

18th December 2024

Changes to Admissions Policy with effect from September 2026

Summary

The School Admissions Code sets out the mandatory requirement that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school.

The Trustees of the Eden Learning Trust are required to determine their admissions arrangements annually, and consult on those arrangements at least once every seven years.

Seaham High School Governors would like to seek the views of parents, carers and other interested stakeholders on the following proposal:

1. Change the PAN for Year 7 from 240 to 220 at Seaham High School with effect from September 2026.

We believe that this adjustment will allow us to better meet the needs of our students, staff, and the wider school community. We would like to reassure parents, carers, and our partner primary schools that the current oversubscription criteria will remain in place as **there are NO proposed changes to over-subscription criteria from September 2026. These are outlined in full in the Admission policy on the school website. This change will have no impact on children already at the school.**

Children who are “looked after”; or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence/child arrangements, or special guardianship order* or, 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.

Medical reasons - children with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.

Sibling links - Children who have a sibling** already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.

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.

All other applicants

Tie Breaker - Where the school is oversubscribed within any of the above categories the following tiebreakers will be applied:

(a) For those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address (category 4), priority will be given to those living closest to the nearest school measured by the shortest walking route;

(b) For other children (category 5), priority will be given to those children who live nearest to the school applied for. Otherwise, if only one final place can be offered and two applicants live equidistant from the school, the LA's system of random allocation will apply.

In the unlikely event of the school being oversubscribed within categories 1, 2 tiebreaker (b) will apply.

For further information, please see our Admissions policy on the school website and the Secondary School Admission Guide at www.durham.gov.uk

The consultation process will commence on 20th December 2024 and will continue until 31st January 2025. Please can responses to the consultation be forwarded to J.Bates, PA to the Headteacher, enquiries@seahamhighschool.com or alternatively by post to the school address.