



Wildern School

Admission Policy for 2024-2025

This policy will apply to all admissions from **01 September 2024**, including casual admissions. The authority's Fair Access protocol will be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups. It will be used during **2024-25** for allocating places for **September 2024** as part of the main admission round for Year 7.

Admission Criteria

Wildern School is part of a 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.

The Trustees of Wildern School's Academy Trust will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on 31 October 2023**. Applications submitted after midnight **31 October 2023** but before **01 March 2024** will be considered together on **11 March 2024** for any available places. Late applications received on or after **01 March 2024** will be considered from **12 March 2024** onwards in order of receipt. **Notifications to parents offering a secondary school place will be sent by the County Council on 01 March 2024.**

The published admission number (PAN) for Wildern School for **2024-2025 is 360**.

For the main 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 school is oversubscribed, places will be offered in the following priority order. Places for applications received after the deadline will be allocated using the same criteria.

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including 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. (See Notes).
2. Children or families who have a serious medical, physical or psychological condition which makes it essential that the child attends Wildern School rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence must be provided in support.)
3. Children living **within** the catchment area of Wildern School who at the time of application have a brother or sister (including children living as siblings in the same family unit in the permanent residence) on the roll of Wildern School and who will still be on roll at the time of the sibling's admission.*
4. Children living within the catchment area for Saint James' CE Primary School, West End at the time of application.
5. Other children living **within** the catchment area of Wildern School.
6. Children living **outside** the catchment area of Wildern School who at the time of application have a brother or sister (including children living as siblings in the same

family unit in the permanent residence) on the roll of Wildern School and who will still be on roll at the time of the sibling's admission.*

7. Children living **outside** the catchment area of Wildern School who, at the time of application, attend one of the linked primary schools. Linked schools: Berrywood Primary School; Botley C of E Primary School; Freegrounds Junior School; Kings Copse Primary School; Saint James' C of E Primary School, West End; Shamblehurst Primary School and Wellstead Primary School.
8. Other children living **outside** the catchment area of Wildern School.

* This includes 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.

Definitions:

Looked after children

A looked after child is a child who is (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

Previously looked after 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.

Medical and Social Need

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 X 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.

'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 based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at one school above any other.

Permanent address

The child's permanent address is where a child normally lives, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week and should be used for the application. The home 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. 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 addresses registered with the child's GP.

Catchment area

A map of the school's catchment area can be viewed in the school office or at www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool/schooldetails?dfesno=4127

Sibling

'Sibling' refers to the children of parents who are married or cohabiting, where the parents and children are living permanently at the same address as one family. It may also be applied to situations where a full or half brother or sister is living at separate addresses. Criteria 3 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.

Tie-break

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, undertaken by the local authority. Details of the random allocation procedure are available on the Hampshire County Council website.

Multiple births

If the last pupil to be offered a place within the school's published admission number (PAN) is a multiple birth or same cohort sibling, any further same cohort sibling will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the intake number above the school's PAN. The PAN will remain unchanged so that no other pupil will be admitted until a place becomes available within the PAN.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan

All children with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school must be admitted. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

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 out of the normal year group is being requested. When such a request is made, the academy trust will

make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

Fair Access placements by the local authority

Outside the normal admission round, it may sometimes be necessary for a pupil 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 Hampshire County Council's Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

Waiting lists

For any year group where there are more applications than places available, the school will operate a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. Each child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where a place becomes vacant, it will be allocated to the child at the top of the list at that time. The waiting list is re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

For entry to Year 7, the waiting list will be maintained by the Academy Trust until 31 August 2025, at which point all names will be removed. For all other year groups, waiting lists will remain open until 31 August each year. Should parents wish their child to be considered for a place at the school in the following school year, they must submit a new application in the August before the new school year. Schools will send a decision letter within the first 10 days of the new term.

School Closures

In the event of a school closure, pupils from the closing school may be given a higher priority (for example this might include the child being treated as in-catchment) within the admission criteria 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 by a particular closure.

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 Wildern School or 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.