



Excellence, compassion & respect for all

FRAMWELLGATE
SCHOOL DURHAM

Title and Description	Admissions Policy & Arrangements
Date of last review	October 2025
Approved by	Academy Trust Board
To be reviewed by	Academy Trust Board
Responsibility	Head Teacher
Review period	Annual
Date of next review	October 2026 or upon expansion of the Trust, whichever is earliest

Below is an AI generated summary of the full policy, produced to help make this document more accessible. The summary has been checked for accuracy, but the full policy remains the only completely accurate version.

1. General Information

Reviewed: October 2025

Next Review: October 2026 or upon Trust expansion

Responsible: Head Teacher

Approved by: Academy Trust Board

2. Admissions Overview

Years 7–11 Admissions: Follow Durham County Council's coordinated application scheme.

Application Info: Available at Durham School Admissions

3. School Ethos

Core Values: Excellence, compassion, respect, honesty, integrity.

Aims: Foster ambition, kindness, resilience, and a passion for learning.

4. In-Year Admissions (Years 7–11)

Managed by Durham County Council.

Steps include:

Contacting the Local Authority

School tours and initial conversations

Submitting a Transfer Form

Possible transfer and admission meetings

5. Year 6 to Year 7 Transition

Open Evening held in September.

Preference forms sent in early September.

Deadline for form submission is crucial.

Allocation results shared in March.

6. Oversubscription Criteria (in priority order)

Looked-after or previously looked-after children

Children adopted from state care outside England

Exceptional medical reasons

Sibling links

Nearest school by shortest walking route

All other applicants

7. Tie-Breakers

Priority to those who would travel furthest to the next nearest school.

If still tied, those living closest to the school are prioritised.

8. Appeals and Waiting Lists

If a place is not offered, parents can:

Join the waiting list

Appeal through the Local Authority

9. Supported Offsite Placements

Offered in collaboration with the Local Authority.

Trial placements may lead to permanent transfers if successful.

10. Additional Notes

Distance is measured by the shortest lit walking route.

Monitoring is aligned with national and local policy updates.

Admissions Policy and Arrangements

Introduction

For entry into Years 7-11 the school follows the common application scheme agreed with Durham County Council. Information can be found by visiting <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> on the Durham County Council website.

Framwellgate School Durham: Ethos and Values Statement

Like all good schools, we're driven by our values above all else. We define these as:

Excellence - Everyone in our community will know and experience success

The most for those that need the most - We will meet the needs of all our learners

Known and valued - Everyone here will be celebrated for who they are and what they do

Collective endeavour - We will achieve success together

Joy - Everyone will know and create joy

These five values determine all that we do, and every part of the school flows from them. They set the direction and act as a compass to ensure we continue to grow and develop as a school in the way that we feel best supports all our students.

1. In-Year Admission for Years 7 to 11

Durham County Council operates a 'coordinated admission scheme' under a national legislative framework.

1.1 Parents/carers should note the points below for guidance on obtaining a place. Please note that, whilst the school is an Academy, the Local Authority remains the 'admitting' authority.

- i. Contact Pupil Casework at Local Authority on 03000 265 906
- ii. Parent/Carers interested in a place can contact the school to organise a tour of the school and an initial conversation
- iii. Parent/Carer to complete a Transfer Form and send it to the Local Authority
- iv. Local Authority contact the school if places are available
- v. A transfer meeting will be arranged with current and receiving school, if deemed necessary
- vi. If the transfer goes ahead, an admission meeting will be set up with parent/carer and receiving school

2. Transferring from Year 6 to Year 7

2.1 Please refer to the points below for guidance on obtaining a place

- i. Parent/carers of Year 6 students invited to Year 6 Open Evening in September.
- ii. Preference forms are sent to parent/carers by the Local Authority of Year 6 students in early September
- iii. Please note there is a deadline for the forms to be returned to the Admission Team at the Local Authority. It is important that the forms are returned by the deadline date in order to have the best chance of securing the place you want
- iv. Parent/Carers are informed in March of the school place allocated to their child

3. Oversubscription Criteria

3.1 When there are more requests for places than those available, the following criteria will be used to allocate places strictly in order of priority:

- i. Children who are 'looked after' by the Local Authority or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence/child arrangement, or a special guardianship order
- ii. Children who appear to the Admissions Authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
- iii. Medical reasons - students with very exceptional medical factors directly related to the school placement
- iv. Sibling Links - students who have a brother or sister or step-brother or step-sister already attending the school who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission
- v. Applicants to their nearest school - those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address measured by the shortest walking route
- vi. All other applicants

4. Tie-breaker

4.1 Where the school is oversubscribed within any of the above categories the following tie-breakers will be applied:

- a. For those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address (category iv), priority will be given to those who would otherwise have to travel the furthest distance to the next nearest school
- b. For children (category v), priority will be given to those children who live nearest to the school applied for

4.2 In the unlikely event of the school being oversubscribed within categories i, ii or iii tie-breaker (a) will apply.

5. Additional Information

5.1 If a Year 6 student is not offered a place at their preferred school and parent/carers would like to pursue this matter, they can contact the Admission Team at the Local Authority (on 03000 265892) and they will advise of the following options that are available:

- i. add your child's name to the school(s) waiting list; and/or
- ii. appeal for a place at the school you want. There is additional documentation which outlines the Local Authority admission appeals process.

For further information please follow the link below to the Durham County Council website: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

6. Supported Offsite Placements

6.1 The policy of this school is to engage with the Local Authority in offering trial 'Supported Offsite Placements' to students from FSD and/or other schools. Supported Offsite Placements will be considered when this is deemed to be in the best interests of the student and does not prejudice the education or wellbeing of staff or other students. There is a clear process which is conducted by the Local Authority through the Inclusion Panels. If the Supported Offsite Placement is deemed to be a success the student transfers to the roll of the school at which they have been placed on the trial Supported Offsite Placement.

- *'School' means any maintained secondary school or DfE Maintained Academy in County Durham.*
- *Distance will be measured by the shortest walking route by a lit path.*
- *Those parent/carers who live in County Durham and have children in Year 6 in primary school maintained by Durham County Council will be told which school is nearest to their home address according to the official measuring system. The same information will be provided for any other applicant on request.*

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is reviewed annually in line with national and Durham County Council policy changes.