

THE DUSTON SCHOOL

Admissions Policy Sixth Form 2027

Approved by: Board of Trustees

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain **how to apply** for a 6th form place at the school
- Set out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply
- Explain **how to appeal** against a decision not to offer your child a place

2. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [School Admissions Code](#)
- [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

The school is required to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

3. Definitions

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

In the care of a local authority, or

Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or

Became subject to a child arrangements order, or

Became subject to a special guardianship order

This includes 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

4. How to apply

The school is committed to providing clear advice and guidance to prospective students, helping them choose courses that align with their aspirations and set them up for success. Each course has specific entry requirements, which are detailed in the course guide available on request, at Sixth Form information events, parents' evenings, and on The Duston School website. Admissions are overseen by the Director of Sixth Form in collaboration with the Principal.

- Internal applicants (current TDS students) can apply via the internal Microsoft Forms link.
- External applicants must complete an online application form at: <https://thedustonschool.applicaa.com/year12>.
- Academic Review Day: Each student will have an interview with a Senior Leader to discuss Sixth Form pathways. External applicants will also be invited for an interview. It is essential that students select courses that support their future career, training, or university plans.
- Taster Day: All applicants will be invited to attend a taster day.
- Offer Letters: Formal offer letters will be issued to all applicants, outlining the specific conditions for their chosen courses.
- Results Day: Applicants will enrol in person at the Sixth Form Centre or, if necessary, via the online enrolment system.

5. Allocation of places

5.1 Admission number

The sixth form accepts all internal students who meet the entry requirements. The PAN for Year 12 (for external students) is **50**. In the event that there are more than 50 external applicants eligible for entry, the oversubscription criteria will be applied. Internal and External students must meet the same academic admissions criteria in order to be admitted to the Sixth Form.

5.2 Oversubscription criteria

All children whose Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan names the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated.

If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be offered a place as long as they achieve a minimum of 5 GCSE's at grade 5 and meet or exceed the subject entry requirements as required. Individual subjects will have specific entry requirements which must also be met. See below for details:

(<https://www.thedustonschool.org/attachments/download.asp?file=9752&type=pdf>)

Students need to be enrolled on 4 subjects, this can include three Level 3 subjects and one enrichment option, or 4 Level 3 subjects. All students need to be on a minimum of three Level 3 subjects.

In the event that the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet the entry criteria stated above in the order set out below.

1. LAC - Children in public care (looked after children) or previously in public care.
2. Children of staff (teaching and non-teaching, full and part time, permanent members of staff) in either or both of the following circumstances:
 - a. staff (both teaching and non-teaching, full-time and part-time) who have been directly employed by The Duston School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made;
 - b. and/or employed to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. In order for staff criteria to be applied the child should reside at the same address as the member of staff.
3. Priority will next be given to children with siblings at the school at the time of application. Siblings include step siblings, foster siblings, adopted siblings and are living as a family unit with one or both parents. Priority will not be given to children with siblings who are former pupils of the school.

For the sibling link to apply, a brother or sister must live at the same address when the application is made. If siblings live between two addresses, applicants must provide proof to show that the main address is the same for both children.

4. Other pupils

The school reserves the right to cancel a course if there is insufficient demand.

5.3 Tie breaker

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the address point of the school using a geographical information system. Each address has a unique address point established by the most valuable elements from the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NPLG), Ordnance Survey Master Map, Royal Mail Postal Address File and The Valuation Office Agency. The address point for a property does not change.

A child's home address will be considered to be where he/she is resident for the majority of nights in a normal school week.

Where the distance between 2 children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them. This process will be independently verified.

6. Waiting List

The school will maintain a waiting list until at least the 31st December of each school year of admission. If there are no spaces available at the time of your application, the student's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 5 of this policy. Priority will not be given to students on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

7. Admission of children outside their normal age group

The Duston School will, in accordance with the School Admissions Code, consider requests from parents for their child to be admitted to a year group outside that of their chronological age and will then make a decision whether to accept or reject that application based on what is in the best interests of the student concerned. Parents should follow the usual admission procedures and make it clear on the application form that the request is for a place outside the normal age group. Parents will be asked to provide relevant professional evidence to support such a request.

8. Appeals

If you are not offered a place at our school you have the right to appeal to an independent panel. Details of this will be included with any refusal letter.

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the governing board every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the governing board will publicly consult on these changes.