



Admissions Policy for Academic Year 2026/27

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1. Introduction

- a) This Admission Policy is part of the admission arrangements for Chase High School (CHS), a secondary school, which is part of Discovery Educational Trust (DET), a multi-academy trust.
- b) CHS is a co-educational, non-selective, publicly-funded school that welcomes applications for the admission of children regardless of aptitude, ability, special educational or other needs, disabilities or other protected characteristics.
- c) CHS admits children into Year 7, who will usually remain on the roll throughout their compulsory education through to Year 11. CHS has a Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) which caters for transferring Year 11 pupils and external candidates. The criteria for admission to Year 12 are set out in this Policy.
- d) The 'admission authority' for CHS is DET, via its Trust Board (TB). The CHS Local School Committee (LSC) has responsibility, on behalf of DET's TB, for monitoring the application of this Policy to ensure fairness and consistency.
- e) In education law and this Policy, a 'parent' means a natural or adoptive parent of a child (irrespective of whether they have care of, contact with or parental responsibility for, the child), as well as other persons who are not the natural or adoptive parent of the child, but who have care of and/or parental responsibility for them.

2. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

- a) Children with an EHCP are not admitted under this Policy. They are admitted under separate statutory processes set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25. Their EHCPs are maintained by their home Local Authority, which is responsible for making decisions as to which educational setting will be named therein as the one that the child will attend.
- b) Where the parents of a child with an EHCP want them to be educated at CHS, they must discuss this with the Special Educational Needs (SEN) team at their home Local Authority. The home Local Authority may then consult CHS on its suitability and compatibility, before deciding whether or not to name it in the child's EHCP.
- c) In addition to accommodating pupils with EHCPs in mainstream classes, CHS has a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for up to 12 pupils with EHCPs with designated forms of SEN.
- d) Where CHS is named in an EHCP, it will admit the child. Where this happens in the "normal admission round", children, who will be accommodated in mainstream classes, will be allocated their places within the PAN, reducing the number remaining. However, children allocated a SRP place will be admitted over PAN. At all other times, children with EHCPs will be admitted regardless of the PAN/normal pupil numbers for the Year Group.

3. Published Admission Number (PAN) for Year 7

- a) The PAN for Year 7 is **226**.

4. Oversubscription Criteria for Years 7 to 11

Where there are fewer applications than places available, all children will be offered a place. Where there are more applications than places available, the order in which places will be allocated will be:

a) Looked after and previously looked after children

- i. A 'looked after child' is one who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of its social services functions, in England. A 'previously looked after child' is one who was looked after in England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order, as well as a child who appears to have been in state care outside of England (i.e. in the care of, or accommodated by, a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society), but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.
- ii. Applications in this category may need to be supported by documentary evidence, such as a signed letter from the child's current or former Social Worker confirming their status, and/or an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. In the case of children adopted from state care outside of England, evidence of having been in state care outside of England and of being adopted may be required, ideally accompanying the application. When considering the evidence provided, the Department for Education (DfE)'s current guidance will be followed.
- iii. Where the Virtual School Head (**VSH**) at the Local Authority has already verified the child's status and CHS is able to confirm this with them, there will be no need for evidence to be provided with the application.

b) Children with a sibling at Chase High School in Year 7 to Year 11 at the time of application and admission

- i. The sibling must be on the roll in Years 7 to 11 at CHS at the time of application, and will still be on the roll in Years 7 to 11 at the time of the applicant child's admission. For the avoidance of doubt, siblings who are in Year 12 or 13 at the time of application, or who will be in Year 12 at the time of admission (having transferred from Year 11) will not meet the definition of a 'sibling' for the purpose of this Policy.
- ii. A 'sibling' means a full brother or sister (sharing both parents), a half brother or sister (sharing one parent), an adopted brother or sister (sharing one or both parents), a long-term foster brother or sister (a looked after child), a step brother or sister (where one child's parent is married or in a civil partnership with the other child's parent) and a child of the applicant child's parent's cohabiting partner.
- iii. In all cases, the sibling must live at the applicant child's home address (as defined in this Policy) and be part of the same core family unit. For the avoidance of doubt,

a child of a family member (e.g. cousin or grandchild) or child of a friend will not be a 'sibling', even if they live at the same address as the applicant child.

c) Children living within the Priority Admission Area

- i. The applicant child's home address (as defined in this Policy) must be located within the Priority Admission Area for CHS as shown in the Priority Admission Area Map available via the CHS website.

d) Children of staff at Chase High School

- i. The staff member may be full or part time, and teaching or non-teaching staff. They must spend more than 50% of their working week during term time based at CHS. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not possible to have priority for more than one DET School.
- ii. The staff member must have been (a) employed at CHS for two or more years at the time of application on a permanent contract, or two or more consecutive fixed term one-year contracts, and/or (b) recruited to fill a vacant post at CHS for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- iii. A 'child of a staff member' means their natural child or adopted child, whether they live with the staff member or elsewhere, or their long-term foster child, step-child (the child of their spouse or civil partner) or the child of their cohabiting partner where the child lives and sleeps for more than 50% of their time from Sunday to Thursday night during term time at the home address recorded for the staff member in their HR file.
- iv. For the avoidance of doubt, a child of another family member (e.g. niece, nephew or grandchild) or friend will not be a 'child of a staff member', even if they live at the same address as the staff member.
- v. The staff member must be the parent whose details are given in the application form, as obtaining details for more than one parent is prohibited. A signed and dated letter on headed notepaper from the staff member's Line Manager confirming that they meet (a) and/or (b) above must be submitted with the application for inclusion in this category to be considered.

e) All other children

- i. All applicant children not included in any of the categories above will be included in this category.

5. Tie Breaker (Year 7 to Year 11)

- a) In any oversubscription category for Year 7 to Year 11, where there are more applications than places available, the order in which places will be allocated will be determined by reference to the straight-line distance between the child's home address (as defined in this

Policy) and the nearest pupil entrance to CHS, with places being allocated from the lowest distance to the highest distance. In the case of multi-dwelling buildings (for example, apartment blocks), the distance will be measured to the main external entrance to the building.

- b) The distance will be measured by Southend-on-Sea City Council using its dedicated computerised software for this purpose.
- c) Where the distance is equal for two or more applicants, random allocation (in front of someone who is independent of CHS) will be used to distinguish between them.
- d) In Year 7 to Year 11, where applications are received for the admission of twins, triplets or siblings of higher multiple births to the same Year Group at the same time, but not all of them are allocated a place because of the application of the tie breaker for the final place(s), all of them will be allocated a place even where this means going over PAN or usual pupil numbers for that Year Group.

6. Published Admission Number (PAN) for Year 12

- a) The PAN for Year 12 is **30**.
- b) This PAN relates to external applicants for Year 12 only, as existing Year 11 pupils are already on the roll and do not need to apply for admission under this Policy - if they meet the Minimum Academic Entry Criteria set out below and want to continue their studies into Year 12, they will simply transfer from Year 11.

7. Minimum Academic Entry Criteria for Year 12

- a) All external applicants and existing Year 11 pupils must meet the Minimum Academic Entry Criteria to be considered for a place in Year 12. These criteria are:

Route	Course	Requirements
1	Three A Levels with optional Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	Average Grade Score of 5 (as defined below), including English Literature or Language, plus Subject Specific Requirements.
2	Combination of BTEC and A Level	Average Grade Score of 4 (as defined below), including English Literature or Language, plus Subject Specific Requirements.

- b) To calculate the 'Average Grade Score', the GCSE grades achieved across the external applicant's best six (as a minimum) GCSE results (including English Literature or Language) must be added together and then divided by six to establish the average grade.

- c) 'Subject Specific Requirements' means the requirements for the specific BTEC and/or A Level courses to be studied in the Sixth Form. For full details of the 'Subject Specific Requirements', please refer to the Sixth Form Prospectus. **Applicants should note that Grade 4 GCSE Mathematics is a Subject Specific Requirement for most, but not all, A Level courses.**
- d) The Minimum Academic Entry Criteria described above set a threshold which, once attained, puts all applicants on an equal footing for places, with the oversubscription criteria and tie breaker set out below being applied where there are more eligible applicants than places available. For the avoidance of doubt, applicants achieving a higher Average Grade Score than the threshold will not have any advantage.
- e) These criteria are part of CHS' determined admission arrangements and will be strictly applied. They will only be adjusted where this is necessary in order to avoid a particular/substantial disadvantage caused by a disability or other protected characteristic in the application of these criteria, which has not already been adequately addressed during the examination process via special consideration or access arrangements. This will be considered on a case by case basis.

8. Oversubscription Criteria for Years 12 and 13

Where there are fewer applications than places available, all external applicants meeting the Minimum Academic Entry Criteria will be offered a place. Where there are more applications than places available, the order in which places will be allocated will be:

a) Looked after and previously looked after children

- i. A 'looked after child' is one who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of its social services functions, in England. A 'previously looked after child' is one who was looked after in England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order, as well as a child who appears to have been in state care outside of England (i.e. in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider, whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society), but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.
- ii. Applications in this category may need to be supported by documentary evidence, such as a signed letter from the child's current or former Social Worker confirming their status, and/or an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. In the case of children adopted from state care outside of England, evidence of having been in state care outside of England and of being adopted may be required, ideally accompanying the application. When considering the evidence provided, the DfE's current guidance will be followed.
- iii. Where the Virtual School Head (**VSH**) at the Local Authority has already verified the child's status and CHS is able to confirm this with them, there will be no need for evidence to be provided with the application.

b) All other external applicants

- i. All children not included in the category above will be included in this category.

9. Tie Breaker (Year 12 and Year 13)

- a) In any oversubscription category for Year 12 and Year 13, where there are more applications than places available, the order in which places will be allocated will be determined by reference to the distance between the postcode for the child's home address (as defined in this Policy) and the postcode for CHS (SSO ORT), with places being allocated from the lowest distance to the highest distance.
- b) The distance between the two postcodes will be measured using Free Map Tools' [Distance Between Full UK Postcodes \(freemaptools.com\)](https://freemaptools.com) software, using the measurement for 'Distance as the Crow Flies' and not 'Distance by Land Transport'. Measurements from any other websites or software (e.g. Google Maps) will not be relevant or accepted.
- c) Where the distance is equal for two or more applicants, random allocation (in front of someone who is independent of CHS) will be used to distinguish between them.

10. Child's Home Address

- a) The child's home address is defined in this Policy, and it is the address meeting this definition that must be given in the application.
- b) The child's home address is the residential (not business) address at which they will live and sleep for more than 50% of their time from Sunday to Thursday night during term time, at the time of their admission. Where the child lives with more than one parent and the pattern for overnight stays is irregular, this will be assessed over the most recent five term time weeks.
- c) Parents will be expected to provide satisfactory documentary evidence of the child's home address and, where applicable, of siblings. This may include family court orders setting out child arrangements, proof of ownership or renting, and/or registration with a GP, dentist and/or optician.
- d) Where the family owns or rents another property, additional documentary evidence that the address given will be the child's permanent home address from the date of admission may be requested.
- e) If the child moves address during the course of the application process in the 'normal admission round' (see below), parents must notify their home Local Authority and (if different) Southend-on-Sea City Council as soon as possible and provide satisfactory documentary evidence that the new address will meet the definition and is intended to be permanent, as well as the intended moving date.
- f) Applications are welcomed for the admission of the children of UK Armed Forces personnel

and Crown Servants. Where the family is relocating from overseas, the address used will be the address at which the applicant will live when they return, as long as the parents provide some evidence of this address. Alternatively, a Unit or Quartering address may be used, at the parent's request.

11. Application Process in the 'Normal Admission Round' (Year 7)

- a) All Local Authorities are required to coordinate admission in the 'normal admission round' for all schools in their area (excluding Sixth Form), and all schools are required to participate in their Local Authority's scheme.
- b) The 'normal admission round' for applications for admission to Year 7 in September covers all applications made by the statutory deadline for applications (**31 October 2025**), as well as applications made after this date, but in time for a place to be offered on 'national offer day' (**1 March 2026**) or next working day.
- c) Applications in the 'normal admission round' for Year 7 must be made to the child's home Local Authority using its Common Application Form, which will be available on its website. For applicants resident in the Southend-on-Sea City Council area, its admissions webpage can be accessed by clicking here: [Admissions: Southend-on-Sea City Council](#)
- d) Parents must carefully consider the oversubscription criteria above to check whether any additional documentation must accompany the application for inclusion in a particular category, as failing to do so could prevent the right category being identified, which could result in a place not being offered.
- e) A 'late application' is one received before the first day of term, but not in time for the Local Authority to offer a place on 'national offer day'. As these applications cannot be processed until after the first round of places has been allocated, this will inevitably reduce the chance of achieving a place at CHS. Parents are, therefore, strongly encouraged to submit applications by the stated closing date.

12. Application Process in the 'Normal Admission Round' (Year 12)

- a) Applications for the admission of external applicants to Year 12 in September must be made directly to CHS by completing an online Sixth Form Admission Application Form via a link to Applicaa (which is published on the CHS website or available in hard copy form from the CHS Sixth Form Office) and submitting it to CHS, via the Admissions Manager, by email to sixthform@chasehigh.org or by post/hand delivery to the CHS Sixth Form Office, by the closing date for applications, which is Friday 20 February 2026.
- b) Conditional offers of a place will be made on or before Friday 29 May 2026, and will be based upon the predicted grades given in the application form. Firm offers of a place will not be made until original documentary evidence of GCSE grades meeting the Minimum Academic Entry Criteria set out above is provided on or shortly after GCSE results day.

13. Application Process for In-Year Admission

- a) An 'in-year application' is one made for Year 7 or Year 12 on or after the first day of term in September, or for any other Year Group at any time.
- b) The PANs set for Year 7 and Year 12 apply throughout the year of admission, but cease to apply after that. This means that in-year applications made for Year 7 and Year 12 may be refused on the basis that there are no places available within their respective PANs.
- c) In respect of in-year applications for Year 8 to Year 11 and Year 13, a place will be offered unless admitting an additional child would prejudice the efficient provision of education, and/or the efficient use of resources, at CHS.
- d) Where multiple in-year applications for the same Year Group are received and processed at the same time, and some, but not all, children can be offered a place within the PAN/without causing prejudice, the oversubscription criteria and tie breaker will be applied to determine the allocation of these places.
- e) Applications for in-year admission to Year 7 to Year 11 must be made **directly to CHS**, by completing the In-Year Admission Application Form, which is published on the CHS website or available in hard copy form from the CHS School Office. The completed application must be sent to CHS, via the Admissions Manager, by email to admissions@chasehigh.org or by post/hand delivery to the CHS School Office.
- f) Parents must carefully consider the oversubscription criteria above to check whether any additional documentation must accompany the application for inclusion in a particular category, as failing to do so could prevent the right category being identified, which could result in a place not being offered.
- g) Applications for in-year admission Year 12 or Year 13 must be made **directly to CHS**, by completing the Sixth Form Admission Application Form, which is published on the CHS website or available in hard copy form from the CHS Sixth Form Office. The completed application must be sent to CHS, via the Admissions Manager, by email to admissions@chasehigh.org or by post/hand delivery to the CHS Sixth Form Office.
- h) The outcome of in-year applications will be notified in writing to parents within a maximum of **15 school days** of receipt, with reasons if refused.

14. Requests for Admission Outside Normal Age Group

- a) Parents have a right to request permission for admission to a Year Group outside of their normal age group, which may be above or below. However, this is not an absolute right. The request must be considered by CHS, which must decide whether to agree it in principle, or refuse it, considering the factors set out below.
- b) These requests are not applications for admission, which must still be made in the usual way. Parents are strongly encouraged to make these requests as early as possible, preferably well ahead of any application deadlines for their normal age group, so that they make informed decisions when they subsequently apply for admission. A request must be made to the 'admission authority' for each school for which admission is sought outside normal age

group, as the outcome may not be the same for all.

- c) CHS makes decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the parents' views, the Executive Headteacher's/Headteacher's views, information about the child's academic, social and emotional development, the child's medical history and the views of their medical professionals, whether they have previously been educated or attended nursery out of their normal age group, and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. This is not an exhaustive list, and parents may put forward any matters or documents for consideration.
- d) Parents must complete a Request for Admission Outside Normal Age Group Form (which is published on the CHS website or available in hard copy form from the CHS School Office) and submitting it to CHS, via the Admissions Manager, by email to admissions@chasehigh.org or by post/hand delivery to the CHS School Office, along with any supporting documentation.
- e) CHS, via the Admissions Manager, will notify parents of the outcome of their request in writing, and will explain the reasons in sufficient detail for parents to understand why the decision was arrived at. Where the request is agreed in principle, the letter should accompany the application for admission subsequently made.
- f) Parents do not have a statutory right of appeal against a refusal of a request for admission outside normal age group. However, they may complain to CHS about the outcome if they wish.

15. Statutory Right of Appeal

- a) Parents have a statutory right of appeal to an independent Admission Appeal Panel against the refusal of a place at CHS. The refusal letter will set out full details of this right, including where the grounds of appeal must be sent and the deadline for doing so.
- b) CHS will publish an admission appeal timetable for appeals against refusals in the 'normal admission round' on or before 28 February 2025.

16. Waiting List

- a) CHS maintains a waiting list for Year 7 to Year 11 for the duration of the school year. However, at the end of the year, the entire list will be deleted unless parents contact CHS to confirm that they wish their child's name to remain on the waiting list.
- b) In Year 12, CHS operates a waiting list until 31 December following the admission of the cohort in September, after which time the list is deleted. No waiting list is maintained for Year 13.
- c) Waiting lists are ranked by reference to the oversubscription criteria set out above, and not by reference to the date that the child's name was added to the list. This means that a child's name can go up, as well as down, the list as more names are added.
- d) When a place becomes available, the tie breaker set out above (i.e. distance and, if needed,

random allocation) will be used to determine which child in the top category (if more than one) is offered the place.

- e) In Year 7 to Year 11, children allocated a place under the Fair Access Protocol (which all schools are required to participate in) take precedence over children on the waiting lists for any Year Group.

17. Review and Determination of Admission Arrangements

- a) The admission arrangements for CHS must be determined every year by the TB on or before 28 February in 'determination year' (i.e. the calendar year before admission).
- b) Where any changes are proposed from the criteria determined for the previous intake, these must be consulted on for a minimum of six calendar weeks between 1 October and 31 January, ahead of determination. The admission arrangements will, therefore, be reviewed early in the autumn term each year to establish whether any changes will be proposed.
- c) The admission arrangements for the 2026 intake (of which this Policy is part) were determined on 6 February 2025.