

Holly Lodge 11-19 Science College

ADMISSIONS POLICY

General Principles

Holly Lodge is an 11-19 mixed comprehensive situated in the Smethwick area of Sandwell. Its Published Admission Number (PAN) for Year 7 in September 2014 will be 240

The main principle of admission to Holly Lodge is to maintain the character of the school as a comprehensive school, providing for the needs of young persons within the 11-19 age range, who live primarily in the priority admission area (defined below). There is no guarantee of a place for children living in the priority admission area.

The school will endeavour to provide places for pupils who live outside the priority admission area whose parents wish them to attend Holly Lodge provided that they can be accommodated within the PAN and our oversubscription criteria (see below).

The school participates in the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme and all deadlines within that should be adhered to by all applicants. Offers of places will be made on the basis of information provided on the Common Application Form.

As required by Regulations the school will give first priority to applications on behalf of children in public care (looked after children) and children who were previously in public care but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). Children with statements of Special Educational Needs naming the school must also be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available under the schools PAN for other applicants.

In year admissions

Where there are places in a year group, the school will consider applications for in year admissions based on the criteria below. The school will only consider applications termly. Students wishing to join the school mid-year will only be admitted at the beginning of each academic term.

The school will continue to work within the LA Hard to Place protocol and will admit their fair share of children who are allocated through the Hard to Place panel.

Criteria for admission

When applications for admission exceed the number of places available the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit. These criteria will continue to be used to allocate places should any fall vacant after the initial allocation. (In all cases children with Statements of Special Educational Needs naming Holly Lodge will be admitted before other applicants).

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1. Children in public care (looked after children) and children who were previously in public care but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
2. To meet a child's medical needs (recommended and supported by a doctor's certificate).
3. Children residing in the priority admission area with a brother or sister (sibling) attending the school at the time of application with a reasonable expectation they will be on role at the school at the date of proposed admission. This includes siblings in the sixth form.
4. Children residing in the priority admission area, priority being given to such children by the shortest Distance from School (see definition below).
5. Children residing outside the priority admission area with a brother or sister (sibling) attending the school at the time of application with a reasonable expectation they will be on role at the school at the date of proposed admission. This includes siblings in the sixth form.
6. Children residing outside the priority admission area, priority being given to such children by the shortest Distance from School.

Definitions and Further Details

The Priority Admission Area (Catchment Area)

A map showing the boundaries of the priority admission area (catchment area) are available from the school on request.

Siblings

Siblings are defined as the following:

- Brothers and sisters who have the same parents and live at the same address
- Half-brothers and half-sisters where one of the parents is the same and the children live at the same address.
- Step brothers and step sisters where the children are related by the marriage of their parents and live at the same address.
- Adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address.
- Children of two unmarried parents living at the same address.

(Proof of sibling link may be required.)

Distance From the school

The measurement used will be a straight line distance from the main entrance of the school on Holly Lane to the main door of the residence, with those living nearest to the school being given priority. Residences with a common front door (e.g. apartments/flats) will be treated equally with the measurement taken to that common front door.

Residence

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The residence is defined as the address at which a parent with parental responsibility lives and is the permanent residence of the child for the majority of the school week (Sunday to Thursday night).

Waiting Lists

The parents/carers of students who are unsuccessful in gaining a place in the normal round of applications may write to the Head Teacher at Holly Lodge to request that the student's name is placed on a waiting list for a place, irrespective of whether they make an appeal against the decision not to offer them a place. If a place becomes available, it will be allocated from the waiting list according to the Admissions Criteria listed above.

Appeals

Appeals against decisions not to admit a pupil will be heard by the Independent Appeals Panel, once a term. The decision will be given to the family within 10 school days following the hearing. If a student is successful in gaining a place through appeal, they will be admitted to the school at the beginning of the next term.

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6th form admissions

Section 1 – General principles

Holly Lodge offers a range of qualifications to sixth form students and some of these require minimum grades at GCSE. Our policy is to ensure that students accepted into the sixth form can be placed on appropriate courses where they are likely to succeed. For this reason all applicants are invited to attend a meeting and interview with our staff to discuss the most suitable courses of study.

The sixth form capacity for Year 12 commencing in September 2014 will be 100.

Students of year 11 will be encouraged to apply for the sixth form. Applications from students wishing to transfer from another school and who meet the relevant entry requirements will be considered if there are places available on the preferred courses of study after allocation has been made to the current Year 11 candidates. In all cases the same admission criteria and oversubscription criteria will apply (see below).

Section 2 - Definitions and Details

Application Deadlines

Internal and external candidates should apply by the appropriate date stated in the current sixth form prospectus.

Academic requirements

For entry onto all Level 3 courses the following qualifications are required:

- 5 A* to C grades overall at full GCSE level as a minimum
- Maths and/or English GCSE at grade C or above
- Individual subjects may require specific entry criteria.

Meeting the requirements of any course is no guarantee that the applicant will automatically be offered a place on his or her preferred choices.

Entry into year 13 for external applicants will depend on the requirements for the course for which entry is sought, the availability of a place within that course and the applicant's results from any modules taken in year 12.