

Admissions Policy for Day Places September 2023

SAPIENTIA EDUCATION TRUST
WYMONDHAM COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL

DAY PLACES

**ADMISSIONS POLICY, PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE
FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**

1. INTRODUCTION

Wymondham College Prep School is a new school for day and boarding pupils, serving the Wymondham area (Annex1) for its day place provision. It opened in September 2020 for Reception age pupils with Year 5 & 6 boarding and Year 5 day provision added in September 2021

It is run by Sapiientia Education Trust, a Norfolk based Multi-Academy Trust that runs 15 other state schools in Norfolk and Suffolk. The school shares a site and has close links with Wymondham College which has a well-established reputation for excellence.

The Trust's vision is to provide a world-class education locally.

Admission to Wymondham College Prep School is regulated by the Academy Trust Admissions Policy which has been determined in accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code issued under section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Sapiientia Education Trust is the Admission Authority for Wymondham College Prep School, but this policy is administered through the Governing Body. Norfolk County Council, the local authority, have responsibility for co-ordinating Reception Year admissions for the normal point of entry in September.

2. ADMISSION NUMBERS

The school has an admission number of 60 for entry in Reception in September 2023.

The school has an admission number of 14 for entry in Year 5 in September 2023.

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number for the relevant year group are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

For Reception places (children who were born between 01/09/2017 and 31/08/2018) Norfolk County Council will process applications through their co-ordinated admissions process.

This means you will need to complete the Local Authority (LA) common application form available at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions>.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2023.

Offers will be made on 17th April 2023.

For in year admissions, applications should be made via Norfolk County Council using their 'in-year transfer' application form available at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/moving-schools>.

For Year 5 places Sapientia Education Trust will process applications directly. This means you will need to complete the Wymondham College Prep School Year 5 Day Place application form. This is available on the school website and should be sent to admissions@wymcolprep.org. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2023.

It is possible to apply after this date, but please be aware that your application will be considered after all of the on-time applications.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2023.

Offers will be made on 17th April 2023.

Admission into other Year Groups

Places may be available in other year groups where a pupil has withdrawn from the School. There is no guarantee that such places will be available in any particular year. In-year admission applications should be made through the Local Authority in the first instance. Only one application can be submitted per academic year.

Admission of Pupils below compulsory school age and deferred entry to the School

The School will provide for admission of all eligible pupils in the September following their fourth birthday. Admission of pupils below compulsory school age and those with deferred entry to the school will be in accordance with paragraph 2.16 of the Schools Admissions Code in that, subject to meeting the criteria as laid out in this policy):

- a) the pupil will be entitled to a full-time place at the school in the September following their fourth birthday;
- b) The pupil's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and
- c) Where parents wish, the child may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Admission of Pupils with a Special Educational Needs Statement /Education Health and Care Plan

The School may, from time to time, be named on a pupil's Special Educational Needs (SEN) statement/Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) needs. The School is under a legal duty to admit that pupil and this may reduce the number of places available within any one year group. The admission of a student sits outside the scope of the School Admissions Code 2014 and takes place under the Education Act 1966 and the SEN Code of Practice. Further details are contained at Annex A to this Policy.

Fair Access Protocol

In accordance with the Supplementary Funding Agreement signed with the Secretary of State the School engages with the Local Authority Fair Access protocol.

4. OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

The criteria in this section apply to entry at all phases of the school.

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.
2. Priority will next be given to siblings of pupils who will already be on the roll of the school or Wymondham College at the time of the admission. For the purposes of this criterion, siblings are defined as a brother or sister sharing at least one parent and who is normally resident at the same address. This includes adopted children and those living in the same home under a recognised fostering arrangement.
3. Priority will be given to those students who apply who are living in the catchment area as defined at Annex B to this policy.
4. Other Children

Tie- Break

If a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, places will be allocated by random allocation¹. Random Allocation is in practice a ballot which is undertaken by the Local Authority (or another body unconnected with the Academy Trust) and will be used as a tie-break to determine who will be admitted.

Random Allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family tied for the final place. We will admit them all, as permitted by the infant class size rules and exceed our PAN.

¹ Random Allocation is term that the Trust has been advised to use by the Department of Education.

Late applications

All applications received by the school after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

Deferred entry for Infants

Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their fifth birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

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 out of normal year group is being requested and the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place.

When such a request is made, the academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

Waiting lists

Pupils who are unsuccessful in obtaining a Reception Year place will be maintained on a waiting list managed by the Local Authority until 31 December 2024. Pupils who are unsuccessful in obtaining a Year 5 place will be maintained on a waiting list managed by the school until 31 December 2024.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

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. This appeals process will be organised by the trust

Applicants should contact the school or email

admissions@wymondhamcollegeprepschool.org for information on how to appeal.

Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on the Norfolk County Council Website:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/school-admission-appeals.

The closing date for appeals is 12th May 2023.

Notes:

The **home address** is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school.

If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor.

If the residence is not split equally between both parents then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

Siblings are defined as a brother or sister sharing at least one parent and who is normally resident at the same address. This includes adopted children and those living in the same home under a recognised fostering arrangement.

Annex A

ADMISSIONS TO WYMONDHAM COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS STATEMENT/EDUCATION HEALTH AND CARE PLAN AND/OR DISABILITIES

Introduction

Wymondham College Prep School is an inclusive school and is proud to educate a wide range of students, including students with Special Educational Needs and disabilities. This leaflet is designed to explain how admissions arrangements for students with an Education Health and Care Plan and other students with SEND are handled at the School.

Admissions and the Law

As an Academy, Wymondham College Prep School administers its own admission arrangements under the terms of the Supplementary Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State. That agreement places certain obligations on the School around admissions and, in particular, requires compliance with the terms of the School Admissions Code. The admission of a student with an Special Educational Needs (SEN) Statement/Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will be administered through Norfolk Local Authority for those students who reside in Norfolk.

The School is also committed to meeting its responsibilities under the Equalities Act to make reasonable adjustments to facilitate the admission of a student with a disability.

Contact with Staff

The parent/carers of a prospective pupil seeking admission to the School through an SEN Statement/EHCP should register their interest with the Headteacher and their EHCP coordinator in the first instance. They will pass on the email address for the SENDCO to discuss the proposed admission.

These staff members are pleased to help prospective pupils and their parents. However, they do not make decisions about the feasibility or otherwise of an admission and nothing that they say should be taken as an indication that a place at the School will be available to any individual student or that the School will be able to provide any particular arrangement for any pupil, if admitted.

The parent/carers of a prospective pupil with a SEN and/or disability are also welcome to contact the Headteacher to discuss any reasonable adjustments that might be required.

Resources at the School

The resources for supporting students with Special Educational Needs and or a disability are no better or worse than at any other mainstream school. Although the school aims to deal professionally with a range of Special Educational Needs and disabilities, it does not purport

to have any greater expertise or success in doing so than any other mainstream comprehensive school or Academy.

The EHC Needs Assessment Process

The Headteacher, on behalf of the Governing Body, is asked to comment on a proposal to name the School in a SEN Statement/EHCP. The Headteacher will formally object to the naming of the School where in their professional opinion it seems that to admit the pupil concerned would be incompatible with the efficient education of other pupils or would be an inefficient use of resources for the School or the Local Authority.

Contacts

All initial queries about admission to Wymondham College Prep School must be directed to the Headteacher on 01953 609000 or head@wymondhamcollegeprepschool.org

Annex B

