

Swanmore College

Admissions Policy 2016-2017

Date of Policy approval: September 2015

Date of Policy review: September 2016

Ratified FGB:

This policy will apply to all admissions from 1 September 2016, including in-year admissions. It will be used during 2015-16 for allocating places for September 2016 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 the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups.

Admission Criteria

Hampshire County Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools. The admission arrangements are determined by the County Council, after statutory consultations.

The County Council will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of midnight on **Saturday 31 October 2015**. Notifications to parents offering a secondary school place will be sent by the County Council on 1 March 2016.

Applications made after midnight on **31 October 2015** will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

The published admission number (PAN) for Swanmore College for 2016-2017 is 270.

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 school is oversubscribed, places will be offered up to the published admission number (PAN) 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*).
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 Swanmore College rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence must be provided in support.)
3. Children living in the catchment area of Swanmore 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 Swanmore College.

5. Children living out of the catchment area of Swanmore College 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. [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 sibling 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 school 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 Swanmore College who are on roll at one of the following linked schools: Bishop's Waltham Junior School, Curdridge Primary School, Droxford Junior School, Hambledon Primary School (*school specific criterion*), St John The Baptist C E (Controlled) Primary School, Waltham Chase, Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School or Wickham C E Primary School.
7. Children of staff (see (v) in Definitions) living out of the catchment area of Swanmore College who have, (1) been employed at the College for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the College 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 Swanmore College.

Definitions

- (i) This criterion provides priority for children 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). It can also be used for children 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.
- (v) 'Staff' includes all those on the payroll of Swanmore College. '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 Swanmore College is oversubscribed from within any of the above categories, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the College have priority. Distances will be measured from the Ordnance Survey home address point to Swanmore College Main Reception 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. **Pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an EHCP**
The governors will admit any pupil whose final statement of special educational needs or Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) names Swanmore 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 school's 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 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 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 a school's waiting list. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools as they wish.

The waiting list will be maintained until **31 August 2017**, at which point all names will be removed. Should parents wish their child to be considered for a place at the College in the following school year, they should complete and submit a fresh 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. **School Specific Criteria**

Governing bodies may apply to the Director of Children's Services to include in their school policy a criterion which they regard as essential if children are to be treated fairly in relation to clearly defined local conditions. The application will cover both the substance of the criterion and its position in the order of priorities. In the event of such applications, the Director of Children's Services will consult the Admission Forum and the criterion will then be determined by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. Any changes after such determination will be authorised by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Lead Member. Any criterion agreed under this category must be published in the school prospectus with its position within the admission priorities clearly indicated.

7. **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.

8. **Legislation**

This policy takes account of all Equalities legislation, together with all relevant regulations and the School Admissions Code (published by the DfE in 2014).