

Admissions Policy



Admissions Policy for Entry to School 2027/28

Name of School: Winterhill School

Admissions Authority: Inspire Trust

Introduction

Winterhill School is a 11-16 mixed comprehensive school in the Borough of Rotherham, which is part of Inspire Learning Trust and as such we are our own Admissions Authority.

We regard good behaviour, loyalty to and respect for others, endeavour, team work and commitment as important attributes and expect all our students to pursue excellence in all they undertake. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community.

The key aims of our Trust are to:

Ensure consistently high expectations,

Enable all students to access high quality teaching and learning experiences by sharing "best practice" resources and staff;

Work more effectively with all stake holders to promote health and well-being;

Work with partners to develop the quality of teaching training provision.

The Trustees and Local Governing Body

Trustees and Local Governing Bodies will ensure that:

- The admission arrangements are reviewed annually and consultation takes place on changes with all
- other admission authorities and the Local Authority (LA).
- The admission arrangements are made available to parents and potential parents.
- Students are admitted in accordance with this policy.
- Where places are available, students are admitted in accordance with the agreed priorities

The number of students on roll and reasons for unsuccessful appeals will be reported to the Trustees and Local Governing Body each term with advice on any implications.

The Trust will comply with all relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice (the School Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice), including Section 149 Equalities Act, as they apply at any given time to Foundation Trust Schools and with the law on admissions as it applies to Foundation Trust Schools.

The Trust participates in the coordinated admission arrangements operated by Rotherham

Local Authority (LA). Applications must be made using the Common Application Form (CAF) which will be made available by the Local Authority. Applications must be made direct to the council by the deadlines specified by them. All places will be offered by the council on behalf of the Trustees and Local Governing Body. Allocations will be notified by the Council in accordance with their procedures.

More information and detail can be found from Rotherham Borough Council. Use the contact link on the www.rotherham.gov.uk website.

The Published Admission Number for entry to Year 7 for Winterhill School is: 200

Where the published admission number for the school is likely to be reached mid category, places will be prioritised within that category by reference to the distance between the home address and the school. Highest priority will be given to those who, on 31st October 2026, live closest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (commonly known as measurement, “as the crow flies”). Distance measurements are calculated (by the Local Authority Admissions Team) using a Geographical Information System which applies seed points as determined by Ordnance Survey. Measurements are taken from the seed point of the ordinary place of residence to the seed point of the school. Where the school has more than one seed point, the seed point closest to the geographical center of the school site is used.

Where places are being allocated based on the distance criteria or as part of the distance tie breaker, and there are insufficient places within the admission number for two (or more) children living in the same building (e.g., flats) or otherwise equidistant from the school, then any final place will be allocated by the simple drawing of lots by a representative of the Local Authority independent of the School Admissions Team.

Where applications are received for twins, triplets, siblings born in the same academic year etc. these will be treated equally as there is nothing within the admission criteria to distinguish between them.

Places will be allocated in accordance with the LA's coordinated admissions schemes for Secondary schools. In assessing preferences, the LA will operate an 'equal preference' system, which means that no priority will be given according to the ranking of the preference, except where a potential offer can be made in respect of more than one school. In that situation, the final offer of a place will be made at the highest preferred school as named on the application form of the potential offer schools.

Children issued with an Education and Health Care Plan will gain a place at the school named in the plan as part of that process.

Information on the catchment area for the school can be obtained by contacting the School Organisation Team on (01709) 254831 or on the Local Authority website at:

[Finding and choosing a school – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

General Arrangements for Admissions

Students will not be admitted above the Published Admission Number (PAN) unless exceptional circumstances apply.

Admissions Criteria

A) Children with Special Educational Needs:

A small number of children will have an Education Health Care Plan that names the school and these children must be admitted to the school if named as part of that process.

The majority of children with special educational needs will not require an Education Health Care Plan. Applications for children who have special educational needs but no Education Health Care Plan, will be considered on the basis of the Admissions Authority's published admissions criteria.

B) For all other applications places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

- 1 Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children (see note (a) below).
- 2 Children who have a specific medical reason, confirmed by a medical practitioner, which the Admissions Authority is satisfied makes attendance at **this particular school** essential. Parents should ensure that they provide full supporting information to be considered along with their application.
- 3 Children who have a compelling social reason which the Admissions Authority is satisfied make attendance at **this particular school** essential. The kind of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the children's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend this school. Parents should ensure that they provide full supporting information to be considered along with their application.

*** Please note: Very few cases are agreed annually on exceptional medical or social grounds*

- 4 Children who live in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Admissions Authority and it is expected will have an older brother or sister on the roll of this school in Years 8-11 at the start of the academic year 2026 (see notes (b), (c) and (d) below)
- 5 Children who live in the catchment area of this school as defined by the Admissions Authority (see note (b) below)
- 6 Children who it is expected will have an older brother or sister on the roll of this school in Years 8-11 at the start of the academic year 2026 (see notes (c) and (d) below)
- 7 Children who are on the roll of one of our feeder and associated primary/junior/junior and infant catchment area schools as identified by the Admissions Authority. (see note (e) below)
8. Children of staff who work for Winterhill School meeting the following criteria:
 - a) where the member of staff has been employed by Winterhill School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is

made; and/or

b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at Winterhill School for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

9. Children who live nearest to the school, measured by a straight line on a horizontal plane, (commonly known as measurement “as the crow flies”).

In the event of two distances being equal, lots will be drawn by a representative independent of the admission authority

Notes

- a) A ‘relevant looked after child’ is a child that is looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to a school is made, and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when he/she is admitted to the school.
Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). All references to previously looked after children in the Code mean such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and 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.
- b) Places will be allocated based on your residential address on **31st October 2026**. Therefore, you must notify the Local Authority Admissions Team in writing if you change address before this date. You may be asked to provide proof of residence (e.g., utility/council tax bill). Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residency at the property concerned. The Admissions and Local Authority reserves the right to request an affidavit where there is uncertainty regarding a child’s ordinary place of residence. You can find if you live in a school’s catchment area by following this link: [Finding and choosing a school – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#).
- c) For a child to be considered a sibling, one of the following conditions must exist: (you may be asked to provide proof e.g., Birth Certificate and proof of residence)
- brother/sister to be permanently resident at the same address.
 - stepbrother/stepsister to be permanently resident at the same address.
 - half-brother/half-sister to be permanently resident at the same address.
 - brother/sister who do not live at the same residence but, who share the same parents.
 - child of the parent/carer’s partner to be permanently resident at the same address.

- adopted brother/sister permanently resident at the same address
 - foster brother/sister resident at the same address
- d) Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces) – For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to their area, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in that area, admission authorities must allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address when considering the application against their oversubscription criteria. This must include accepting a Unit postal address or quartering area address for a service child. Admission authorities must not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area, or reserve blocks of places for these children.
- e) **Feeder Primary Schools for Winterhill School**

Below is a list of our catchment area and feeder Primary, Junior and Junior and Infant Schools.

Winterhill Thorpe Hesley Primary School, Meadowview Primary School, Kimberworth Community Primary School, Thornhill Primary School, Blackburn Primary School

Waiting Lists

On the National Offer Day of 1 March 2027, the Admissions Team will establish a waiting list for secondary schools in Rotherham where the number of applications for those schools has exceeded the available places in Year 7.

The Local Authority Admissions Team will administer the waiting list on behalf of this school which will operate until the 31 December 2027 when it will cease.

The child's name will automatically be put on the waiting list for a school where they have not been made an offer of a place and where that school is named as a higher preference than the school at which an offer has been made.

Children's positions on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, with no reference to the date of receipt of the application. The waiting list will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list. Should a place become available it will be allocated to the child whose name is at the top of the waiting list on the day that the Local Authority receives written confirmation of the vacancy.

In-year Admissions – Transferring School During the School Year

Current Admission Number for entry to Years 8-11

Y8: 200

Y9: 200

Y10: 200

Y11: 200

Any application for an in-year school transfer should be made via the Local Authority

Admissions Team in the first instance. If there are more applicants than vacancies for any year group, in-year applications will be considered in accordance with the above over subscription criteria.

The Local Authority will co-ordinate in-year transfers for most of the schools in Rotherham. Further information and the relevant application form is available on the Authority website:

[Transferring School during the school year – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.](#)

A paper copy of the application form can be requested from the Admissions Team:

Telephone 01709 823777

or

E-mail admissions.enquiries@rotherham.gov.uk

If you are moving homes, please apply in advance of your move to reduce the risk of your child being out of school while your application is processed. You will need to provide details of your new address and when you intend to move.

You are advised to discuss your transfer request with a member of staff at your child's present school.

The Local Authority Admissions Team will record all in-year transfer applications and will forward your application via secure email for consideration by the relevant Admissions Authority.

- Applications received will be forwarded to preferred schools on the day of receipt where possible, or the following working (school) day.
- Applications received during a weekend or bank holiday or during school holidays will be forwarded to the preferred schools on the next working (school) day.

It is not possible to process any applications during school holidays and your application will be considered as soon as schools re-open. Schools are required to respond to in-year transfer requests within a **maximum of 15 school days** from receipt of the application therefore, although in-year applications may be forwarded to schools during school holiday periods, it is unlikely that you will be notified of the outcome of your application until schools re-open and the 15-school day response time commences.

In many cases a child will transfer to a new school only at the beginning of a new term, unless there is agreement by all concerned that the transfer should take place earlier. Until the transfer arrangements have been approved it is expected that your child will continue to attend their present school.

Parents can make applications up to one term before the date when they would like their child to start at the preferred school. Parents can apply from the 1 May onwards for Admission in the following September. Any application for admission in the following September which is received prior to this date will be considered as having been received on 1st May.

You will be notified in writing of the outcome of your application. This decision will usually be sent on behalf of the Governing Body (as the Admissions Authority) by the Local Authority Admissions Team.

It should be noted that it is the Admissions Authority's policy that repeat applications made for entry to the same year group at the same school will not be considered unless there has been a significant and material change of circumstances which is relevant to the application for admission.

Information on Appeals

Where it is not possible to offer your child a place at the school you have applied for, you will receive a letter advising you of the reasons for this decision. This will usually be sent on behalf of the Governing Body / Trustees (as the Admissions Authority) by the Local Authority Admissions Team.

All parents/carers have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel if you have received written confirmation that it has not been possible to offer your child a place at the schools you have applied for.

All independent appeals are organised by an Appeals Clerk and follow procedures, which are set out in legislation and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice. The Appeals Clerk, Panel and process are independent of the Admissions Authority.

Important requirements to note are:

- Appeals must be in writing stating the grounds on which the appeal is made;
- every parent has the right to attend the independent appeal in order to make their case;
- the parent can be accompanied by a friend or be represented by them;
- independent appeals are heard in private;
- the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on both parents and the Admissions Authority;
- parents will receive written notification of the Appeals Panel decision.
- Dates – (parents will be advised at the earliest opportunity of appeal dates by the Clerk)

General Information on Appeals

A separate document containing details of the appeals procedure is available from the LA to parents whose applications could not be satisfied.

Any member of the Authority may attend, as an observer, any hearing by an Independent Appeal Panel established by the Authority.

Parents will be given at least 14 days written notice of the date, time and place of the appeal hearing and will receive prior to the appeal, written documentation summarising the reasons for refusing the admission.

If a parent does not attend the appeal or is not represented by another person the hearing may be held and the case dealt with in the absence of the parent using only the written

documentation submitted.

In some cases, parents who are not successful at the appeal occasionally consider applying again for the same school in the same academic year. Unless there has been a significant and material change of circumstances which is relevant to the application for admission, the Authority is not required to reconsider its decision and therefore parents do not have the right of another appeal.

Further information is available on the Local Authority website:

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/schools-schooling/school-admission-appeals>.

Email schoolappeals@rotherham.gov.uk

FIND YOUR CATCHMENT AREA SCHOOL

You can use the catchment map to find your catchment area school.

- Visit **[RMBC Mapping](#)**
- Close the disclaimer
- Type your postcode in the address bar to search
- Select a property from the list (if yours is not shown press MORE)
- Click or tap on the property to select it
- The property will be shown on the map
- Select **What would you like to do?** in the top left corner
- Select **Map features**
- Select **Education**
- Tick the Primary & Secondary catchment boxes as required
- Click or tap the map and catchment area school/s will appear in a pop-up box

USEFUL CONTACTS

ADMISSIONS TEAM

Children and Young People's Services

Riverside House

Main Street

Rotherham

S65 1AE

Contact an Admissions Officer on (01709) 823777

or email: admissions.enquiries@rotherham.gov.uk

APPEALS CLERK

School Appeals Service

Rockingham Professional Development Centre

Roughwood Road,

Rotherham

S61 4HY

Tel. 01709 822722

Email: schoolappeals@rotherham.gov.uk

Policy Review Frequency	Annual (consultation every 7 years)
Policy to be approved by	Governors
Date of Review	November 2026
Key Updates at latest review	• Addition of criteria 8 regarding the children of employees of Winterhill School • Dates changed from 2026 to 2027
Approved by Chair	
Next Review	November 2027 (Consultation November 2033)
Lead Professional / External Review	Andrew Reader, Head of School
Communication	School website (email to stakeholders for consultation due to changes in December 2026)
Document Location	Every Compliance System, school website
PA/HR Officer	