South Wirral High School Proposed Admission Arrangements 2028-29: Consultation Draft

These proposed admission arrangements are subject to consultation from 16 November 2026 to 11 January 2027.

Approved/reviewed by	
To be determined by Trust Board	
Date of next review	December 2027

Section1: General Principles

South Wirral High School is an 11-16 mixed all-ability school, serving the communities of Eastham, Bromborough and the surrounding areas of Wirral and Cheshire including Hooton, Neston, Childer Thornton, Willaston and Ellesmere Port. We do not have any requirement for an aptitude from prospective students.

As an academy within The Challenge Academy Trust the Trust Board is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for decisions on admission to the school.

The main principle of admission for South Wirral High School is to maintain the character of the school as an all-ability school, providing for the needs of young people aged 11-16. Admission to our school is not based on any "voluntary" contribution.

Students will be admitted at the age of 11 without reference to ability or aptitude, using the oversubscription criteria set out below. It is proposed that the Published Admission Number (PAN) for admission to Year 7 in September 2028 will be 190, a reduction from the previous PAN of 212. The school may admit above its PAN where applicable, including where admitting eligible children from the same household is necessary to avoid separating them.

Consultation on the proposed PAN reduction

These proposed admission arrangements are being consulted upon because the admission authority is proposing to reduce the Year 7 PAN from 212 to 190 for the 2028/29 academic year. Following consultation, the admission authority will consider the responses received before determining the final admission arrangements.

The school participates in the Wirral Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme and all deadlines within that should be adhered to by applicants.

Section 2: Over subscription criteria

If the school is over-subscribed the following over-subscription criteria will apply:

1. Children who are **looked after** or previously looked after by a Local Authority and/or children with an **EHC Plan of Special Educational Needs** that names South Wirral High School.
2. Children who will have a **"sibling"** on roll at South Wirral High School at the time of their admission. A "sibling" is defined in the notes below.
3. **Staff of South Wirral High School** who wish their child to come here should be given priority places.
4. Children whose **"home" is closest to the nearest pedestrian gate of the school** as measured by the Wirral Local Authority mapping system using the shortest walking route. "Home" is defined in the notes below.

Notes:

(a) **Sibling** is defined as

(i) A brother or sister by the same parents
(ii) A half or step-brother or sister living in the same household
(iii) A child living in the same household as another child who is on-roll at South Wirral High School at the time of their admission.

(b) **Home** is the principal residence of the child or of the person who is responsible for the care of the child.
(c) A **Looked After Child** is a 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 (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously looked after child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order.

Section 3. In Year Transfers

Applications received for in-year admission to Years 7–11 are administered through Wirral Local Authority. Places will be offered in accordance with the applicable admission number for the relevant year group and the admission arrangements in force for that cohort.

The school maintains a waiting list in each year group which follows the same oversubscription criteria detailed in this policy.

Section 4: Other information

Withdrawal of offers
Any offer of a place may be withdrawn if it is discovered that misleading information has been provided in order to secure an offer.
Any offer of a place may be withdrawn if the parent declines the offer of a place.

Late applications
Late applications will be dealt with in accordance with arrangements applied by Wirral LA. Where applicable, a waiting list will be administered in accordance with arrangements applied by Wirral LA.

In year admissions
Admissions for all other year groups will be dealt with in accordance with the criteria in section 2 **Appeals.**

Appeals
Where an application for admission to South Wirral High School is refused, the decision letter will explain the reasons for the refusal and provide information about the parent's or carer's statutory right of appeal to an independent appeal panel, including how and by when an appeal must be submitted. The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on The Challenge Academy Trust and the appellant.