



Ringwood School

Admissions Policy 2026/7

Main School

POLICY DETAILS

Policy name	Ringwood School Admission Policy 2026/7
Status	Post statutory consultation
Strategic objective	To set out admissions arrangements for 2026/7
Policy owner	Headteacher
Authorised by	Governing Body
Authorisation date	28 th February 2025, following a full consultation (that took place from Wednesday 11 th December 2024 to Wednesday 29 th January 2025) after 7 years with no changes. The next consultation will be due, at the latest, in the academic year 2032/3
Review date	Annually to be decided
Statutory, regulatory and/or contractual considerations	Required by the school's contractual funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education
Equality assessment	Positive

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ringwood School is an 11-18 Academy. This means that we have greater autonomy and the freedom to innovate and raise standards meeting the needs of our local area.

Admissions Authority: Ringwood School Governing Body

Application to Ringwood School

Year 7 New intake Admissions:

The co-ordinated admission scheme requires parents to apply for a place (new intake only) at Ringwood School using the common application form available from your local authority or your child's Primary School.

Admission Enquiries:

Year 7-11 (in-year admissions).

Please contact directly the admission officer, at Ringwood School if you are considering applying for a place.

Tel: 01425 475000 or email: office@ringwood.hants.sch.uk

Sixth Form admissions:

Please see separate admissions policy. Application forms and a prospectus are available on line. To discuss an application please contact the sixth form office, Ringwood School. Tel: 01425 481273 or email: office@ringwood.hants.sch.uk

General Principles

The School's admission number for Year 7 in September 2026 is 265.

Students will be admitted at age 11 without reference to ability or aptitude. The normal age of transfer to the school in September 2026 is 11, where the child reaches that age between 1st September 2025 and the 31st August 2026.

ADMISSION CRITERIA:

The Governors of Ringwood School are the admission authority. All main round admissions are considered by the Local Authority and Ringwood School works closely with Hampshire County Council to ensure that the admission arrangements and over subscription criteria are complied with. The guiding principles of the school admissions policy are that siblings as far as possible can attend school together; that each school should serve its local community; and that children can benefit from curriculum continuity between schools serving the same catchment area. The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and complies with all relevant legislation.

Ringwood School works in partnership with Hampshire County Council with regard to the Fair Access protocol which will be applied alongside this policy to secure the admission of vulnerable students from specific groups.

The school will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on 31st October 2025**. Late applications (i.e. those submitted after midnight on 31st October 2025) will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications. **Notifications to parents offering a secondary school place will be sent by the County Council on the first working day after 1st March 2026**. For the normal admission round, all preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admissions 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, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school, the following criteria will be applied and places will be offered in the following priority order. Places for late applications will be allocated using the same criteria.

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after (see (a) in Definitions).
2. Children or families who have a serious medical, physical or psychological condition which makes it essential that the child attends Ringwood School rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence from a professional such as a doctor must be provided in support.)
3. Children of members of staff who have been employed at the school (see (b) in Definitions) on a permanent contract for a minimum of two years or more years at the time of which their application for admission to the school is made or have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
4. Children who live within the school's catchment area (see (d and e) in Definitions) AND who at the time of application have a sibling (see (c) in Definitions) on the roll of the school who will still be on roll at the time of admission.
5. Children who live within the school's catchment area (see (d and e) in Definitions) AND are on the roll of linked junior / primary schools: Ringwood Junior School, Poulner Junior School, Burley County Primary School, Sopley Primary School, Bransgore Church of England Primary School and St. Ives Primary School. The inclusion of linked primary/junior schools is to facilitate curriculum continuity in our partnership of schools.
6. Children who live outside the school's catchment area (see (d and e) in Definitions) AND who at the time of application have a sibling (see (c) in Definitions) on the roll of the school who will still be on roll at the time of admission.
7. Children who live outside the school's catchment area (see (d and e) in Definitions) AND are on the roll of linked junior / primary schools: Ringwood Junior School, Poulner Junior School, Burley County Primary School, Sopley Primary School, Bransgore Church of England Primary School and St. Ives Primary School.
8. All other children.

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. Geographic Information System (GIS) will be used to determine distances (normally from the

Ordnance Survey home address point to the school address point). Random allocation will be used to determine the priority of more than one child from the same multiple dwelling.

TIE-BREAKER

Where two or more applicants are of equal distance from the school, a process of random allocation will be used by the Governing Body to decide.

MULTIPLE BIRTHS

If the last student 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 student will be admitted until a place becomes available within the PAN.

STUDENTS WITH AN EHCP

The governors will admit any student whose final Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) names the school. Where possible these children will be admitted within the PAN.

IN-YEAR FAIR ACCESS PLACEMENTS BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The local authority has a responsibility to ensure that all students are placed in schools as quickly as possible. It may therefore sometimes be necessary for a student 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 In-year Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

MOVING INTO THE AREA

In the event of a prospective family needing to move house at any point during the admissions procedure, then it is the duty of the parents concerned to notify the school's Admissions Officer in writing with copies of relevant documentation:

- Exchange of contacts or a signed tenancy agreement

Or

- For UK service and crown servant families, an official letter confirming a relocation date and evidence of a future home address, unit address or quartering area address

WAITING LIST

When all available places in the normal admissions round have been allocated, a waiting list will be operated by the school. Parents who wish their child to be included on the waiting list for in year admissions should inform the School in writing.

For the main admission round children will be automatically added to the waiting list in accordance with Hampshire's co-ordinated scheme for main round admissions. The waiting list for Year 7 operates in accordance with the published admission criteria and will be in place until 31st December of the year of entry. Thereafter we will ask parents if they wish to maintain their child on our waiting list.

Beyond the first term of Year 7, we will contact parents with a child on the waiting list towards the end of the academic year and ask if they wish to remain on the list for the following school year. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list for as long as they wish.

Any places that become available will be allocated according to the over subscription 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 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 end of each school year

In respect of year 7 placements, if a place is offered and the application then proves to be fraudulent, and this has been identified by the first October half-term following admission, the offer of a place will be automatically withdrawn.

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 school.

APPEALS

Parents seeking admission for their child, who has not been given a place, have a right to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Please write to the Admissions Officer at Ringwood School if you wish to do this. The school will then send you the appropriate information.

OTHER INFORMATION

The school prospectus gives information about the school and details of the Admission Procedures. Parents are encouraged to visit and view the school with their child on the school's open evening in the Autumn Term.

LEGISLATION

This policy takes account of all Equalities legislation, together with all relevant regulations and the School Admissions Code (published by the DfE in September 2021).

DEFINITIONS:

- (a) 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). Previously looked after children are those that were previously looked after but immediately after this point became subject to an adoption, arrangement 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). This category includes previously looked after children 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. These children are referred to as internationally adopted previously looked after children (IAPLAC). This also includes children who were previously looked after in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 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.

- (b)** “Staff” includes all those on the payroll of the school. “Children of staff” refers to situations where the staff member is the natural parent, the legal guardian or a stepparent.
- (c)** “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 adoptive brother or sister are living at separate addresses. Criteria 4 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.
- (d)** 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.
- (e)** The school’s catchment area can be viewed on the Hantsweb website (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool/schooldetails?dfesno=5403>)