



Harwich and Dovercourt  
High School

# Admissions Policy 2021-22



## **Harwich and Dovercourt High School Admissions Policy** **2021-2022**

- This policy is formulated in line with the requirements of 'The School Admissions' (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and the DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'.
- The published Admission Number for year 7 in 2021/22 will be 224.
- The school serves the local community and offers places to students regardless of ability or aptitude.
- Except where stated otherwise in this policy, all applications should be submitted online at [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions) or by post to the Essex County Council, School Admissions, FREEPOST, PO Box 4261, Chelmsford, CM1 1GS.
- The age of admission into year 7 is 11 years.

### **Procedure for Admission of Year 7 Students**

- (a) Applications for the normal admissions round and late applications\* will be by application through the co-ordinated Secondary Admission Scheme, arranged by the Essex County Council Planning and Admission Department.
- (b) Essex County Council arranges the procedures to be followed each year.
- (c) Parents will be notified of allocation of places during the spring term prior to the September admission.
- (d) In the case of unsuccessful applications, parents wishing to appeal against the decision must do so by writing to the Clerk of the Independent Appeal Panel, within 20 days of the date of the letter notifying them that their application was unsuccessful.
- (e) A waiting list will be kept of unsuccessful applicants for year 7 until at least 31 December of each school year of admission. Should any vacancies occur the criteria for admission will be applied as below.
- (f) Applications for admission to year 7 received after the start of the new academic year should follow the same procedure for in-year applications.

### **Criteria for Admission**

Where applications for admissions exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children including those who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted #.
2. Children with a sibling attending the school who will still be on roll at the date of admission\*\*.

3. Children who reside within the Priority Admission Area.
4. Children who attend the following Primary Schools:
  - All Saints CofE VA Primary School, Harwich
  - All Saints CofE VA Primary School, Great Oakley
  - Chase Lane Primary School
  - Harwich Community Primary School and Nursery
  - Mayflower Primary School
  - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
  - Spring Meadow Primary School
  - Two Village CofE (VC) Primary School
  - Wix and Wrabness Primary School
5. Children of staff at Harwich & Dovercourt High School who have been employed for two or more years at the time of the application or are recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. To qualify under this criterion, the staff member must be a 'direct employee'. This includes any member of staff (teaching or non-teaching) with two years' continuous employment with the school. Staff contracted in to provide services to the school do not count as 'direct employees'. For the purposes of this criterion, 'children of staff' is taken to include a son, daughter or step-son/daughter, or child who is adopted or fostered or for whom a special guardianship order is in place.
6. Within each of the above criteria, proximity of the home to school will be taken into consideration, with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority. (Straight-line distance between home and school will be used as a tie breaker with those living closest to the school having highest priority\*\*\*)

Children with an Education Health Care Plan that name a specific school are required to be admitted to the school that is named.

**For All In-Year Applications (\*\*\*\*)**

All applications received will be considered in line with the Essex Fair Access Protocol. Please complete our application form, obtained directly from the school by downloading from the school's website: [www.hdhs.org.uk](http://www.hdhs.org.uk) or on request by emailing: [admin@hdhs.school](mailto:admin@hdhs.school). Alternatively, you may send a written request for the form to:

Harwich and Dovercourt High School  
 Hall Lane  
 Harwich  
 Essex  
 CO12 3TG

In the event of multiple in-year applications and insufficient places, the criteria for admission will be applied. Following receipt of an in-year application, the academy will notify the parents of the outcome of their application in writing within 15 school days.

## **Admission Appeals**

Where applicants are declined a place at the school, parents have a statutory right to appeal against the decision. They should indicate their wish to do so by writing to the Clerk of the Appeal Panel, PO Box 11, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX within 20 days of that refusal. Parents/carers may only submit one application for an academic year unless there are significant material changes of circumstances relevant to the application; appeal forms can also be obtained from the school.

Parents and prospective students are very welcome to visit the school at any time; however, this is not an offer of a placement. Please telephone the school to make an appointment.

## **Clarification of Admission Selection Criteria**

(#) The definition of a Looked After Child will be the same as the Local Authority uses: A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after, became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. 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) at the time of making an application to a school. 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.

(\*) Late applications are applications for entry in a relevant age group which are submitted before the first day of the first term in the admission year but have not been made in time to enable the local authority to offer a place on National Offer Day.

(\*\*) The definition of a sibling will be the same as the Local Authority uses:

For applications made in the normal admissions round, and for mid-year admissions, a relevant sibling is *'a child who has a brother, sister, adopted brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the same family household and address who attends the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year. Biological siblings who attend the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year will also be treated as siblings irrespective of place of residence. Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings.'*

However, applicable for 11-18 schools in The Sigma Trust, the sibling rule will not apply where the sibling has joined the school in Year 12 or 13 having previously attended a different school within North East Essex and the family has not relocated.

(\*\*\*) All straight-line distances are calculated electronically by the Local Authority using data provided by Ordnance Survey. The data plots the co-ordinates of each individual property and provides the address point between which straight-line distance is measured and reported to three decimal places.

(\*\*\*\*) In-year applications are applications that are submitted on or after the first day of the first term of the admission year, or if it is for the admission of a child to an age group other than a relevant age group.