



# Nidderdale High School

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**A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY**

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**Admissions Policy for Entry from September 2026**

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## **Introduction**

This document sets out the proposed admission arrangements for Nidderdale High School (NHS).

As an Academy, although Nidderdale High School has the ability to set its own admissions policy, we choose to follow the criteria set out by North Yorkshire Council who manage this process and subsequent appeals. The admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code 2021, the School Admissions Appeals Code and relevant human rights and equalities legislation.

Any complaints about admission arrangements are dealt with by the School's Adjudicator.

## **Admission arrangements**

The proposed admission arrangements for NHS from September 2026 are:

- NHS has an agreed admission number of 85 students. NHS will accordingly admit 85 students in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received; and
- NHS may set a higher admission number as its Published Admission Number for any specific year. Before setting an admission number higher than its agreed admission number, NHS will inform North Yorkshire Local Authority and reference this change on the school's website. Students will not be admitted above the Published Admission Number unless in exceptional circumstances.

## **Process of application**

Applications for places at the academy will be made in accordance with North Yorkshire Local Authority's coordinated admission arrangements and parents/carers will complete their home Local Authority Common Application Form. NHS will use the following timetable for applications each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year) which, whenever possible, will fit in with the common timetable agreed by North Yorkshire Local Authority:

July – The academy will publish on its website information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (e.g. in July 2025 for admission in September 2026). This will include details of open evenings and other opportunities for prospective students and their parents/carers to visit the academy.

Please note that, to be considered for admission, all applicants must complete and submit their home Local Authority's common application form, including NHS as one of their preferences. The academy will also provide information to the Local Authority for inclusion in the composite prospectus, as required.

September/October – the academy will provide formal opportunities for parents/ carers to visit.

By 31 October – parents/carers complete the Common Application Form of their home Local Authority and return it to their home Local Authority to administer.

March – one offer of a school place is made to parents/carers by North Yorkshire Local Authority.

Parents/carers can make an appointment to visit the school at any time during the academic year.

## **Consideration of applications**

NHS will consider all applications for places. Where fewer than 85 applications are received, the academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

## **Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan**

The admission of students with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a separate procedure. Such children will be admitted to the named school without reference to the oversubscription criteria below.

## **Procedures where NHS is over-subscribed**

If the academy is oversubscribed, after the admission of students with an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named in the Plan, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in order:

- a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order. (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. In line with the 2021 Admissions Code, all references to previously looked after children mean such children who were adopted or became 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.)
- children for whom a particular school is appropriate on exceptional medical grounds. Such applications will be considered under this criterion only if they are supported by an attached medical statement from a doctor. This must demonstrate that there is a very specific connection between the child's medical need and the school requested.
- children with a sibling attending the school at the time of application. 'Sibling' is defined in these arrangements as half, full, step, adoptive or foster brother or sister; or adoptive brother or sister living predominantly in the same home as the child; and
- other children by distance from the school, with priority for admission given to children who live nearest to the school as measured by computer software based on Ordnance Survey and postal address data. The software measures using public roads and footpaths adopted and recorded by North Yorkshire County Council's Highways Team. When using roads for measurement purposes the software measures along the middle of the road. It starts from a point in the footprint of the property provided as the child's address and continues by the shortest available route to the nearest of the school gates which is used by students to enter the school grounds. Blocks of flats are treated as one address. In blocks of flats, priority will normally be given to the lowest flat number. Addresses in private roads will measure from the footprint of the property, along the middle of the private road leading to the public road/footpath as adopted and recorded by North Yorkshire County Council's Highways Team. Not used are routes using common land, open spaces, public parks, subways or footpaths not adopted by the Highways team.

Where a child lives with both separated parents/carers, the home that the child lives in for the most time per week will be counted. Where the child lives in both homes for equal amounts of time, the home nearest to the school will be counted as the child's home.

**Tie break:** in the case of a tie-break being necessary, children of multiple births (twins, triplets etc.) will be given priority and then if a further tie-break is necessary, random allocation will be used. A person independent of the academy will be asked to supervise any random allocation.

### **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; and
- ensure that arrangements in their area support the Government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children. Arrangements must be appropriate for the area and be described in the local authority's composite prospectus

### **Children from overseas**

Admission authorities must treat applications for children coming from overseas in accordance with Home Office rules.

### **Operation of waiting lists**

Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in North Yorkshire Local Authority's co-ordinated admission scheme, where in any year NHS receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate. This will be open to any parent/carer to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

### **Arrangements for appeals panels**

Parents/carers will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision. The arrangements for Appeals will be in line with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals published by the Department for Education and administered via North Yorkshire Local Authority's coordinated admission arrangements. The determination of the Appeal Panel will be made in accordance with the Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals and is binding on all parties.

### **Arrangements for admitting students to other year groups**

Subject to any provisions in the North Yorkshire Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the academy must consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child if they live in area. If more applications are received than there are places available, our oversubscription criteria will apply. Parents/carers of children whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.