



Admissions Policy 2026-2027

HORSFORTH SCHOOL

Admissions Policy

1 Background Information

- 1.1 The school will remain a neighbourhood comprehensive school primarily serving the community of Horsforth.
- 1.2 The published admissions number for 2026 is 285 pupils in Year 7.
- 1.3 The published admissions number for 2026 for external Post 16 students (students who did not complete Year 11 at Horsforth School) is 100 in Year 12.
- 1.4 The school has been over-subscribed in Year 7 since 2008.
- 1.5 Horsforth School Academy Trust is the admission authority for Horsforth School
- 1.6 Horsforth school complies with placement through a Fair Access Panel.
- 1.7 An Academy can be directed to take children in care by the Secretary of State even when the School is full.

2 Evaluation

The School's Admissions policy will be evaluated every year by the Board of Trustees to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

3 Authors

This policy has been updated by PCB in December 2024 and amended as a result of the Schools Adjudicators decision in November 2025.

Appendix I: Admissions Policy 2026-2027

Applying for a place in Year 7

The school's Published Admission Number is 285. This is number of places available for admission to year 7 at the school in September 2026.

You apply to your home Local Authority (the council who empty your bins) by the national closing date – 31 October 2025.

If you live in Leeds, you can apply for a place in Year 7 online from 1 September at www.leeds.gov.uk/apply. If you cannot access the online form, please contact Leeds City Council admissions team: 0113 222 4414.

You should apply by the national closing date (31 October) in order to have the best chance to secure your preferred school.

Late applications

Late applications will be administered in accordance with the Leeds City Council Co-ordinated scheme.

Applying for a place in Year 12

The schools published admissions number for **external students** (students who have not studied at Horsforth School in Year 11) is 100 in Year 12. Please see page 8 for more information on sixth form admission.

Students who have studied at Horsforth School during Year 11 can transfer automatically **provided they meet the Sixth Form entry requirements**.

You can apply for a place in Year 12 through the online application on the Horsforth School Website: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/sixthform/apply/> Paper copies are available upon request.

Admissions Criteria

Children with special educational needs who have an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names Horsforth School will be allocated a place at Horsforth School. This is a statutory entitlement under the S.324 of the Education Act 1996.

Oversubscription criteria for applications in year 7 to 11

If the number of applications does not exceed the number of places available, all applicants will be offered a place at Horsforth School.

If there are more applications than available places (oversubscription), the following oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places.

Criteria 1

Looked after children and all previously looked after children, 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. (see Note 1)

Criteria 2

Pupils without an EHCP but who have special educational needs, or with exceptional medical or mobility needs, which can only reasonably be met at Horsforth School. (see Note 2).

Criteria 3

Children with brothers or sisters who will be on roll at the School in Years 8 – 11 at the start of the academic year 2026-2027. We can give priority for brothers and sisters only if they are living in the same house and we receive the application by the closing date. (See Note 3).

Criteria 4

Children living in Horsforth. Our catchment area is defined as the LS18 Postcode. Evidence of this may be required from Parents / Carers. (See Note 4).

Criteria 5

Children for whom Horsforth School is the nearest High School (straight line distance). (See notes 5 and 6).

Criteria 6

Any other children: by straight line distance (see notes 5 and 6).

Oversubscription in any criteria

If we have more applications meeting one of these priorities than there are places available, we will offer places in order of distance from the school – so those living closer to the school would be offered a place before those living further away, when measured in a straight line.

If two or more children live exactly the same distance from our school (i.e. in a block of flats) and there are not enough places for both, we will draw lots. This will be witnessed by a person independent of the school.

The drawing of lots for random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family where they are tied for the final place. We will admit them all, exceeding the PAN for the school.

Notification and acceptance of places

In accordance with the coordinated admissions policy, offers are made on national offer day which is 1 March or the next working day. Leeds City Council Admissions Team make the formal offer of a place to Parents or Carers on behalf of the Trustee Board of the School. Parents should contact the School by telephone or letter by 30 March 2026 to either accept or reject the offer of a place. This will in no way affect parents' right to appeal for a place at another school.

Appeals procedure

Parents who want to appeal against the Trustees' decision not to offer their child a place at the school must appeal through Leeds City Council Admissions team, not directly to the School.

The appeal will be heard by an independent appeals panel. Parents will receive written notification of the date and time of their appeal hearing, which they can attend to explain their case. This will include a final deadline for submitting any additional information. If they wish, parents may be accompanied by an adviser or friend. Following the appeal, the Clerk to the appeals panel will write to parents with the decision.

Waiting lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group until the end of the academic year (July 2027). We hold a waiting list after national offer day. How to add your child to a waiting list will be explained in the offer or decision letter you are sent.

If your child is added to a waiting list after offer day and a place becomes available before the new school year starts, the Local Authority will automatically allocate the place at your higher preference school and automatically withdraw the place at a lower preference school to give it to another child, even if you have accepted that place.

We hold waiting lists for all the year groups as follows:

- your child's place on a list is decided by the oversubscription criteria in the school's admission policy (the rules for prioritising places)
- each time a child is added or removed, the list is ranked again and your child can move down if another child meets higher criteria
- the waiting list will close at the end of the academic year (July). You must reapply for a new school place to be on the list the following year
- looked after children, previously looked after children and those allocated a place at the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol take priority over those on a waiting list.

Admission out of chronological age group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Parents should apply in the normal admission round and also submit a written request addressed to the headteacher specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested and the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place. When such a request is made, the Academy Trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. There is no right of appeal against a decision relating to admission out of chronological age. Admission out of year group is not preferenced over admissions in chronological year group.

Details and explanations

Note 1

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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

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. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

Note 2

Priority will be given to children based on their Special Educational Needs or exceptional medical or social needs. Each application must include evidence, from a medical specialist or social worker of the child's need and why they must attend this school rather than any other, based on those needs.

If you are unsure whether Horsforth is your closest school, you can look up your home address at www.leeds.gov.uk/apply.

In Leeds we use a straight-line distance system. We use Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping in our school-admission system. The program measures the 'straight-line' distance from a defined point on the main school building to your home address. The point we measure to at your home address is determined by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), which provides coordinates for every dwelling. If we are not able to match your address with the LLPG then we will use a manually identified point at the centre of your dwelling.

Note 6

If the school has to move to a temporary site for any reason, such as the building being damaged by a fire, we will base our distance measurements on the school's permanent site.

In Year Transfers

These are requests to join our school in-year 8 to 11, or for places in year 7 after the start of the school year in September.

Where any vacancy arises, places will be offered from the waiting list based on the oversubscription criteria within this policy.

Find out more about in-year applications, on our website <https://www.horsforthschool.org/useful-information/admissions/#iya> and about current vacancies at www.leeds.gov.uk/moveschools

Fair Access Protocol

As part of the coordinated admissions arrangements with local authority the School may accept hard-to-place pupils onto the school roll from time to time in accordance with the In-Year Fair Access agreement. These are special cases arranged outside the boundaries of this admissions policy.

Sixth Form Admissions

Entry Requirements:

The minimum entry requirement for progression into sixth form is a grade 5 in English and Maths and 3 other grade 5s or higher at GCSE, although individual courses may have higher entry requirements (outlined in the Sixth Form prospectus). These requirements apply to both internal and external applicants.

Allocation of places in Sixth Form:

Internal application: Children in Year 11, provided they have met the entry requirements, will be permitted to move up to Year 12. Internal applicants need to fill in our internal application form to apply from 13/11/26 to confirm they wish to remain at the school sixth form.

External applicants: There are 100 external places for pupils in Year 12 for September 2027. External applicants apply by the Applicaa form on our website (<https://www.horsforthschool.org/sixthform/apply/>).

Oversubscription criteria for applications in year 12 – sixth form

Criteria 1:

Children in public care or fostered under an arrangement made by the local authority or children previously looked after by a Local Authority. (see Note 1 above)

Criteria 2:

Pupils without an EHCP but who have special educational needs, or with exceptional medical or mobility needs, which can only reasonably be met at Horsforth School. (see Note 2)

Criteria 3: Children with brothers or sisters who will be on roll at the School in Years 7-11 at the start of the academic year 2027-2028. We can give priority for brothers and sisters only if they are living in the same house and we receive the application by the closing date. (See Note 3 above and sixth form deadline below)

Criteria 4: Children living in Horsforth. Our catchment area is defined as the LS18 Postcode. Evidence of this may be required from Parents / Carers. (See Note 4 above)

Criteria 5: Those with the highest point score in the best 8 GCSEs will first be offered places. Those with the lowest scores will be given lowest priority. The points awarded for each GCSE grade is equal to the numerical grade and non-GCSE qualifications will be awarded the same points as the DfE uses to calculate Attainment and Progress 8: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-8-school-performance-measure>

Where there is a tie break, the drawing of lots will be used, following the process set out above under heading **Oversubscription in any criteria**.

This will apply after criteria 3 (LS18) and no further criteria will apply (criteria 5 onwards are not applied to P16 admissions). Where there is a tie break admission will be determined by drawing lots witnessed by an independent party.

Offers are conditional and will be confirmed after all external applicants have been invited to an informal interview.

Deadline:

Applicants who apply by the deadline 27 March 2026 will be considered on-time applications. All such applicants will be invited to a group interview and course discussion; this is to discuss options and academic entry requirements for particular courses, but this meeting does not form part of the decision making process on whether we will offer a place.

Any applications submitted after the above deadline will only be considered after on-time applications.

Offers:

Conditional offers will be sent by 13 April 2026 and students must accept this by 27 April 2026.