



Admissions Policy – 2026/ 2027

Parents wishing to apply for a place at Cranberry Academy must apply through Cheshire East admissions by the published closing date, as shown on the Cheshire East Local Authority Co-ordinated Scheme 2026 / 2027.

The maximum number of new children we can accept each year is 60 (Published Admission Number - PAN). If there are any more applications than places available, the Governors, who are the Admissions Authority for the Academy, will operate the following oversubscription policy to determine the order of priority for admission:

- 1. Children in care and children who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order), including 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.**
 - A 'cared for child' is a child who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that local authority (as defined in section 22 of the Children Act 1989).
 - Children previously 'cared for' are children who were 'cared for' as defined above, but immediately after being 'cared for' became subject to an adoption, 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 (or special guardians).
- 2. Siblings** - pupils with brothers or sisters, step-brothers or step-sisters, foster brothers or sisters, half-brothers or half-sisters, adopted brothers or adopted sisters living together as part of one household, already attending the preferred school (in years Reception through to Year 5) and expected to continue at the school in the following school year. (i.e. at the time of admission).
- 3. Children resident within the designated catchment area of the school.** Children will be classed within this criterion if they and their parents/carers are resident within the area served by the school.
- 4. Pupils living nearest to the school** measured using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) which measures straight line distances in miles from the school's co-ordinate point to the point of the residence's coordinate point.
Where distance is equal for two or more applications, a tiebreaker will be applied whereby places will be determined by random allocation.

We recognise that some children will have only just reached their fourth birthday when they are due to start school. These Reception class children will be offered a full-time place to start in the September of the academic year in which they will be five.

The admission of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan is dealt with by completely separate procedure. Such children will be admitted to the Academy if this school is named on the statement or plan. This is a statutory entitlement under Section 324 of the Education Act 1996.

Applications received after the closing date will be considered in line with the Local Authority Admissions Co-ordinated Scheme 2026 / 2027, as the scheme applies to all publicly funded schools in Cheshire East and to preferences expressed by Cheshire East parents”.

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions/admission_arrangements/admissions-policies.aspx

Deferring a Reception Place

Deferred entry to reception class

Parents may request that their child be admitted to reception class on a part-time basis, or that their child be admitted to the Academy later in the same academic year until the child reaches compulsory school age (i.e. beginning of the term after the child’s fifth birthday). The effect is that the place will be held for the child in reception and is not available to be offered to any other child within the same academic year in which it has been offered.

Before deciding whether to defer their child’s entry to the Academy, parents should visit their preferred setting to clarify how they cater for the youngest children in Reception and how the needs of these children are met as they move up through the Academy.

Admission outside of the normal age group

Parents may seek to apply for their child’s admission to the Academy outside of their normal age group, for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of summer born children may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group to reception rather than year 1.

These parents will need to make an application alongside children applying at the normal age which should explain why it is in the child’s best interest to be admitted outside of their normal age which may include information such as professional evidence as to why this is the case and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. A decision as to whether this is an appropriate course of action will be made by the Local authority and / or Academy taking into account the circumstances of the case and views of the Principal. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

Cheshire East provide further details in their [School admissions policies](#) for 26-27 Cheshire East Admissions Arrangements paragraph 14 and 15 and Appendix 2.

Guidance for Parents

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission/making-a-request-for-admission-out-of-the-normal-age-group>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission/summer-born-children-starting-school-advice-for-parents>

Notes:

(a) Where a school cannot accommodate all pupils qualifying under one of the criteria stated above, the next criteria will also be applied to determine priority for admission. For example, if a school cannot accommodate all siblings for whom an application has been received, all sibling applicants will be prioritised in the order of:

(b) Siblings (criterion 2) who live within the school’s designated catchment area (criterion 3)

(c) Siblings (criterion 2) who do not live within the school’s designated catchment area (criterion 3).

(d) All applicants within each criterion will be put into a distance order with priority being given to those that live nearest to the school, as stated in criterion 4 above.

(e) Where it is identified that there are a limited number of places available and the school cannot differentiate between the applications using the nearest school criterion (criterion 4) a random allocation tie-breaker will be

applied. This may be required for example, where applicants reside in the same block of flats or are children of a multiple birth living at the same address

Right of Appeal:

Parents, who wish to appeal against the Governors decision not to offer a place to their child, must do so by completing an Appeal form available from the school and returning this to Cranberry Academy, within 20 school days from the date of notification that the application for admission was unsuccessful. This will then be heard by an independent appeals panel. Repeat applications will not be considered within the same school year, unless the circumstances for the parent or school have changed significantly since the original application was made.

Waiting List:

Waiting Lists will only be held for the normal admission round (September admissions into the reception class) and only until the end of the autumn term. They will be held in criteria order and not on a “first come, first served” basis. Placing a child’s name on a waiting list does not affect the statutory right of appeal.

In Year Applications

Admissions into year groups other than Reception will be on an in year transfer application basis and the allocation of places will be in line with the above order of priority. Applications can be made on the Local Authority online form, but they will be directed to the school for processing.