



THE WINSTON CHURCHILL SCHOOL

Consultation on proposed changes to
admission arrangements for 2027-28

The Governing body of The Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, St John's, Woking, GU21 8TL have proposed a change to the Admissions arrangements for the academic year 2027-28 onwards.

The proposed change is:

- 1) To decrease the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 300 to 270.

Rationale:

To take account of the changing demographics locally and across Surrey.

To provide a greater deal of certainty regarding the school's expected budget, as budget planning at Winston covers a period of 5 years. This allows the school to make the necessary strategic changes to staffing- smoothing out the process.

To provide less 'churn' within the local schools, particularly in Year 7.

It does not prevent the school from accepting more than 270 children on roll to support the needs of Surrey County Council, as we have done in the past.

The proposed change will enable the school to focus resources more effectively to improve outcomes for our students.

Government predictions are that the number of pupils will be 3,135,086 in secondary schools by 2030, an expected fall of 97,000 from the population in 2025:

- The population attending primary and nursery schools peaked in 2019 and the figures have been gradually falling since then. This is primarily due to the number of births generally falling since 2012.
- Since 2018, the population in secondary schools had been steadily increasing by around 2% a year until 2023 where it then slowed down to a 1.3% increase in 2024. The latest census shows a 0.1% decrease in 2025. Projections data indicate that the secondary school population is likely to have plateaued between 2024 and 2025, will remain at a similar level until 2026, and is then projected to start declining slowly. This is two years earlier than the peak projected last year but may be subject to change if pupil numbers bounce back, fluctuate, or plateau for a few years.
- The population in state-funded special schools has seen year on year increase of 6% between 2018 and 2022 and 5% since 2023. Projections data indicate that numbers are expected to peak in 2026 - 2027.

Actual and projected nursery & primary and secondary school population from 2025 to 2030				
				FTE
All	State nursery and primary	Actual	2025	4,505,330
		Projected	2026	4,455,598
			2027	4,398,878
			2028	4,318,867
			2029	4,253,646
			2030	4,205,117
	State secondary	Actual	2025	3,231,858
		Projected	2026	3,232,534
			2027	3,226,078
			2028	3,208,213
			2029	3,171,772
			2030	3,135,086

([National pupil projections, Reporting year 2025 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#))

Woking is predicted to have one of the highest projected percentage population declines between 2018-28 ([Subnational population projections for England - Office for National Statistics](#)). Latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show the total fertility rate in Woking stood at 1.51 children per woman in 2024, down from 1.52 in 2023. Overall, the fertility rate for England and Wales has dropped for the third year in a row and is the lowest figure since records began in 1938.

The school has worked hard to achieve PAN for several years due to the decreasing student numbers and the movement of students into other schools or out of the area; including Service families.

Please share this information with any parents or individuals who might have an interest in the admission arrangements, for example:

- Private, voluntary, and independent nurseries
- School nurseries
- Parent groups
- Youth groups and clubs
- Community and children's centres
- Resident groups
- Parish and Town Councils

The consultation will run from 3rd October 2025 to 16th November 2025, comments should be e-mailed to admissions@wcsc.org.uk with the heading 'WCSC Consultation 27-28 Response' before the closing date.

Included in this document:
Admissions criteria 2027-28
Catchment map
Supplementary Information Form



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
THE WINSTON CHURCHILL SCHOOL
A FOUNDATION SCHOOL
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In accordance with The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admissions Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, the Governors of The Winston Churchill give notice that they have adopted the following admission arrangements for students who will be admitted to Year 7 in the school year commencing in September 2027.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION 2027-28

Should the number of applicants exceed the 270 places available for admissions into Year 7 in September 2027, those who expressed a preference for The Winston Churchill School will be considered in the following order of priority:

1. Looked After Children, Previously Looked After children and Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Children
2. Children who have an older sibling still attending the school at date of application
3. Children with major medical, social, compassionate, or family need
4. Up to 41 specialist places will be available to children who live outside of the admission area
5. Children who are eligible for the Service Children in Education Premium
6. Children of staff who are employed at the school
7. Children living within the admission area shown on a map by a line which indicates the area which the school is principally designed to serve
8. Children living outside the admission area identified under criterion 7

Children with an Educational Health & Care Plan that name the school, are treated in accordance with the DCSF Code of Practice on Admissions & Special Educational Needs as stated in Section 324 of the Education Act 1996

NOTES:

a) Priority 1

Looked After Children, Previously Looked After children and Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Children will be considered to be:

Children who are in the care of the Local Authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 (e.g., fostered or living in a children's home at the time an application for a school is made; and

Children who have previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989, and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangements order (in accordance with section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and families Act 2014) or Special Guardianship Order (in accordance with section 14A of the Children Act 1989); and

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. A child will be regarded as having been in state care 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. The parent/carer will need to provide evidence to demonstrate that the child was in state care outside of England and left that care as a result of being adopted.

b) Priority 2

Siblings are defined as: brother or sister (i.e., another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), or a half-brother/half-sister, or a step-brother/step-sister, or an adoptive or foster brother/sister living at the same address.

c) Priority 3

To support exceptional circumstances in priority 3, written evidence will be required, from a doctor and/or consultant for medical cases, or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for other social circumstances. This evidence should confirm the reasons for the application and indicate why The Winston Churchill School would be the most appropriate school for the child to attend. *This evidence should be provided at the time of the application.*

d) Priority 4

When an application for a specialist place is made, the school will offer:

Up to 26 places based on the marks achieved in tests of English and Mathematics. The test measures the student's verbal, non-verbal and mathematical skills. The computer-based test will be taken at the school in the year prior to admission only. The application will be awarded the criteria if the assessment threshold is met. Parents will be informed of the outcome before the closing date for Surrey County Council applications.

Up to 15 places to pupils with an aptitude for music. This will require the applicants to take an aural test and take part in two other musical activities designed to assess their overall musicality. Children will be required to perform something they have pre-prepared. These tests will be taken at the school in the year prior to admission only. Parents will be informed of the outcome before the closing date for the Surrey County Council applications.

Applications made under this criterion will need to be supported by our Supplementary Form (SIF) available from our website, which should be returned to the school by the date indicated on the form.

e) Priority 5

Children of parent(s) who are currently serving in the UK regular armed forces or have parent(s) who died serving in the UK regular armed forces and are in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or War Pension Scheme are eligible for the Service Children in Education Premium.

Applications made under this criterion will need to be supported by our Supplementary Information Form (SIF) available from our website, together with a letter from The Commanding Officer/Welfare Officer or copy of War Pension. The letter and SIF should be submitted at the time of application.

f) Priority 6

Children of all staff (teaching and support) who have been employed at the school for more than two years. The date that will be used to assess the length of time that a member of staff has been employed, will be the closing date for applications.

Applications made under this criterion will need to be supported by our Supplementary Information Form (SIF) available from our website. The SIF should be submitted at the time of application.

g) Priority 7 and 8

In both cases, applications will be ranked against distance from school. The distance is measured in a straight line from the address point of the pupil's home, as set by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school gate available for pupils to use. This is calculated using the School Admissions team's Geographical Information System. When calculating the distance, the address at the closing date of application will apply, unless a change of address for good reason has been accepted by the Home Local Authority.

The home address excludes any business or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence. It also excludes any relative's address unless the child lives at that address as their normal place of residence.

In the case of formal equal shared custody, it will be up to the parents to agree which address to use. In other cases, it is where the child spends most of their time.

We will not generally accept a temporary address if the main carer of the child still possesses or rents a property that has previously been used as a home address, nor will we accept a temporary address if we believe it has been used solely or mainly to obtain a school place when an alternative address is still available to that child.

h) Tie-Breaker and multiple births

In the event of over-subscription within any criterion, children living nearest the school will be given higher priority. The distance is measured in a straight line from the address point of the pupil's home, as set by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school gate available for pupils to use. This is calculated using the School Admissions team's Geographical Information System. When calculating the distance, the address at the closing date of application will apply, unless a change of address for good reason has been accepted by the Home Local Authority.

Where two or more children share a priority for a place, for example, two or more children live equidistant from the school, lots will be drawn to determine which child should be given priority.

i) Late Applicants

Late applications will be considered in accordance with Surrey's Coordinated Admission Scheme.

j) Waiting List

Unsuccessful applicants are not automatically placed on our waiting list. Parents need to contact the school (during term time) by emailing admissions@wcsc.org.uk. Waiting lists will operate according to the oversubscription criteria without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list and are automatically cleared at the end of every term. To remain on the waiting list parents should contact the school before the end of each term.

k) In Year Applications

In Year applications must be made directly to Surrey County Council. Information on how to do this can be found on our website or Surrey County Council's website.

Unsuccessful applicants are not automatically placed on our waiting list. Parents need to contact the school (during term time) by emailing admissions@wcsc.org.uk. Waiting lists will operate according to the oversubscription criteria without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list. Waiting lists are automatically cleared at the end of every term. To remain on the list parents should contact the school before the end of each term.

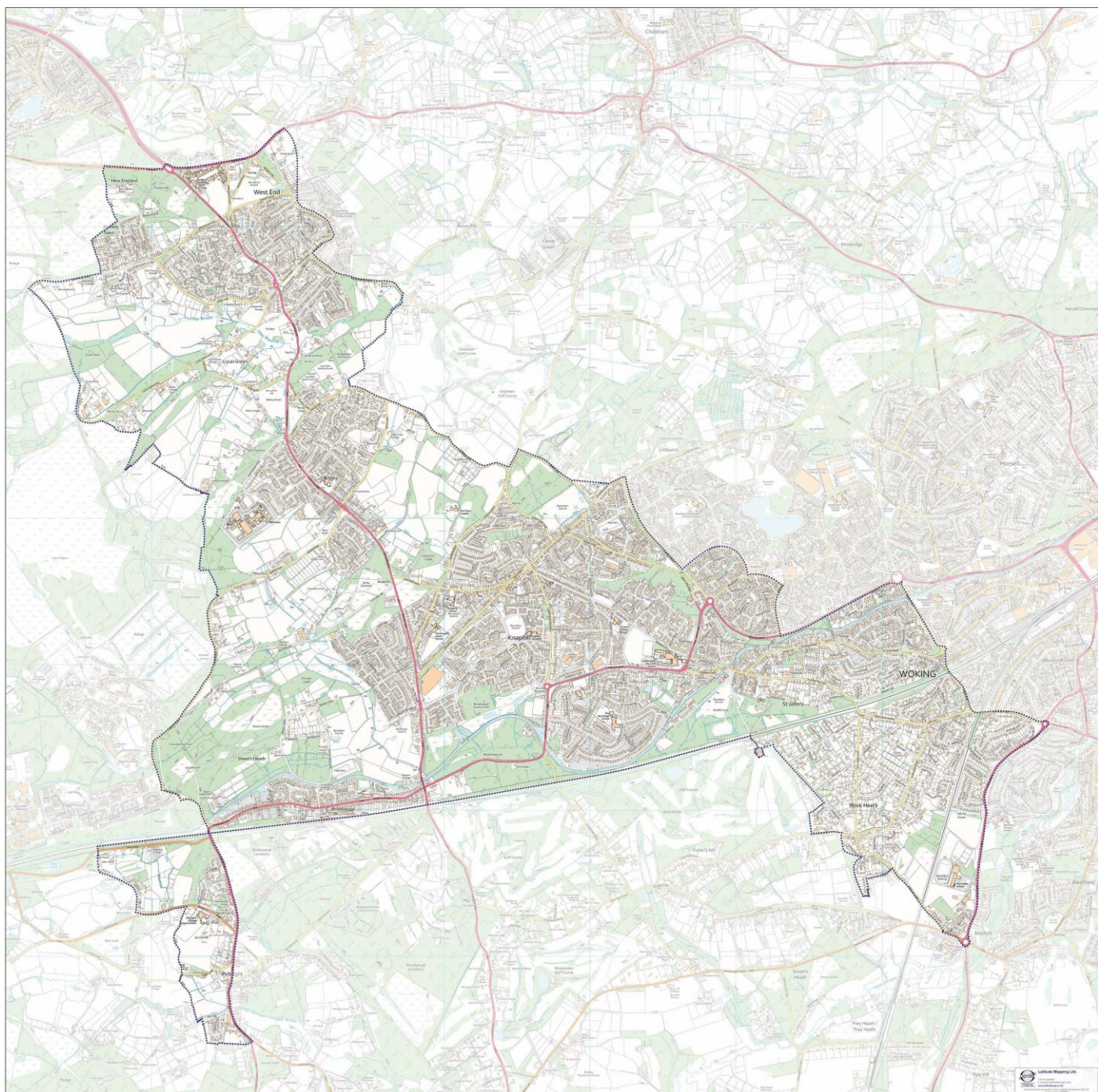
l) Out of Year Applications

Applicants may choose to seek a place outside their child's chronological (correct) year group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and what is in the best interests of the child concerned.

Applicants who are applying for their child to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, should initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age. If, in liaison with the Headteacher, governors agree for the child to have a decelerated entry to the school the place cannot be deferred and instead the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the decelerated cohort.

Applicants who are applying for their child to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If, in liaison with the Headteacher, governors agree for the child to have an accelerated entry to the school, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry to the school, the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort.

Applicants must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interest and provide what evidence they have to support this. More information on educating children out of their chronological year group and the process for making such requests is available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.



The Winston Churchill School Catchment Map, web version available at:

[WCS-Catchment-Map-Web-Version-4000.png \(4000×4000\) \(wcsc.org.uk\)](http://wcsc.org.uk/WCS-Catchment-Map-Web-Version-4000.png)



The Winston Churchill School

Supplementary Information Form

(For applications under Admission Criteria 4, 5 or 6 **only**)

Please complete and return this form to The Winston Churchill School via email to: admissions@wcsc.org.uk

I wish to apply for a place at The Winston Churchill School for my child under one of the criteria below:

Please tick **ONE**

Academic ability	
Music ability	
Eligible for Service Children in Education Premium	
Child of staff employed at the school	
Name of staff member:	
Length of service:	

Information about your child (PLEASE PRINT)

Surname:	Forename(s):		
Date of Birth:	Male ☐	Female ☐	
Child's Permanent Home Address:			
Postcode: _____			
Parent/Carer Full Name and Salutation:			
Parent/Carer Email Address:			
Parent/Carer daytime contact telephone number (for emergency use):			

Year 7 Intake applications for Academic or Music criteria must be submitted directly to the school between 1st-30th September. Details of the test/audition will be sent via email in late September/early October.

For Service and Staff criteria this form should be submitted at the time of application.

The school reserves the right to verify the information given on this form. Any offer of a place based on fraudulent information will be withdrawn.

Signed (Parent/Carer): _____ Date: _____