

Admissions Policy 2026-2027

George Eliot Academy

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1. Definitions

George Eliot Academy Admissions Policy 2026-2027

1. Introduction

- 1.1 George Eliot Academy is a co-educational secondary school catering for pupils from the age of 11 through to age 16. The academy is part of the United Learning trust, which acts as the admissions authority.

2. Admissions into Year 7

2.1 Applying for a place

Arrangements for applications for places at the beginning of Year 7 are made in accordance with the Local Authority's coordinated admission arrangements. Therefore, applications must be made directly to the Local Authority in which the child lives. In the summer term, parents of all Year 5 children are provided with the appropriate information required to make an application. This includes the timetable to be followed and the closing date for applications. Details are also available on the Local Authority's own website www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions. Details of open events for parents and their children can be found on the academy's website <https://www.georgeeliotacademy.org.uk>.

2.2 Published admission number

The published admission number for year 7 at George Eliot Academy is 190. When the number of applicants for this age group is below this number, then all applicants will be admitted in accordance with the School Admission Code September 2021.

2.3 Oversubscription criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

- a. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order, including children who appear (to the trust) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Please see notes and definitions section for further information.
- b. To ensure the highest quality of teaching staff, priority will be given to children* of staff where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage or where the member of staff** has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made.
- c. Children who are siblings of pupils who attend the academy, and will still be attending when the child starts, other than pupils who at the time were in the sixth form but were not previously in lower years. The term 'siblings' refers to full, step, half, adopted or fostered brothers or sisters living permanently at the same address. The academy reserves the right to ask for proof of relationship such as a short birth certificate.
- d. Children who reside within the priority area, please see notes and definitions section for the map. 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 to 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 home address.

The child's home address must be either:

- Owned by the child's parent, parents or carer/guardian.
- Leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement of not less than six months duration. The property leased should be that in which the family lives.

We may require written proof of ownership or a rental agreement and proof of actual permanent residence at the property. We cannot allocate places on the basis of intended future changes of address unless house moves have been confirmed through the exchange of contracts with a completion date, or the signing of a formal lease agreement.

e. Other children with priority being given to those who live closest to the school.

If false or misleading information is used to gain entry to the academy, the offer of a place may be withdrawn.

*The term 'children' is defined by the academy as a child whose permanent address is the same as a member of staff. The child may be the biological child of the member of staff or the child of a partner living at the same address.

**The term 'staff' is defined by the academy as both teaching and non-teaching staff who work at the academy on either a full-time or part-time basis.

2.4 Tie break when applying the oversubscription criteria

If there are insufficient places to accommodate all applicants and after using all oversubscription criteria, applicants for the final place(s) cannot be split, the remaining place(s), will be allocated using a random allocation process, carried out by the Local Authority on the Trust's behalf, if the distance between a child's home and the academy is equidistant in any two or more cases.

Random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family tied for the final place. When considering twins, triplets or other multiple births places, where the final place available was offered to a twin, triplet or multiple birth, a place will be offered above the published admission number to the other twin, triplet or multiple birth children whose twin, triplet or multiple birth was offered a place within the admission number.

2.5 Late applications

All applications received up to and including 31st October 2025 of each year for the following academic year will be treated as on time. Applications received after this date will be considered to be late and may not be processed until after 1st March 2026.

3. Waiting Lists

- 3.1 Where in any year the George Eliot Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until 31st December of the same year. This will be maintained by the academy and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application. On the 31st December, the academy will contact the parents advising them that their child's name will be removed from the waiting list, unless they confirm directly with the academy that they wish for it to remain. This waiting list will then operate until the end of the academic year. Children's position on the waiting list and the allocation of places will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria outlined in section 2.3 above.

4. In-Year Admissions / Admissions other than Transfer at the Start of Year 7

- 4.1 Parents should apply via the normal in-year admissions procedures as coordinated by the Local Authority in which the child lives. For those living in Warwickshire, the link to do so is here: [In-year applications – Education and Early Years providers](#)
- 4.2 If the year group in which a place has been applied for has a place available, then a place will be allocated. In the instance of the academy being oversubscribed, the Local Authority will then forward the application form directly to the Academy which will then consider the application using the oversubscription criteria listed in 2.3, with the opportunity for the child to be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription ranking.

5. Requests for admission to Year 7 outside the normal age group

Parents can request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested. Children who are currently being educated out of normal age group in Primary school do not automatically transfer to Year 7 at secondary school at the same time as their adopted cohort.

If parents/carers who wish to delay their child's start at George Eliot Academy by a full year and transfer at the same time as their adopted cohort, they are advised to make an application for Year 7 for their child's normal age group, i.e. when their child is in Year 5 (but the age of a Year 6 child) and at the same time, put their request in writing to the school.

If our admission authority agrees that an application will be accepted out of normal age group, the current application for the child's normal age group will be withdrawn and the parent will reapply the following year with their adopted cohort.

When such a request is made, the academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

6. Appeals

- 6.1 All applicants refused a place have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. The appeal panel will be independent of the Academy. The arrangements for appeals will be in line with the School Admissions Appeals Code published by the Department for Education. The determination of the appeal panel will be made in accordance with the Code and will be binding on all parties.
- 6.2 Those wishing to appeal can find out more information from the school admissions team of their Local Authority. For those living in Warwickshire, the information can be found here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-admissions-appeals/appeal-outcome-school-placement>

- 6.3 If applicants decide to appeal, they will receive an advance notice of the hearing date. They will be invited to attend the appeal. The hearing will be conducted as informally as possible, and there will be an opportunity for parents/carers to put forward their case and ask questions. If the appeal is refused, the Local Governing Body will not consider a further appeal for admission in the same academic year, unless there is a significant material change in circumstances of the parent or child.

7. Fair Access Protocol

- 7.1 The George Eliot Academy will participate in Warwickshire Local Authority's In-Year Fair Access Protocol in order to minimise the number of students who are at risk of underachievement by being out of school. This is reviewed by the local Admissions Forum on a regular basis.

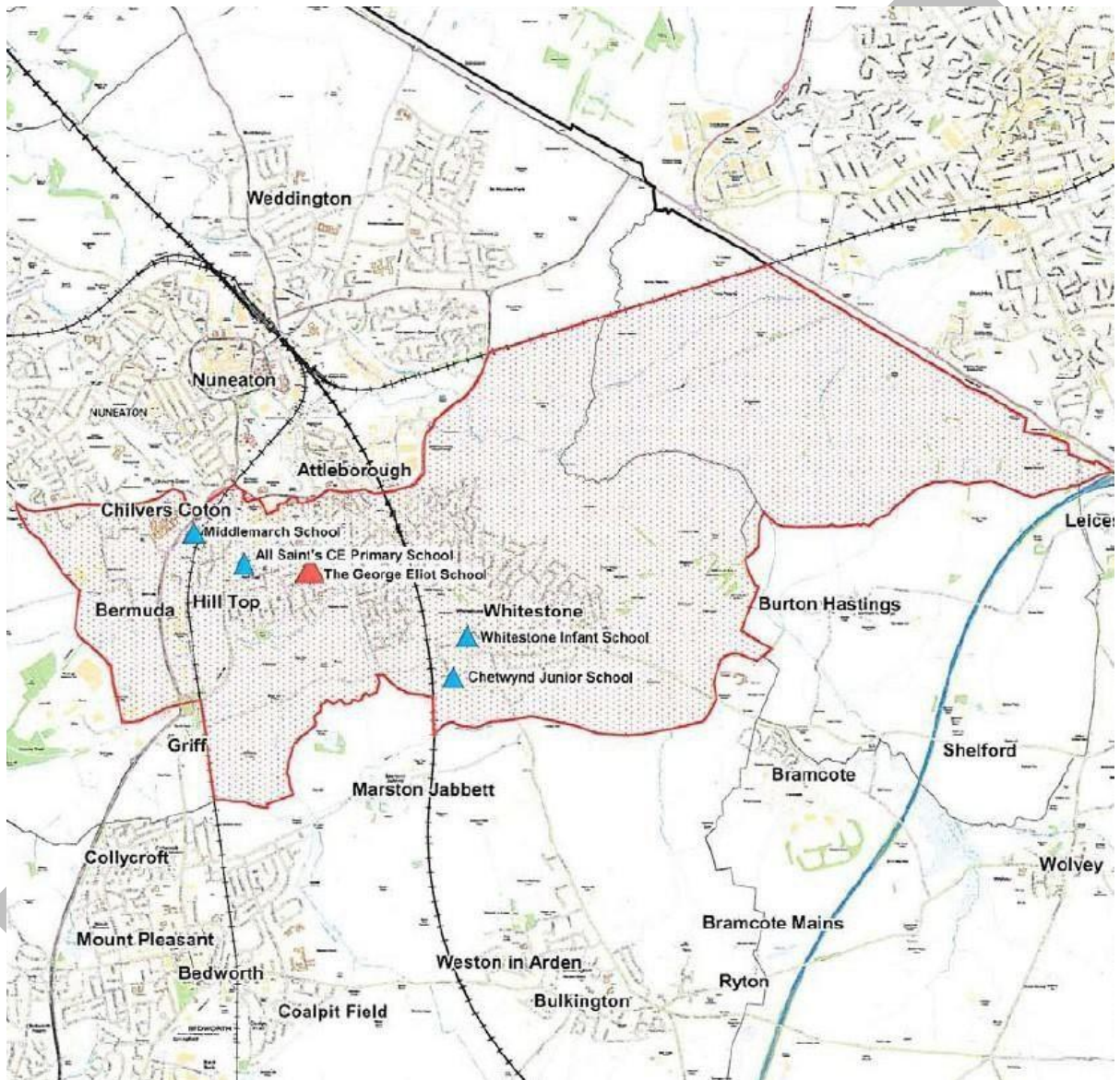
Notes and Definitions

ⁱ Looked After Child:

“Looked After Child” means any child who is in the care of a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. A child who was “previously a Looked After Child” means a child who after being Looked After became subject to an Adoption Order under the Adoption Act 1976 or under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, a Residence Order or Child Arrangement Order under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 or Special Guardianship Order under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify the previously looked after status of a child. It is at the discretion of the Academy Trust what evidence is required. The final decision will be made by the Academy Trust. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the Academy Trust to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Academy Trust may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify the previously looked after status of a child. It is at the discretion of the Academy Trust what evidence is required. The final decision will be made by the Academy Trust. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the Academy Trust to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Academy Trust may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.

ⁱⁱ The priority area is outlined below:



From the railway line crossing the A5 the boundary of the priority area follows the A5 as far as the boundary between the parishes of Stretton Baskerville and Burton Hastings. The priority area then follows this boundary as far as the Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal. The southern boundary is formed by the canal as far as the railway line, then up the railway line to the Wembrook and then following the Wembrook as far as the next railway line. The boundary then follows the railway line to the Coventry road following St. David's Way and Walsingham Drive. The Western boundary is formed by the edge of the Arbury estate. The Northern boundary is formed by

Heath End Road, College Street, Avenue Road and Eastboro Way as far as the railway line and railway line as far as the A5.

i. ¹ A **sibling** is defined as:

- i. A brother or sister who share one or both parents, whether or not resident in the same household
- ii. A half-brother or half-sister who share one common parent
- iii. A step brother or step sister where two children are related by a parent's marriage
- iv. An adopted or fostered child living in the same household under the terms of a residence order
- v. Another child normally in residence for the majority of time in the household for whom the adult in the household has parental responsibility and also has parental responsibility for the child currently attending the academy.
- vi. Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins, triplets etc. the admissions authority will normally offer a place to the other twin triplet etc. even if that means going over the admission number.

¹ A child's **home address** is considered to be the residential property where the child normally resides/sleeps when s/he attends academy. Addresses involved in child minding operations are excluded. Where a child lives with each of their split parents at separate addresses, the qualifying address will be the one where the child spends (i.e. sleeps) the majority of the school week. If the child spends exactly equal amounts of time in the two addresses the parents themselves will be asked to nominate which address, they wish to be the child's main address for school admission purposes. Where a school place is allocated on the basis of an address which is subsequently found to be different from the child's home address, that place is liable to be withdrawn. Applications made from the same multiple dwelling, sharing a single Postal Address File and/or where the distance from home to school is identical, where required, individual priority for such applicants within a particular criterion will be set by random allocation (lottery) with an independent person making the draw.

Distance will be calculated by the straight line measurement from the centre of the applicant's home address location (as set by Ordnance Survey) to the centre point ("centroid") of the preferred school. (All measurements are subject to prepositional accuracy changes). This applies equally to those living inside and outside the County's boundary. Applications made from the same multiple dwelling, sharing a single Postal Address File and/or where the distance from home to school is identical, where required, individual priority for such applicants within a particular criterion will be set by random allocation (lottery) with an independent person making the draw.