

Weldon Village Academy
Variance to Admission Policy for 2025/2026
Year 10 only

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Introductory statement

Weldon Village Academy is a part of Meridian Trust (the Academy Trust) and has high expectations of all its students. In return it offers a high-quality education at the heart of its local community. We develop our students into successful, confident, responsible and employable citizens. The school is a cultural hub for its students, their families and the community.

Weldon Village Academy was a new school, opened in September 2023 to year 7 only. The ambition was to grow the school by adding subsequent years, until the school reached capacity at Pupil Intake Number (PAN) for each cohort yr 7-11. Post 16 will have a bespoke Admissions Policy when the provision is ready to open.

Corby area is a growing community with extensive housing developments and a higher than average levels of migration into the city and surrounding villages. Weldon Village Academy was opened, supported by the Department for Education, to meet the increasing demand for school places.

However, the opening of the school was behind an anticipated schedule and as such has not been able to have a rapid impact on the availability of school places available at the secondary phase. Working alongside the Local Authority, and those responsible for places planning, it has been agreed to take the extra ordinary step to open **a single class of year 10 students for September 2025.**

This variance to our existing Admission Policy aims to support the Local Authority with the following:

- Allow potential students who could have attended Weldon Village Academy, had it opened in September 2022, to gain a place
- To support current families in allowing older siblings to be educated with younger family members already at the school
- To help reduce travel burdens experienced by some families as children could attend a more local school.
- To meet the direct needs of families moving to the Weldon area
- To potentially 'free up' spaces in surrounding schools to ease the burden of deficit places across Corby and the surrounding area.

The curriculum

Core subjects for all students	Selection of 2 subjects from either
GCSE English to include Language & Literature	Option 1 GCSE Geography OR GCSE French
GCSE Maths	
GCSE Science	
GCSE History	Option 2 GCSE Art OR GCSE Business Studies
Core Physical Education	
Personal Social Health & Economic Education (PHSE)	



1. Aims

This policy aims to:

Explain **how to apply** for a place at the school

Set out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply

Explain **how to appeal** against a decision not to offer your child a place

2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [School Admissions Code \(2021\)](#)
- [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

As an academy the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

3. How to apply for a place in year 10, September 2025

With the consent of the Local Authority, the school will be managing its own admissions for year 10 only. To allow all applications to be considered fairly please ensure the following:

- All parents/carers should request and complete an online Application Form and submit this, by **midnight on 14th February 2025**.
- The Application Form can be obtained by emailing admissions@weldonva.org. This will provide a link to the online form.
- Should the school not reach PAN following the first round of applications, we will reopen the process and accept 'late' applications in line with the Admissions Code.

4. Allocation of places

4.1 Published Admission Number (PAN)

The school's Published Admission Number (PAN) for Year 7 is 150 pupils.

The school's Published Admission Number (PAN) for Year 10 is 30 pupils. NB this will apply for admission in September 2025 only.

Places will first be allocated to children who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school as appropriate provision AND where the school states it is able to meet the needs of the EHC.



4.2 Oversubscription criteria

When there are more applications for the 30 places available, priority will be given in the following order:

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children
2. Children with a sibling continuing at the school at the time of admission of the child.
3. Children with a year 7 sibling who has applied to join the school in September 2025
4. Children whose nearest school from their home address is Weldon Village Academy.
5. Other children

4.3 Allocation to PAN

If the admission number of 30 is exceeded within any criterion, priority will be given to those who live closest to the school (see Distance Measurements for information on how distances are measured)

4.4 Tie-breaker

If two or more applications cannot otherwise be separated and there is only one place available, a random allocation process will be used to determine who should be allocated the place.

5. Definitions

5.1 Looked after children

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

5.2 Previously looked after children

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order

This includes 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.

5.3 Children of UK Service Personnel (UK Armed Forces) and Crown Servants:

For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting, or crown servants returning from overseas, the School Admissions team will: a) allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area (as long as one is available),
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provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date. Admission authorities (i.e. bodies such as the local authority (NNC), academy trusts and governing bodies of schools) must not refuse to process an application and must not refuse a place solely because the family do not yet have an intended address, or do not yet live in the area. b) use the address at which the child will live when applying their oversubscription criteria, as long as the parents provide some evidence of their intended address. Admission authorities must use a Unit or quartering address as the child's home address when considering the application against their oversubscription criteria, where a parent requests this.'

5.4 Siblings

A sibling is defined as a child's brother or sister. A sibling must be living at the same permanent address and as part of the same family unit (one or two parents plus children) to qualify under this criterion. For School Admissions purposes, the term sibling includes:

- half-brothers and half-sisters
- step-brothers and step-sisters
- adopted children
- children in foster care
- children living in the same family unit, even if they are not biological brothers and sisters – for example when the parents are not married/in a civil relationship.

Cousins are not regarded as siblings.

5.5 Home Address (child's)

The child's home address is defined as the address at which the child normally resides with their parent/carer on the closing date for applications (14th February 2025).

When we refer to a child's home address, we mean the permanent residence of the child. This address should be the child's only or main residence which is;

- owned by the child's parent(s)/carer(s) or
- leased to or rented by the child's parent(s)/carer(s) under a lease or written rental agreement of not less than six months' duration.

When parents live separately and the child spends time with each parent, the home address will be treated as the place where the child sleeps for most of the school week (i.e. Sunday night – Thursday night inclusive).

If the child spends equal amounts of time at two addresses, the parents must agree which address they wish to be the child's main address.

Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residence at the property concerned.



5.6 Distance Measurements

Distances are measured on a straight-line basis from the address point of the child's home to the address point of the school, using a geographical information system. Each address has a unique address point established by the most valuable elements from the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NPLG), Ordnance Survey Master Map, Royal Mail Postal Address File and The Valuation Office Agency. The address point for a property does not change.

6. Multiple Birth Groups

In the case of twins or other siblings from a multiple birth, if the last child to be admitted is from a multiple birth group, the other children in the group will also be offered places, even if it means exceeding the Published Admission number.

In the case of siblings (see definition above) in the same year group, where there is only one place remaining which is to be offered to one sibling, the other too will be offered a place.

7. Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

The admissions authority (or the LA processing an application on behalf of the admission authority) has the right to investigate any concerns we may have about an application and to withdraw the offer of a place if it is considered that there is evidence that an applicant has made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information.

8. Conflicting Applications

The school can only process one application. Where more than one adult shares parental responsibility and if the adults live at different addresses, it is important that an agreement be reached on which schools to apply for, prior to making the application.

If multiple applications are received for the same child with conflicting address and/or preferences, or the school is made aware of a dispute between two parents, all applications will be placed on hold and will **not** be processed until:

- a new single application is made, signed by all parties; or
- written agreement is provided from both parents indicating which application they have agreed on; or
- a court order is provided confirming which parent's application carries precedence.

If no agreement can be made, parents are recommended to seek legal advice. If an agreement cannot be reached before the closing date, this may affect the chances of your child being allocated a place at your preferred school/s.

9. Late Applications

Late applications are any application forms received by the school after its closing date of 14th February 2025.

Late applications will be processed after all other applications.

10. In-year Admissions

An in-year admission refers to an application for a school place made during the school year or an application for admission to a school made at the start of the school year for any year group other than the normal year of entry.

If the schools published admission number (PAN) of 30 has been reached, it may not be possible to offer a place at the school as admitting additional children would prejudice the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

Parents/carers can ask for their child's name to be added to the waiting lists (see below for more information).

Applications for in-year admissions should be made directly to the school as they hold and manage the waiting lists.

11. Waiting Lists

Following an unsuccessful application, parents/carers can request that their child's name be placed on the waiting list.

Waiting lists are held for all year groups, including year 10, by the school.

Waiting lists will be cleared at the end of each school term. If parents/carers would like their child's name to remain on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year, they should inform the School in writing, by the start of each subsequent term (i.e: during the Christmas and Easter breaks) to renew their interest

When a place becomes available it will be allocated to the child at the top of the waiting list. The waiting list is ranked in accordance with the oversubscription admission criteria which can be found in section 4.2 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest and children being allocated places under the Fair Access Protocol will be given priority. A new application will be required for a new academic year.

12. Appeals

If a parent/carer's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, they will be informed why admission was refused. If an application is unsuccessful it is highly likely because the cohort has reached the PAN of 30 and is considered to be full. By agreement with the Local Authority the school will not exceed the agreed PAN. As such there is no process to appeal the decision.

Please see section 11 on Waiting Lists

13. Admissions policy review

This policy is an extra ordinary policy for a one off agreement with the Local Authority to admit a single class (30 students) into year 10; as such it is not subject to review.

This policy has been formulated with the Local Authority and been agreed by the Academy Council.

14. Finding out

The school will consider all applications and in the event of over subscription will apply the over subscription criteria, see 4.2.

Successful applicants will be notified on National Offers Day 1st March