

# Southmoor Academy



## ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Academy Council of Southmoor Academy will be the Admission Authority for this Academy. The Academy Council intends to admit up to 240 students to Year 7 in September 2025. The Academy is completely non-selective and accepts all children.

**Where a pupil has an Education, Health & Care Plan need a naming school** - The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

The admissions policy is applied if the number of applications exceeds the number of places available. The admissions authority acknowledges the rights of parents/carers to express a first choice preference for the Academy. However, parental preference cannot be considered where the Academy is over-subscribed in a particular year.

The Academy Council, as the admissions authority, will admit students to the school in accordance with the following criteria in the following order of priority. However, there is no guarantee of a place for children living in our priority admissions area or attending the named feeder schools.

- **A 'looked after 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 'looked-after' child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residency/child arrangement or special guardianship order** – a child that is looked-after' by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Children's Act 1989 and a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so, because of adoption (or become subject to a child arrangements order, residence order or special guardianship order) or a **'looked-after' child who appears to the Admission Authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as result of being adopted** – a child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.
- **Attendance in Key Stage 2 (aged 7-10+) at a designated cluster junior or primary school namely:**

Grange Primary School  
Hill View Junior Academy  
Valley Road Academy

- **A sibling link** – *an older brother/sister or older child that shares the same parent/carer and lives at the same address, who will be attending Southmoor Academy at the time of admission.*
- **Exceptional medical or psychological reasons** (you must include a medical or psychological report, prepared by a professional, to confirm information that you include in this section. This report should explain why only this school can meet your child's medical or psychological needs. Common childhood medical conditions such as asthma or giving a child's or giving a child's nervousness at starting new school as a psychological reason for choosing a particular school are unlikely to be accepted as exceptional). If you intend to use this criterion when expressing a preference, please contact the School Admissions Team before completing the application form. (Eligibility under this category will be considered by a meeting of Senior LA Officers).
- **Children of staff employed at the Academy** for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made and/or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage, and/or the member of staff has relocated.
- **Students for whom preferences are expressed on grounds other than those outlined above.**

Within each of the above, places will be offered on the basis of distance from the centre of the home address to the main entrance of the school with priority being given to those living closest to the school. Distance is measured by the shortest safest walking distance, using a geographical information system (GIS). This uses Ordnance Survey maps and Land & Property Gazetteer (LLPG), which provides co-ordinates for every dwelling.

At the first stage of allocations there will be no distinction between 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. preference applications. Therefore, all applications will be considered equally against the admission criteria. If a pupil then qualifies for a place at more than one school, the parent's highest ranked preference will be offered and any lower ranking offers will be disregarded.

In determining allocations, priority will be given to those applications where the parental preference is received by the published deadline date.

Where it is not possible to offer at a school, the child will be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list is sorted using the admission criteria and will be held until the end of the Autumn term, after the children start Year 7 in September.

Parents can apply for a place for their child at any time outside of the normal admissions round. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose EHC plans name the academy will be admitted. Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group, the child will be offered a place. If there are no places available at the time of the application, the child will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. If a place becomes available, it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the same oversubscription criteria listed above, as applied in the normal admissions round.

The academy will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8).

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour

that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked-after children, previously looked-after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

We participate in Sunderland local authority's Fair Access Protocol. This helps ensure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

Parents who are refused a place for their child, have a statutory right of appeal. Further details of the appeals process will be included with the notification letter but are also available from the Local Authority School Admissions Team and on the Southmoor Academy website.

**Last review date:** 13.12.23

**Person responsible:** Assistant Headteacher: Admissions & Engagement