



George Eliot Academy

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Part of United Learning

Admissions Policy 2024-2025

George Eliot Academy



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Admissions Policy 2024 - 2025

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1. Definitions

George Eliot Academy Admissions Policy 2024-2025

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 6 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 www.georgeeliot.midlandat.co.uk and within the prospectus.

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

- a. Looked After Children and children who have been previously looked after. Looked after children are children who are (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 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) including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- 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 are 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 whose home address is nearer the address point of the academy's secondary site than any other maintained or academy secondary school provision as determined by the Local Authority's mapping system. 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

In the event of a tie-break being necessary within points b and e above, this will be conducted through the process of random allocation.

2.5 Late applications

All applications received up to and including 31 October 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 the following 1st March.

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. At 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. 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

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.

They have to again request to be able to apply for a place out of the normal age group. As above, 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 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.

1. Fair Access Protocol

- 1.1 The George Eliot Academy will participate in Warwickshire Local Authority's In Year Fair Access Protocol.

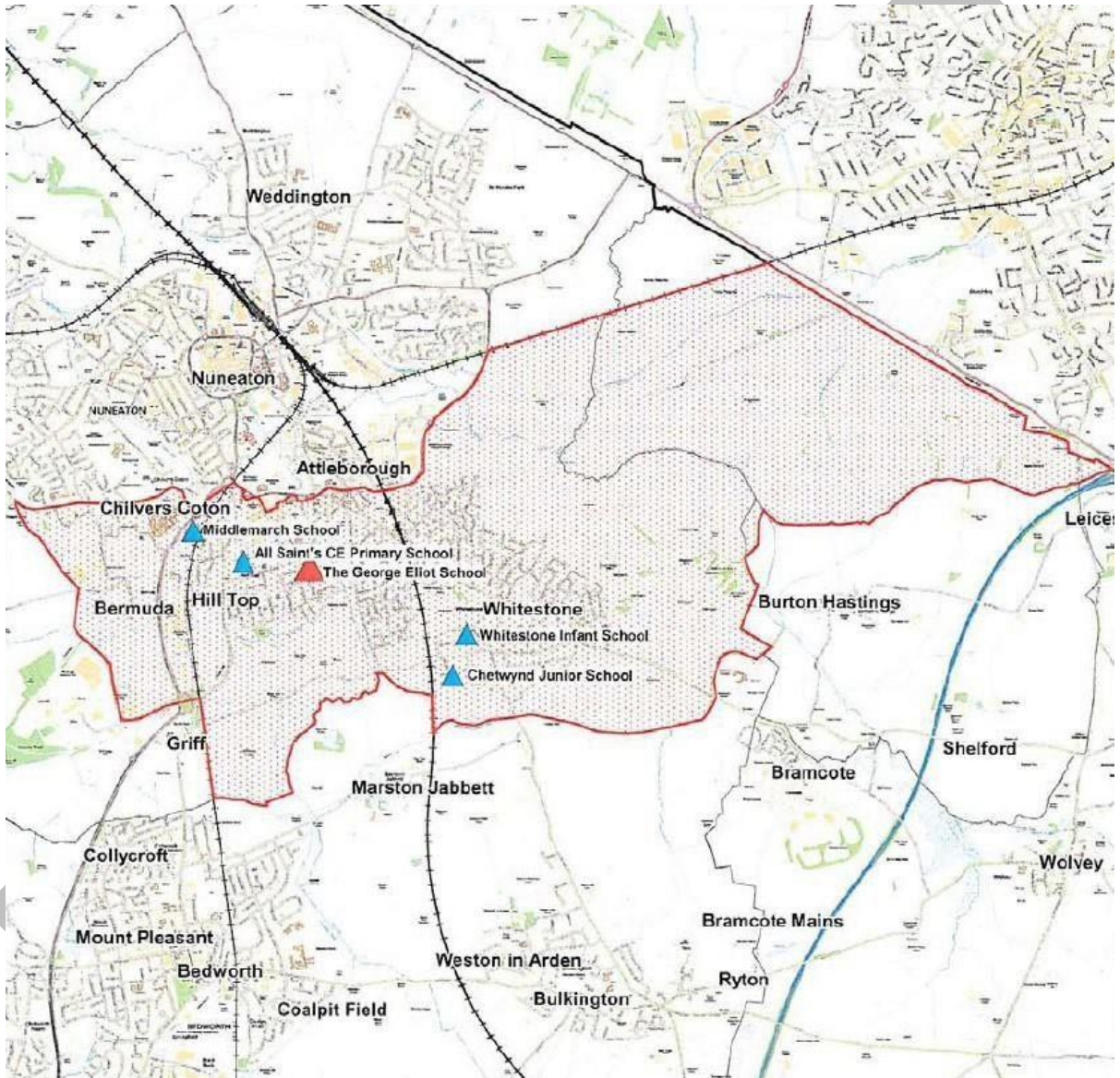
2. Appeals

- 2.1 There will be a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel for unsuccessful applicants. Should a parent wish to make an appeal, then full guidance on what to do, the form to be completed and the name of the organisation running the appeals process can be obtained by contacting the academy directly.

Definitions

i An **adoption order** is an order under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A '**residence order**' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

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.