



**DEBDEN**  
PARK HIGH SCHOOL

---

## **ADMISSION POLICY 2025/2026**

---

Review Date: Annually  
Last Consultation: December 2022  
Consultation: Every 7 Years

## **ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 7**

Arrangements for applications for places in Year 7 at Debden Park High School will be made in accordance with Essex's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in Essex can apply online [here](#); parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority. Debden Park High School will use Essex's timetable published online for these applications and Essex will make the offers of places as required by the School Admissions Code.

### **Published Admission Number (PAN)**

The PAN for Year 7 is 180. If there are fewer applicants than places available all applicants will be admitted.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the academy will be admitted.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

If there are more applications than places available, we will apply the oversubscription criteria listed below:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children. 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. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). Previously looked after children also includes those 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.
2. Children of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made. This applies to all staff members.
3. A child with a sibling on roll at the time of application and at the time of admission. Siblings include a brother or sister who share the same parents; a stepbrother or stepsister or legally adopted child living at the same address. A sibling link to a child in Year 12 will only be taken to exist where they have completed their statutory education at Debden Park High School.



4. Children living in the catchment area of the school. Enter your postcode using the link below to check whether you fall within the school's catchment area:

[https://secureapps.essex.gov.uk/cas/Priority-Admissions-\(Catchment\)-Area.aspx](https://secureapps.essex.gov.uk/cas/Priority-Admissions-(Catchment)-Area.aspx)

5. Distance. Priority will be given to the child living nearest the school. We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight-line using Essex's geographical information system.

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the permanent home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of school nights Monday–Friday.

### **Tie-break**

If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more applicants for the last remaining place then random allocation will be used. This process will be supervised by somebody independent of the school.

### **Multiple Births**

In the case of twins or other multiple births, where there is only one place available in the school, both will be considered together as one application. The school will be allowed to go above its admission number for this purpose.

### **Fraudulent or Misleading Applications**

As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

### **Fair Access Protocol**

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced, vulnerable children are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible.



The school will comply with Essex's Fair Access Protocol. This may mean admitting children above the PAN.

### **Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. It is important for parents to note that they will have responsibility for providing evidence to support their request.

If parents wish for their child to be considered for admission to a year group which is outside their normal age group, then they must:

- a) Complete the LA common application form or the in-year admission form, as appropriate
- b) Attach a letter outlining reasons for the request and all supporting letters and/or documentary evidence in support of the application.

Debden Park High School will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

This will include taking account of:

- the parent's views;
- any available information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- the views of the head teacher.

### **In-year admissions**

For all information regarding In-Year Admissions, including details on how parents can apply for a school place, an application form to complete, the timescale in which your application will be processed and details on the right to appeal, please visit the school website.

### **Waiting List**

Any child refused a place at the school will automatically be put on the waiting list unless a higher preference school has been offered. A waiting list will be maintained for the academic year after which it will be cleared. If you would like your child to remain on the waiting list please contact the school.



The waiting list is maintained in the order of the oversubscription criteria. This means that names can move down the list if, e.g. someone moves into the area and is higher placed under the oversubscription criteria.

## **ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 12**

### **Academic Entry Criteria**

The minimum qualification for entry into the Sixth Form is 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) including English or Maths at grade 5 and above for access to any Level 3 course. There are specific individual minimum entry requirements for each subject, which can be found in our prospectus. Debden Park High School cannot guarantee an offer of a place on specific courses. Applicants who meet the entry requirements but who cannot be accommodated in their preferred subjects will be offered an alternative course.

All level 2 BTEC awards at pass and above will count as 1 GCSE equivalent regardless of the number of guided learning hours studied or the number of separate qualifications achieved. A maximum of three BTEC qualifications will be counted in the 5 GCSEs.

If an applicant meets these criteria they will be eligible for consideration for a sixth form place.

All students in the current Year 11 at Debden Park High School who meet the academic entry criteria will continue into the Sixth Form, if they wish.

### **PAN**

A minimum of 15 places will be filled by eligible external applicants to the Sixth Form provided sufficient applications are received.

External applicants should complete the on-line application form on the Debden Park High School website. Students are entitled to apply in their own right. All application forms must be completed and returned by 1 February for entry in the following September. Offers of sixth form places are conditional on final GCSE results.

### **Oversubscription Criteria for External Applicants**

If there are more applications than places available, offers will be made in the order of the oversubscription criteria listed below:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children. 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. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). Previously looked after children also includes those 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.

2. Distance. Priority will be given to the child living nearest the school. We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight-line using Essex's geographical information system.

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the permanent home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of school nights Monday–Friday.

### **Tie-break**

If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more applicants for the last remaining place then random allocation will be used. This process will be supervised by somebody independent of the school.

### **Appeals**

The parents and/or student refused a place at the school have a right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on all parties.

