

Admissions Policy

2026-27

The Admission of Pupils to William Hulme's Grammar School

1. This document sets out the admission arrangements for William Hulme's Grammar School ("the Academy"). The Academy is part of the United Learning Trust ("the Company"). References in this document to "parents" include guardians and carers.
2. The Company and the Academy will act in accordance with all relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice (the School Admissions Code September 2021 and the School Admission Appeals Code) as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with the law on admissions as it applies to maintained schools. Reference in the codes to admission authorities shall be deemed to be references to the Company (as it is ultimately the admission authority of the Academy). In particular, the Academy will take part in the Admissions Forum set up by Manchester City Council ("MCC") and have regard to its advice; and will participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by MCC.
3. Notwithstanding these arrangements, the Secretary of State may direct the Academy to admit a named pupil to the Academy on application from a local authority. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the Academy.

Admission Arrangements Approved by Secretary of State

4. The Academy will have the following admission numbers:
 - 4.1. the agreed admissions number for Year 7 of the Secondary Phase is 120. The admission number applies to those external applicants only. Pupils in the Academy's Year 6 progress directly to Year 7. If fewer than 60 pupils intend to transfer from Year 6, the Academy will admit over the admission number up to the overall size of the Year 7 group of 180.
 - 4.2. the admissions number for the Reception year of the Primary Phase (4-11) is 60. Those pupils on the roll in the Academy's Pre-school provision **must** apply for admission to the Reception year of the Primary Phase: there is no automatic transfer.
 - 4.3. **Post 16 admissions** - The Academy has an admission number for Year 12 of 5 pupils. This is the minimum number of places which will be offered on an annual basis and applies only to those eligible applicants being admitted from outside the Academy. If fewer than 115 of the Academy's own Year 11 pupils transfer into Year 12, additional external pupils will be admitted until Year 12 meets its capacity of 120.
 - 4.4. **Admission to year groups without a published admission number** will be based upon the size of teaching groups already existing in the Academy and the efficient use of resources.
5. The Academy may set a higher admission number as its published admission number for any specific year. Pupils will not be admitted above the published admission number unless exceptional circumstances apply.

Process of Application

6. Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with MCC's co-ordinated primary and secondary admission arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form provided and administered by MCC. The Academy may ask parents to complete a supplementary information form, where sufficient information for the consideration of the application by the Academy is not available from the information supplied in the Common Application Form.
7. The Academy will use the following timetable for applications each year (exact dates may vary from year to year) which, whenever possible, will fit in with the common timetable agreed by the MCC Admissions Forum:
 - 7.1. September – The Academy will publish in its prospectus and on its website information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (e.g. in September 2025 for admission in September 2026). This will include details of open evenings and other opportunities for prospective pupils and their parents to visit the Academy. The Academy will also provide information to MCC for inclusion in the composite prospectus, as required and no later than 8 August, unless agreed otherwise.
 - 7.2. September/October – The Academy will provide opportunities for parents to visit the Academy.
 - 7.3. September/October – (Year 7) Common Application Form to be completed and returned to MCC to administer. Supplementary Information Form to be completed and returned to the Academy.
 - 7.4. November/Early December – (Year 7) MCC to send applications to Academy.
 - 7.5. December – (Year 7) Academy arranges for external applicants to sit fair banding tests and aptitude tests.
 - 7.6. January – Academy sends list of Year 7 pupils to be offered places to MCC.
 - 7.7. February – MCC applies agreed scheme for own schools, informing other Local Authorities of offers to be made to their residents.
 - 7.8. 1st March (Year 7) and 16th April (Primary Phase) - offers made to parents by MCC on behalf of the Academy.

Consideration of Applications (Primary Phase and Secondary Phase)

8. The Academy will consider all applications for places for the Primary and Secondary Phases of the Academy. Where the number of applications is not more than the published admission number, the Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.
9. Children in Year 6 of the Primary Phase whose parents wish them to continue at the Academy in Year 7 are entitled to do so.

Modern Foreign Languages Aptitude (Year 7 Only)

10. All external applicants to Year 7 will take a banding assessment and those who wish to, an optional Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) aptitude test.
11. 10% of the total admissions intake is allocated via the MFL aptitude test to the pupils who achieve the highest scores in the test of aptitude for MFL. Where two or more candidates obtain the same score in the aptitude test, paragraphs 16.7.1 and 16.7.2 shall be applied alternately as a tie-break.

Banding (Year 7 Only)

12. Applicants are placed into 1 of 5 ability bands based on the score achieved in the banding assessment. Looked after children and previously looked after children are given absolute priority within those bands as per paragraph 16 below.
13. All other external applicants will then be considered for admission in accordance with the 5 ability bands. The purpose of this is that, as far as possible, there will be an equal number of pupils in each band in order to ensure a comprehensive intake representative of the ability range of applicants to the Academy.
14. Sub paragraphs 16.3, 16.5 and 16.7 will then be applied to the remaining applications which have been allocated within each band.
15. Year 6 children at the Academy moving up to Year 7 will not be banded nor will their abilities be taken into account when the banding tests are carried out.

Procedures where the Academy is Oversubscribed (Primary Phase and Secondary Phase)

16. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the number of places available, applications for the Primary and Secondary Phases of the Academy will, whilst taking into account paragraphs 8 and 9 above, be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans in which the Academy is named (and whereupon the number of available places will reduce accordingly), the following criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:
 - 16.1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. This includes those 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.
 - 16.1.1. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions as set out in section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
 - 16.1.2. A previously looked after child is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order). A Child Arrangements Order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s).
 - 16.1.3. 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. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society. (Paragraph 1.7 of the Code).
 - 16.2. Year 7 Admissions only. 10% of available places will be allocated to the pupils who achieve the highest scores in the test of aptitude in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). Where two or more candidates obtain the same score in the aptitude test, paragraphs 16.7.1 and 16.7.2 shall be applied alternately as a tie-break.

- 16.3. Pupils whose admission to the Primary Phase or the Secondary Phase because of special circumstances to do with significant medical or social needs. Significant means the education of the pupil will be seriously affected if they did not attend the Academy and this is clearly shown in the supporting written evidence from a doctor, social worker, or other relevant professional person. The definition of what constitutes medical or social needs for this purpose will be set out in the Academy's prospectus and on its website.
- 16.4. Primary Phase Admissions only. Pupils who, before the date of admission, have an older sibling already currently on roll in Reception to Year 11 of the Academy and who will still be on roll in Reception to Year 11 on the date of admission. Within this criterion, priority will first be given to children with a sibling in the primary section (Reception to Year 6) ahead of children with siblings in Years 7-11. The term "sibling" means a full, step, half, adopted or fostered brother or sister, but not cousins, who will be living permanently with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the Academy. The Academy may require proof of relationship.
- 16.5. Secondary Phase Admissions only. Pupils who, before the date of admission, have an older sibling already currently on the roll of the secondary section (Year 7 – 11) of the Academy and who will still be on roll in Year 7 to Year 11 on the date of admission. The term "sibling" means a full, step, half, adopted or fostered brother or sister, but not cousins, who will be living permanently with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the Academy. The Academy may require proof of relationship.
- 16.6. If a tie-break is necessary in criteria 16.4 and 16.5 to determine who is admitted, criterion 16.7.1 (distance) will be used.
- 16.7. Of the remaining places:
 - 16.7.1. half will be offered to pupils living nearest to the Academy on the close of the admission application date. The distance will be measured as the direct line distance 'as the crow flies' measured between the child's permanent address to the Academy's main entrance in Spring Bridge Road using the computerised Geographical Information System (GIS) determined by an independent agency. The distance is measured to the exact Ordnance Survey point of each applicant's home. A child's permanent address is where he or she normally lives and sleeps and goes to school from. If a child's parents share responsibility for a child, the permanent address is the address they spend the majority of the school nights (i.e. Sunday to Thursday). Where parents share equal access on school nights, the address closest to the Academy will be used.
 - 16.7.2. The other half will be offered to remaining applicants through a process of random allocation. Random allocation will be applied by allocating each applicant a number which will be randomly sorted by a computer programme. The process will be overseen by an independent scrutineer.

Distance Tie Break

17. In the event of a tie break under the distance criterion, random allocation will be used. This will be overseen by an independent scrutineer.

Primary Phase Admissions Reception to Year 6

18. Criterion 16.7.2 (i.e. random allocation) will not be used for allocation of Primary school places, instead all remaining places will be offered under criterion 16.7.1 (i.e. distance from the Academy).
19. If false or misleading information is used to gain entry to the Academy at any phase, the offer of a place may be withdrawn.

Operation of Waiting Lists

20. Where in any year the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate. This will operate until the 31st December. This will be maintained by the Academy and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.
21. In relation to the Reception year waiting list, children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in paragraph 16 above (as applicable).
22. In relation to the Year 7 waiting list:
 - 22.1. until the start of the academic year 2026, where places become vacant in particular bands, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list whose scores in the banding assessment place them in such bands, in accordance with the oversubscription criteria; and
 - 22.2. following the start of the academic year 2026, where places become vacant, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Twins and Multiple Births

23. Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to the Academy, then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the admissions number. In the Primary phase, the Academy is required to comply with Infant Class Size Regulations which means that it can teach no more than 30 infants per school teacher (in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). The Admission Number therefore reflects this position. However, if one child of a multiple birth can be accommodated within the published admission number, the Academy will accommodate the other child/children as an exception to the Infant Class Size Regulations as per the School Admissions Code.

Admission Arrangements to Reception Class

24. When a place for Reception class has been offered to a child, the child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the Academy until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or if before, not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made. Where parents so wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Admission of Children Outside Their Normal Age Group

25. Admission of summer born children to Reception class: Parents of a 'summer born' child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group. The term 'summer born' is used to refer to children born from 1 April to 31 August. When considering the admission of summer born children to Reception class, the Academy will follow the Department for Education's Advice on the Admission of summer born children (December 2014) and the School Admissions Code (September 2021) paragraph 2.17, 2.17a and 2.17b. The Academy will make decisions based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parents' views. Parents who are considering deferring admission of a 'summer born' child should contact the Academy admissions department before the primary admissions closing date (15th January) so that the process can be explained.

26. In addition to the admission of summer born children as set out above, parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Any such application will be dealt with in accordance with paragraphs 27-31.
27. Where a parent wishes to seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, they should contact the Academy whereupon the process will be explained.
28. The Academy will make its decision on the basis of:
 - the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned
 - taking account of the parent's views
 - information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
 - the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional (where relevant)
 - whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group
 - whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
29. The Academy will also take into account the views of the head teacher.
30. When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the Academy will set out clearly the reasons for their decision.
31. Where the Academy agrees to a parent's request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (i.e. Reception, Year 7 or Year 12) the local authority and Academy will process the application as part of the main admissions round, unless the parental request is made too late for this to be possible, and on the basis of these determined admission arrangements only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the Academy but it is not in their preferred age group.

Arrangements for Admission to Post 16 Provision

32. The Academy operates a co-educational Sixth Form for a maximum of 240 students. The Academy has adopted specific criteria in relation to minimum academic entrance requirements for admission to the post-16 provision. These criteria are the same for both internal transfers and external applicants.
33. When the Sixth Form is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted.
34. The Academy will publish, at the beginning of the academic year prior to admission (e.g. September 2025 for those seeking admission in September 2026) academic entry criteria. At the same time, it will publish the specific minimum requirements for individual courses. These academic entry requirements form part of the admission arrangements and will be published in the Academy's Sixth Form Prospectus and on its website.
35. When there are more external applicants who satisfy any academic entry requirements than places available, then the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 16 (minus paragraphs 16.2, 16.4 and 16.5) will apply in order.
36. The Academy will admit pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan in which the Academy is named, provided that they meet the minimum academic entry requirements of the Sixth Form of the Academy.

37. Offers for a place at the Sixth Form are not offers to study specific courses. The offer will be based upon predicted GCSE or IGCSE grades but will be conditional upon the applicant meeting the entry criteria in his/her GCSEs or IGCSEs. Details relating to the predicted grades will be required on a supplementary application form. However, if eligible internal or external applicants then fail to meet the minimum course requirements after they have been offered a conditional place, they will either be given the option of pursuing any alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements, or they will be deemed not to have been successful in their application.
38. Places in individual subjects will be limited by the availability of specialist and teaching resources. Priority will be given to eligible pupils who have studied in the Academy's Year 11. Those eligible pupils not offered a place on the course of their choice (either because they have not met the specific required grade for the course or because the course is full) will be offered an alternative if possible.
39. Unsuccessful external applicants and those existing Academy pupils refused admission into the Sixth Form will have the right of appeal to an independent Appeals Panel. The right of appeal for entry into the Sixth Form applies to both the pupil and the parent / carer.

Arrangements for Admitting Pupils to Other Year Groups, including to Replace any Pupils Who Have Left the Academy

40. Subject to any provisions in the MCC's co-ordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for academic years other than the normal academic year of entry, the Academy must consider all such applications and if admission to the year group applied for would not prejudice the efficient education of other children or the efficient use of resources admit the child. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria (other than the criterion related to aptitude to MFL) shall apply.

Appeals

41. Parents will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Academy. The appeal panel will be independent of the Academy. The arrangements for appeals will be in line with the School Admissions Appeals Code (the "Code") published by the Department for Education. The determination of the appeal panel will be made in accordance with the Code and will be binding on all parties. The Academy will prepare guidance for parents about the appeals process and provide parents with a named contact who can answer any enquiries parents may have about the process.

Policy Information and Review

Designated Lead Person/s	Mrs D R Malkin, Admissions Officer
Reviewed	Annually
Date of last review and by whom	December 2024 – Mrs D R Malkin
Nominated Governor	Mr K Platts
Ratification by Local Governing Body	

