

# Castle Hill Primary School Admission Policy 2025-2026

Hampshire County Council is the admission authority for Castle Hill Primary School. The admission arrangements are determined by the County Council, after statutory consultations.

This policy will be used during 2024/2025 for allocating places in the main admission round for entry to Year R at the Rooksdown Campus and Year 3 at the Greenbank Campus in September 2025. It will also apply to in-year admissions during 2025/26. It does not apply to those being admitted to nursery provision.

Castle Hill Primary School is a dual site school made up of the Greenbank campus and the Rooksdown campus. Parents apply for a place at the school, rather than a specific site.

- The Rooksdown Campus teaches children in Year R through to Year 6. The children in Year 2 progress into Year 3 on the same site. Therefore, it is the case that children in Year R to Year 2 will always attend the Rooksdown campus. Applicants applying for a Year R place in the main admissions round will attend the Rooksdown campus.
- The Greenbank campus accommodates children in Year 3 to Year 6 with two classes for each year group. Applicants applying for a Year 3 place in the main admissions round will attend the Greenbank campus.

## Published Admission Number (PAN)

Castle Hill Primary School has two published admission numbers (PAN)<sup>1</sup> for entry, one for Year R entry to the Rooksdown Campus and the other for Year 3 to the Greenbank campus. The school will admit this number of children if there are sufficient applications. Where there are fewer applications than the published admission number, places will be offered to all applicants.

## Admissions Process

The County Council will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on 15 January 2025. Notifications to parents offering a Year R school place and a Year 3 school place will be sent by the County Council on 16 April 2025.**

Applications made after the deadline will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all on time preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria.

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<sup>1</sup> The PAN applies to the relevant year\* only. For other year groups at the school, different admission limits may be applied. Please ask the school or local authority for details.

\* The relevant year is the age group at which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school i.e. reception, year 3, year 7 and year 12 where the school admits external applicants to the sixth form (Section 142 of the SSFA 1998).

## **Pupils with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)**

Any child with an EHCP where the Special Educational Needs service has named Castle Hill Primary School will be admitted. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

## **Oversubscription criteria for Rooksdown Campus – Year R**

The PAN for Year R at Castle Hill Primary School (Rooksdown Campus) for 2025-26 is 60.

When Year R at Castle Hill Primary School (Rooksdown Campus) is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to children in the following order:

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after (*see definition i*).
2. 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 Castle Hill Primary 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.
3. Children of staff (*see definition iii*) who have, (1) been employed at Castle Hill Primary School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or (2) have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
4. Children living **in** the catchment area of Castle Hill Primary School (*see definition iv*) who at the time of application have a sibling (*see definition v*) on the roll of Castle Hill Primary School who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [See 6 for additional children who may be considered under this criterion.]
5. Other children living **in** the catchment area of Castle Hill Primary School.
6. Children living **out** of the catchment area of Castle Hill Primary School who at the time of application have a sibling (*see definition v*) on the roll of Castle Hill Primary School who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [Where a sibling was allocated a place at Castle Hill Primary School in the normal admission round in a previous year because the child was displaced (*see definition vi*) from the catchment school for their address, the application will be considered under 4, above, subject to the siblings still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced. In future normal admissions rounds a younger sibling will be considered to have been displaced where they were allocated a place at Castle Hill Primary School under this criterion as a consequence of their elder sibling's displacement and are still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced].
7. Other children.

### **Tie-breaker**

If Rooksdown Campus is oversubscribed from within any of the above categories, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the Rooksdown Campus have priority. Distances will be measured from the Ordnance Survey home address point to the Rooksdown Campus 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. An explanation of the random allocation procedure is available on the County website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/arrangements>

### **Oversubscription criteria for Greenbank Campus – Year 3**

The PAN for Year 3 at Castle Hill Primary School (Greenbank Campus) for 2025-26 is 60.

When Year 3 at Castle Hill Primary School (Greenbank Campus) is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to children in the following order:

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after (see definition i).
2. 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 Castle Hill Primary 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.
3. Children of staff (see definition iii) who have, (1) been employed at Castle Hill Primary School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or (2) have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
4. Children living in the catchment area (see definition iv) of Castle Hill Primary School who at the time of application have a sibling (see definition v) on the roll of Castle Hill Primary School or the linked infant school, Castle Hill Infant School, who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [See 7 for additional children who may be considered under this criterion.]
5. Children living out of the catchment who were allocated a place at the linked infant school, Castle Hill Infant School, in the normal admission round in a previous year because the child was displaced (see definition vi) from the catchment school for their address, and they remain living in the catchment area.
6. Other children living in the catchment area of Castle Hill Primary School.

7. Children living out of the catchment area of Castle Hill Primary School who at the time of application have a sibling (see definition v) on the roll of Castle Hill Primary School or the linked infant school, Castle Hill Infant School, who will still be on roll at the time of admission. [Where a sibling was allocated a place at Castle Hill Primary School or Castle Hill Infant School in the normal admission round in a previous year because the child was displaced (see definition vi) from the catchment school for their address, the application will be considered under 4, above, subject to the siblings still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced. In future normal admissions rounds a younger sibling will be considered to have been displaced where they were allocated a place at Castle Hill Primary School or Castle Hill Infant School under this criterion as a consequence of their elder sibling's displacement and are still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced].

8. Children living out of the catchment area who at the time of application are on the roll at the linked infant school, Castle Hill Infant School.

9. Other children.

### **Tie-breaker**

If Greenbank Campus is oversubscribed from within any of the above categories, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the Greenbank Campus have priority. Distances will be measured from the Ordnance Survey home address point to the Greenbank Campus 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. An explanation of the random allocation procedure is available on the County website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/arrangements>

### **Definitions**

(i) Looked after children are defined as those 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 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.

(ii) '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 by the school and a panel of Local Authority senior officers based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at one school above any other.

(iii) 'Staff' includes all those on the payroll of Castle Hill Primary School who (specific to clause (1)) have been an employee continuously for two years at the time of application. 'Children of staff' refers to situations where the staff member is the natural parent, the legal guardian, or a resident step parent.

(iv) The catchment area is a geographical area from which children may be afforded priority for admission to a particular school. A map of the school's catchment area is available on the school's details page of the Hampshire County Council website [www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool](http://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool).

(v) '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 adopted brother or sister are living at separate addresses. Criteria 4 and 6 (criterion 7 for Year 3) include children who at the time of application have a sibling for whom the offer of a place at of Castle Hill Primary School (or the linked infant school, Castle Hill Infant School, for Year 3 admissions) has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending.

(vi) 'Displaced' refers to a child who was refused a place at the catchment school in the normal admission round having named it on the application and was not offered a higher named preference school. To identify the child's catchment school please use <https://maps.hants.gov.uk/SchoolCatchmentAreaFinder>. Note that some addresses are in catchment for more than one school and in this case, 'displaced' refers to a child who was refused a place at any of their catchment schools.

## **Additional Information**

### **Permanent Residence**

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.

### **Multiple births**

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is offered the last place available within the PAN, any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will also be offered a place, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the school's PAN.

### **Allocation of Year 3 pupils to the Greenbank and Rooksdown campuses**

There are Year 3 classes on the Rooksdown Campus as well as the Greenbank Campus. From 10 June 2025, all new applications for admission into Year 3 for September 2025 will be considered for a place at both the Rooksdown and Greenbank Campuses. Where a place is offered, regardless of whether it is at the campus the applicant wanted to secure, there will be no right of appeal.

Where there are no places available, the applicant will be advised of their right of appeal against the refusal and their child's name will automatically be added to the Year 3 waiting

list for both campuses (please see Waiting List paragraph, below).

### **In-Year Admissions**

Applications made outside of the main round will be processed in accordance with this policy and the oversubscription criterion listed above.

- All Year R to Year 2 applications will be considered for Rooksdown campus only.
- Year 3 to Year 6 applicants will be considered for both campuses. The placement at a particular site will be dependent on which site the place has become available at. The offer letter will specify which campus the place is available at. If there are spaces available on both sites, the placement of children at a particular site is at the headteacher's discretion. However, the school will endeavour to meet parents' wishes as far as possible.
- If a current Year 3 – Year 6 pupil wishes to transfer to the other site, the Governors would consider this only if a vacancy was available to avoid oversubscribed classes at the other site. There is no right of appeal relating to which campus a pupil attends.

### **Waiting lists**

Waiting lists will be established for each year group where more applications are received than places available. The waiting list for a place at Rooksdown will be ordered as described in the Rooksdown Tie-breaker paragraph with applicants living nearer the Rooksdown Campus having priority. The waiting list for a place at the Greenbank Campus will be ordered as described in the Greenbank Tie-breaker paragraph with applicants living nearer the Greenbank Campus having priority. This means that an applicant is very likely to hold a different position on each site's ranked list, dependent on the proximity of their home to each campus.

For main round admissions to Year R to Rooksdown campus and Year 3 for the Greenbank campus, the waiting list will be maintained centrally by the local authority until 31 August 2025. At all other times, and for other year groups, waiting lists will be operated by schools on behalf of the local authority.

For in-year admissions, due to the school having two campuses, two ranked lists are maintained, ordered in accordance with each site's tie-breaker measurement. When a place becomes available, the two ranked lists will be merged together, and the child at the top of the list on the day the place became available will be offered. The waiting list is ordered 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;

For entry to Year R to Rooksdown campus and Year 3 for the Greenbank campus, the waiting list will remain open until 31 August 2026, at which point all names will be removed. For all other year groups, waiting lists will remain open until 31 August of each year. Parents who want their child to be considered for a place at the school in the following school year must submit a new 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.

## **Appeals**

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. For information about the appeal process, including how to lodge an appeal, please visit: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/guidance/appeals>. There is no right of appeal relating to which campus a pupil attends.

## **Starting school**

Pupils born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 (inclusive) are entitled to full-time schooling from September 2025. Parents can choose to defer their child's admission until later in the school year (but not beyond the start of the term after they reach compulsory school age). Children can also attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age. Parents must discuss their child's starting arrangements with the school once an offer has been secured.

Children with birthdays between:

- 1 September and 31 December 2020 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 December 2025 and must be in full-time education at the start of the spring term 2026.
- January and 31 March 2021 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 March 2026 and must be in full-time education at the start of the summer term 2026.
- 1 April and 31 August 2021 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 August 2026 and must be in full-time education at the start of the new school year in September 2026.

Parents of summer born children (those born between 1 April and 31 August) who are particularly concerned about their child's readiness for school can request to delay their child's entry to Year R for an entire school year until September 2026. This is called decelerated admission. In making such a request, parents would be expected to state clearly why they felt decelerated admission to Year R was in their child's best interests. It is recommended that parents considering such a request contact the local authority in the autumn term 2024 to ensure that an informed decision is made. Guidance on decelerated admission for summer born children, including how to make a request, is available on the County website at [www.hants.gov.uk/ad-summerborn](http://www.hants.gov.uk/ad-summerborn).

## **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 outside the normal age group is being requested and which year group they wish their child to be admitted. Decisions will be made based on the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child.

## **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).