

*Dynamic, empowered learners who thrive and lead in  
their communities: locally, nationally and globally*

# HOWARD COMMUNITY ACADEMY

## Academy Admission Arrangements for 2027 / 2028

# **Howard Community Academy**

## **Admission arrangements for 2027 / 28**

The Howard Community Academy Primary School is part of the Anglian Learning group of academies (the 'Trust'). It is the Trust that is the Admission Authority and it is responsible for setting the rules which govern how admissions to our school are managed.

### **Published Admission Number**

The school has an agreed intake of 45 children each year for entry into Reception. This is called the Published Admission Number or PAN.

The school will accordingly admit up to this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the PAN are received, we will offer places at the school to all those who have applied. If there are more than 45 applications received then we use the oversubscription criteria shown below to decide, fairly and clearly, which children will be offered a place.

We cannot normally go beyond this number (45 children) in Reception, Years 1 or 2, because of the legal Infant Class Size limit of 30 children in all of these classes. In the later years the PAN does not apply, and we can decide to vary from it if the organisation of the class or size of room so demands.

### **1. Application for Reception Places**

Applications should be made to the Local Authority where your child lives, and to whom you pay Council Tax. Applications will be processed as part of the normal Local Authority process for co-ordinating school offers for Reception places. This can be seen at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions) and it is most important that you thoroughly read this information before making your application.

Applications can be made online or by filling in a Common Application Form available from the Local Authority Admissions Team.

Paper applications should be sent to the Admissions Team, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2BX, although you will get a quicker response by email if you apply online.

The closing date for applications is midnight on 15 January.

Offers will be made on 16 April or the next working day.

### **Oversubscription criteria**

The criteria in this section apply to entry at all year groups of the school.

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school will be admitted regardless of numbers.

The remaining places will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. *Children In Care*\*, sometimes known as *Looked After Children* \*, and previously Looked After Children
2. *Siblings*\* of pupils already attending the school at the time of admission
3. Children of *staff* \*
4. All other children, ranked according to the *distance*\* between their home and the school

(\* See **NOTES**, below for more *detailed descriptions* of how we use these terms)

PLEASE NOTE: Attendance at any pre-school setting **does not** confer any special consideration for admission into the Reception year.

### **Tie-break**

If a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school measured in a straight line will be given priority for admission.

If there are two or more children with exactly the same circumstances, (e.g., the same distance measurement), then Random Allocation, undertaken by a person unconnected with the school or the Trust, will be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission.

### **Late applications for Reception places**

All applications received after the closing date will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. *(If you were unable to apply by the closing date, and we agree that there are very exceptional reasons for an application being late, it will be considered as on time if it is received by the exceptional late date in the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme which can be found at <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions> and evidence is provided with your application. **(This only applies in circumstances outside your control which made it impossible for the application to have been made on time.)***

### **Deferred entry for Reception**

Parents offered a place in Reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. (The start of the term following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday). This must be requested when the application is first made. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

### **Appeals**

If you have been refused a place for your child at our school, you have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Information on how to make an appeal will be provided in the letter refusing your child a school place, and also at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and->

## **Waiting lists**

Where we receive more applications for places than there are places available, the school will operate a waiting list. Your child's name will automatically be placed on the waiting list, if you have been refused a place.

For Reception applications only, this is maintained until 31<sup>st</sup> December, (i.e the end of the first term. ) If you wish your child to remain on the waiting list after this date, you must tell the school of your continuing interest in a place to be noted.

Your child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, and not on the basis of the date when the application was received. When places become vacant, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be re-ordered whenever anyone is added to, or leaves, the waiting list. This means that your child's position on the waiting list can move up but can also go down. If you wish your child to remain on the waiting list after the end of the summer term you must ask for your continuing interest in a place to be noted.

## **2. Admissions for other years other than Reception**

If you are requesting a place for your child in other year groups, or for Reception after the normal admission round has finished, you must apply directly to the school.

You can apply for a place at any time, and your application will be dealt with under the statutory timescales. Details can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions). If a place cannot be offered then the child's name will automatically be placed on the waiting list until the end of the school year, and if you wish your child to remain on the waiting list after that point then you must ask for your continuing interest in a place to be noted.

## **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

It is expected that children will normally be educated within their normal age group (chronological year group). However, we will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned in line with the School Admissions Code.

This includes when a parent or carer wishes their summer born (April to August) child to start full-time education in the Reception Year group when they reach compulsory school age rather than in Year 1.

You can make a request to the school in writing. This will need to include, where relevant, any supporting information about why the child should be admitted out of their normal age group.

When considering the request this will include, but is not limited to, taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social, and emotional development; whether the child has previously been educated 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. Any evidence in respect of these or any other reasons can be submitted. Where relevant, consideration can be given to the child's medical history and any evidence from a medical professional involved with the child's care or treatment such as:

- a speech and language therapist
- an occupational therapist
- a social worker
- a paediatrician
- the child's nursery, childminder or current school.

We will make a decision on the request, taking into account the views of the headteacher.

Parents and carers are not expected to get evidence that they do not already have.

We will write to you with the outcome including the reasons for the decision. If the request is refused, you will be given the details of how to complain to the school.

A CAF1 application form must be sent to Suffolk County Council along with the decision letter from the school and other relevant evidence by the national closing date. Even if the request is agreed there is no guarantee there will be a place available.

## NOTES:

### 1. Admission Authority:

This refers to Anglian Learning or the 'Trust'.

### 2. Local Authority / LA:

This refers to the County Council's Education department.

### 3. Looked after children:

This includes several groups of children, who always have the highest priority in the admission process, after when those with an EHCP have been admitted: -

- A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by an English local authority in the exercise of its 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;
- **and** children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order;
- **together** with children who appear to the Admission Authority to have been in state care (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) outside of England, but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.

### 4. Home address:

This is your child's permanent or main residence at the time of application. This should also be the address where the child will be residing when they start school.

By ordinarily resident we mean the place where your child usually lives. We consider this to be where they sleep overnight. We may need proof of this address. If you use another address to give the impression that your child lives at a different address to where they are ordinarily resident, such as a second home or a grandparent's address, so that you have a higher priority for a place at that school; we consider this to be a fraudulent application. Where a child lives at two or more addresses, each for part of the week, the address at which the child is ordinarily resident will be considered to be the address that the child spends the majority of their school nights (i.e. the five nights from Sunday to Thursday). Separate evidence in writing from each parent or carer must be provided to confirm the child's living arrangements at the time of application.

In cases where the child spends an equal proportion of time at two or more different addresses, evidence of which is to be considered the main contact address will be required to support the application. Agreement in writing by the parents/carers will be required to state which address is to be used as the ordinarily resident address. This address will then be used when processing all

school preferences expressed. It is not acceptable to use one address for one school preference and another address for another school preference.

If we are aware of a parental dispute affecting the application, we may not be able to deal with the application, and you may need to seek independent legal advice in order to resolve the matter.

We recommend you contact any previous school or pre-school prior to submitting your application to ensure they have the correct address for your child as we may need to confirm your address with them.

## **5. Distance:**

All straight-line distances are calculated for us by the Local Authority using data provided by the Post Office and Ordnance Survey (the OS AddressBase Premium). Their system applies equally and fairly to all children in their area. The data plots the co-ordinates of each property and provides the point between which the straight-line distance from home to the school is measured. Where there is more than one home within a single building (for example apartments) we will measure to a single point within that building irrespective of where those homes are located.

NB: Many neighbouring schools still use a traditional "*catchment*" area" as part of their admission criteria, as we once did. (This is shown on the map in Appendix A) Although we now do not specify a fixed catchment area, the majority of the homes within the former area will still have a high priority in our over-subscription criteria because of the nearness to us, this includes all the housing within the new Marham Park development.

## **6. Staff:**

Staff whose children can be admitted under criterion 3, means any person who is employed by the Trust to work at *this school* in whatever capacity, teaching or non-teaching.

It includes (a) those who have had contract of employment for at least 2 years at the time of application, and who will still be working at the school when their child starts, and (b) those who have been employed for less than 2 years at the time of application but were recruited to a hard-to-fill post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. This applies to staff employed full or part time, but not to temporary contractual staff.

## **7. Children of UK military personnel:**

If you currently serve in the UK Armed forces, or are Crown servants returning from overseas, we will accept your application if it is accompanied by a letter from the MOD, a Posting Order, or some other form of evidence of your intended address, and proof of the date that you will be relocated. We will use this as proof of address for your child's application and will comply with the provisions of paragraph 2.21 of the School Admissions Code and process your application in the normal way prior to you actually arriving. If you wish, we will take the Base, Unit, or quartering address as the home address.

If you do not have any evidence of a residential address before the closing date, we will use the relevant Base address. If you later receive notification or confirmation of your actual residential address, please forward this to [admissions@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@suffolk.gov.uk)

You must clearly show on your application that you are serving personnel.

## **8. Sibling:**

‘Sibling’ means a brother or sister, a half-brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a stepbrother or sister or any other child, who, at the time of application, is living in the same household as part of the same family, **and** who will be living at the same address at the date the child is admitted.

The sibling rule does not apply to any child who is attending any pre-school or nursery placement, whether at this school or elsewhere.

If the final place available at the school is offered to a twin, triplet or other multiple births and the remaining sibling(s) would ordinarily be refused, we will offer places to the remaining sibling(s) at the school. The law permits this even where this would mean that more than 30 pupils would be admitted to an infant class.



