is relevant enabling them to make appropriate progress and maximise their achievement.
- 5.3 Admission of children outside their normal year group will be made in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

5.4 Factors we will take into consideration for accelerated admission:

A demonstration of exceptional intellectual ability, mature language, physical and emotional maturity, well developed social relationship, evidence of exceptional ability in all areas of development, the child's development and abilities exceed the expectation of recognised levels (e.g. exceeded Early Years Foundation Stage and met all Early Years Goals, or achieved exceptional levels in all areas of National Curriculum measured by Standard Assessment Tests (SATs), potential impact on future educational opportunities, including transition at the end of an educational stage.

5.5 Factors we will take into consideration for decelerated admission:

A demonstration of significantly underdeveloped intellectual ability, language gaps significantly below chronological age, significant physical and emotional developmental delay, significantly underdeveloped social relationship skills, evidence of significant delay in all areas of development, the child's development and abilities fall severely short of the expectation of recognised

levels, potential impact on future educational opportunities, including transition at the end of an educational stage.

- 5.6 There is no statutory barrier to children being admitted outside their normal age group, but parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group. There is no right of appeal against the decision not to accelerate a child's entry to school/year group.
- 5.7 The decision is made by the relevant headteacher within the Trust.
- 5.8 Children already in a WNAT school, in an existing year group the headteacher will make the decision on whether the child should be educated in a year group outside of their chronological age. For children moving into a school with the Trust, the admission will be considered against the child's chronological age group.

6. Allocation of Places

6.1 Admission Number

The school will provide 112 places for pupils in each of Years 7 – 11.

6.2 Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of entry applications exceeding demand, places will be allocated according to the following criteria, in order:

1. To looked after children and previously looked after children who are due to transfer and those children with a statement of special educational need or educational health care plan, whose parents have requested that this school is named on the statement.
2. To pupils living permanently within the Schools catchment area as defined by Norfolk Local Education Authority and shown in its catchment area map. If more than 112/180 such pupils apply (dependent on year group), places will be allocated on the basis of geographical distance from the school gates.
3. To pupils whose elder siblings already attend the School at the time of admission.
4. To pupils eligible for the service premium. A pupil is eligible for the service premium if:
 - a. one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service);
 - b. they have been registered as a 'service child' on the January school census at any point since 2016;
 - c. c) one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.
5. Priority will next be given to pupils of staff where:

- a. the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
- b. the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

6. To pupils not living in the catchment area, transferring from Smithdon's named feeder primary schools.

7. To any other applicants up to the maximum number to be admitted.

6.3 Tie Break

If all pupils within any of the above rules cannot be offered a place, the highest priority will be given to children living nearest to the school within that rule. To determine who lives nearest, distance will be measured on a straight line "crow fly" basis using Ordnance Survey data. The address will be measured from the post office address point of the property. In the event that distance does not separate the final two or more pupils seeking the remaining place, a random allocation will be used to determine who is offered that place.

For the normal admission round the local authority manages a waiting list for places, as required by the School Admissions Code, until 31 December of the year of entry.

7. In-Year Admissions

You can apply for a place for your child at any time outside the normal admissions round. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose statement of SEN or EHC Plan names the school will be admitted, if the school can be deemed to meet need (in accordance with DfE statutory guidance).

Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child should be offered a place, unless the school has already exceeded its overall PAN.

The school reserves the right to admit above our PAN in-year. This does not constitute an increase to the PAN.

Applications for in-year admissions should be submitted online to Norfolk County Council School Admissions Team. The school will consider rejecting applications on the grounds of challenging behaviour. The school fully participates in the Fair Access Protocol for its local authority area and may choose to offer the student a Managed Move if challenging behaviour at the current school is identified.

The school will ask to meet with all prospective parents and students before a start date is offered or confirmed. The meeting is to ensure all parties are aware of Smithdon's Home-School Agreement and expectations as well as to discuss the circumstances around the move of schools if the student has not recently moved into the area or to welcome the student if they have recently moved into the area.

8. Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful in the normal admissions round, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. If you wish to appeal, you should request a form from the school to set out the grounds for your appeal and send it to Smithdon High School Admission's Team. You can find details of the appeals timetable on the following webpage: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-andlearning/schools/school-admissions>

9. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Trustees and reviewed, as part of the school website documentation, by the Local Governing Body every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the governing board will publicly consult on these changes.