

WHICKHAM SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2027

Introduction

We, at Whickham School, allocate places at our school using the policy and admission criteria given below. We consult the Governing Body each year about this policy and arrange the admissions to the school using the co-ordinated admission scheme. We also use this policy and scheme when deciding the allocation of places for In Year transfer/casual admissions to the school.

The admission policy is as follows:

- Whickham School will admit pupils between the ages of 11 and 19.
- We will accept pupils up to the school's agreed planned admission number of 266 unless we feel there are lawful grounds not to do so.

Oversubscription Criteria

We will consider applications from parents who have named the school as any ranked preference on their application form this is called the equal preference system. If there are more applications for the number of places available at the school we will then allocate places by using the following order of priority:

1. Children in Public Care (as defined under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) including a child who was previously "looked after" but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order (see definition*)).

Children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

2. Children who live in the school's catchment area.
3. Children who will have a brother or sister at the secondary school during the coming academic year.
4. Other children who have exceptional medical and social grounds see point 1 below
5. Children of a member of School Staff who has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which application for admission to the school is made.
6. All other children.

(*see definitions of our criteria in priority 1 and 3 at www.gateshead.gov.uk)

Point 1- We can consider individual applications in cases involving exceptional medical or social needs. This kind of application must be supported in writing from relevant registered health professionals i.e. a doctor or social worker. The evidence must demonstrate why the chosen school is the most suitable and what difficulties would be caused if the child were to attend another school. We will not consider such applications if the relevant evidence is not provided. If provided the evidence will be assessed by the Local Authority. No assumption should be made that submission of the relevant evidence will, in itself, be sufficient to allocate a place.

Tie breaker

If within any of the above criteria there are more applicants than places available priority will be given to those children based on the distance they live from the school, measured 'as the crow flies' in a straight line from the centre of the home residence to the school's main entrance. Children living nearest to the school will have priority. Distance is measured using a geographical information system (GIS). Where two or more applicants share the same distance, a random allocation process will be used to determine the ranked order of the applications in question.

Sibling link

For your child to be considered under the category of sibling link an older brother/sister or step brother/ sister that shares the same parent/guardian and lives at the same address as the child applying and will be attending the preferred school at the time of admission or adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address and to children who are fostered and have other children from the host family attending the school in question. In addition the older sibling must have been at the school from the start of Year 11.

Address

For the purposes of deciding whether a child lives in the catchment area of a school we will use the parent or carer's address or the address of a relevant adult who has parental responsibility, as defined under the 1989 Children Act, for the child.

Waiting list

If places become available we will consider all relevant applications using a waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained by Whickham School from the start of the academic year and be kept for the rest of the academic year. All applicants on the waiting list are placed according to the admission criteria and priorities set out above. However, children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the LA or who have been referred for admission and have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol or supportive moves between schools will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

Application Dates

From 7th September 2026 Gateshead residents can apply on-line at:

On-line applications must be submitted by **31st October 2026**. Alternatively, parents can request a paper application from Gateshead Council's School Admissions Team

by emailing schooladmissions@gateshead.gov.uk. Paper applications must be returned to The School Admissions Team, Floor 2, Civic Centre, Gateshead, NE8 1HH by **31st October 2026**.

If you live outside Gateshead and want to apply to a Gateshead school, you must obtain an application form from your home Council and return it to them by their closing date, even if the schools you want to apply to are in Gateshead. However, you must still consider the information in Gateshead Council's 'Admission to Secondary School' booklet so that you know what the admission arrangements are to Gateshead schools. This information is available at www.gateshead.gov.uk. Your own Council will send us notification of your application and they will let you know the final allocation of a school place for your child.

Offer Date – 1 March 2027

A letter will be sent to parents resident in Gateshead on or around 1 March 2027 informing them of the school they have been offered for their child. Gateshead residents who apply on-line are also informed by email on 1 March 2027.

In-Year Applications

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round please view the information on the council's website www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/2780/School-admissions

General Information and definitions

For information on our admission arrangements and definitions of the terms used in this policy please refer to the "Admission to Secondary School" booklet for 2027 at www.gateshead.gov.uk

Gateshead's co-ordinated admission scheme and catchment areas referred to in this policy can also be viewed online or at Gateshead Civic Centre.