

Admissions Policy 2024- 25

Stamford Welland Academy

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Stamford Welland Academy has high expectations of all its students and in return offers a high-quality education at the heart of its local community. As the only state secondary school in Stamford, its aim is to be the school for the whole of Stamford, a school of which Stamford can be proud. We develop our pupils into successful, confident, responsible and employable citizens. The school is a cultural hub for its students, their families and the community. The academy is supported by the ethos and values of the Meridian Trust (MAT), its sponsor. The Meridian Trust is the admission authority for Stamford Welland Academy. This means that it sets and applies the admissions policy. This policy is reviewed annually, and consultation of admission arrangements takes place at least every seven years.

Year 7 Admissions

The published PAN for Stamford Welland Academy is 150 places in Year 7 and we welcome students of all abilities and from all backgrounds.

Applications for places will be made in accordance with local authority admission arrangements and will be made on the online Common Application Form provided and administered by the local authority. The Academy will work to the common admissions timetable agreed by Lincolnshire County Council for September admissions. Admissions must be made via Lincolnshire Council only and not directly to Stamford Welland Academy.

In accordance with legislation the allocation of places for children with the following will take place first; Statement of Special Educational Needs (Education Act 1996) or Education, Health and Care Plan (Children and Families Act 2014) where the school is named. The school will then allocate remaining places in accordance with this policy.

For entry into Year 7 in September we will allocate places to parents who return an application before we consider any parent who has not returned one.

The oversubscription criteria are listed in the order we apply them. Words marked with a number, for example 1, 2 and 3 are explained separately in the definition and notes section.

Oversubscription Criteria

- A. The child is in the care of the local authority. (1)
- B. There is a brother or sister (2) on roll at the school at the time of application.
- C. The distance from the child's home address (3) to Red Lion Square, Stamford.

This is the historic centre of Stamford. Stamford Welland Academy is the only state secondary school, serving the whole of the community. Two miles radius from this point covers the whole of Stamford. Priority will be given to the child living nearest Red Lion Square, Stamford, as defined in note 4.

If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more applicants for the last remaining place then a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the school or working in Children's Service Directorate at the local authority.

Definitions and Notes

1. A child in the care of the local authority is provided with accommodation by them in accordance with section 22 of the Children's Act 1989, at the time of application. This includes any child that has previously been in care and who is now adopted or who is subject to a residence order or special guardianship order and includes those from state care outside of England.

2. Brother or sister

A full brother or sister, whether or not resident in the same household. Another child normally living for the majority of term time in the same household, where an adult in the household has parental responsibility as defined by the Children Act 1989. Or any child in the household where an adult in the household is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996.

In the case of twins, or brothers and sisters in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the school, both will be considered together as one application. The school will go above its admission number by one.

3. By home we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of term time with a parent as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996 who has parental responsibility for the child as defined in the Children Act 1989.

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of term time. If a parent can show that their child spends an equal amount of time at both addresses during school term time, they can choose which address to use on the application.

If a parent has more than one home, we will take as the home address the address where the parent and child normally live for the majority of the school term time.

4. The nearest address to Red Lion Square, Stamford is found by measuring the distance from the child's home address to Red Lion Square, Stamford by shortest straight line distance. Measurements are made electronically using the post office address point of the home to the Ordnance Survey grid reference 502879, 307141 which is a central point located in Red Lion Square, Stamford.

Reserve Lists

For admission into Year 7 the local Academy Council will keep a waiting list which we call a reserve list. If you do not get a place at your first preference school your child is automatically put on the reserve list for any schools above the one you were offered. This list is in the order of the oversubscription criteria. Names can move down the list if someone moves into the area and is higher placed on the oversubscription criteria. The list is kept by the Schools Admission Team until the end of the coordinated admission round in August each year. After, Stamford Welland Academy will keep the reserve list until the end of the academic year.

If you wish your child to join the school in another year group and it is full, you can contact the school and request to be added to the reserve list. This will be kept in the order of the oversubscription criteria. The time you have been on the list is not taken into account.

The reserve lists are cleared at the end of each academic year. If you would like your child to be placed on the reserve list for the following academic year please contact the school.

Appeals

For **Year 7 application (September entry) appeals**, the school follows the published appeals procedure set out by Lincolnshire County Council.

Lincolnshire County Council will arrange appeals for these schools according to the timetable detailed on the School Admissions Service website for the 2024 intake:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/appeal-school-place/2>

The information provided on this page is for the main intakes for Year 7

Parents wishing to appeal against the Academy's decision should complete the option on the online form when collecting their online offer or by calling 01522 782030 and requesting a paper appeal form.

The appeals will be heard in private by an Independent Appeal Panel organised by The Legal Services Team.

Mid-Year Admissions

Stamford Welland Academy is a comprehensive school and we welcome students of all abilities and from all backgrounds. If you would like to apply for a place at Stamford Welland Academy for your child, who is already of secondary school age, please contact Lincolnshire County Council.

Applications for places will be made in accordance with local authority mid-year admissions arrangements.

- (a) If there are no vacant positions available to your child, and if compliance with the preference would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resource, i.e. that the admission will cause prejudice to the efficient education of others or the efficient use of resources, your application may be refused by the Academy, who will inform the local authority.
- (b) The requirement to admit up to PAN only applies in the ordinary year of entry.

Parents/carers will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Academy.

Please note giving false or deliberately misleading information about the pupil may affect their admission to the school on this form and/or supporting information may render the application invalid, or lead to any offer made being withdrawn.

More information can be found on the website admissions page under **Mid-Year Admissions Appeals**:

<http://www.stamfordwellandacademy.org/academy-information/admissions/>

Parent(s) wishing to appeal against the Academy's decision should complete an Appeal form stating the reason for the appeal based on the published admissions criteria.

The appeal forms can be downloaded from the Stamford Welland Academy website or by calling the Lincolnshire Education Team on 01522 782030 to request an appeal form.

The Appeal Panel will be independent of the Academy. The arrangements for Appeals will be in line with the **School Admission Appeals Code** published by the Department for Education. The determination of the appeal panel will be made in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code and is binding on all parties.

Mid-year appeals will be heard within 30 school days of receipt.

Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

As an admission authority Stamford Welland Academy 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 children who live in the home local authority, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full.

Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces)

In order to meet the government's military covenant aimed at helping Service personnel, and Crown Servants returning from abroad the local Academy Council have adopted the following arrangements.

For late applications to the normal intake year and mid-year applications the local Academy Council aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces) by applying the school's oversubscription criteria to their address.

The local Academy Council will check to see if the address is within the distance of the last child admitted in the last admission round that was oversubscribed on offer day.

If the address is within the distance the local Academy Council will consider admitting providing all children in public care and siblings have already been admitted and there is no child with higher priority under the oversubscription criteria on the reserve list.

This will be irrespective of the fact that the school has had appeals or appeals are scheduled.

It may be that the local Academy Council still cannot admit because of organisational or curriculum difficulties within the school.

The local Academy Council will need the notice of posting or official government letter and posting address before considering an application under these arrangements.