

<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Admissions Arrangements for Entry to School 2026/27</b>
<b>Author/Owner (Name and Title)</b>	Executive Director
<b>Version Number</b>	V1
<b>Date Approved</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2025
<b>Approved By</b>	Board of Trustees

<b>Policy Category</b>  (Please Indicate)	<b>1</b>	Trust/Academies to use without amendment
	<b>2</b>	Academy specific appendices
	<b>3</b>	<b>Academy personalisation required (in highlighted fields)</b>

# Admissions Arrangements for Entry to School in Year 7 in 2026/27

Name of School: Sir Thomas Wharton Academy

## 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 students who apply
- Explain how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place

## LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS:

An overview of the legal requirements around Admission to Secondary School is provided on the Academy website for additional information for parents/carers.

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

- School Admissions Code
- 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 This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## INTRODUCTION

As the school is an academy status school, the **Maltby Learning Trust** is the Admissions Authority and has the responsibility to set admissions arrangements for the school in compliance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

The below sets out the admissions arrangements for entry to Year 7 in September 2026 and includes the oversubscription criteria that will be applied in the event that there are more applications than places available.

Where the published admission number for the school is likely to be reached mid category, places will be prioritised within that category by reference to the distance between the home address and the school. Highest priority will be given to those who, on 31st October 2025, live closest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (commonly known as a measurement, "as the crow flies"). Distance measurements are calculated (by the Local Authority Admissions Team) using a Geographical Information System which applies seed points as determined by Ordnance Survey. Measurements are taken from the seed point of the ordinary place of residence to the seed point of the school. Where the school has more than one seed point, the seed point closest to the geographical centre of the school site is used.

Where places are being allocated based on the distance criteria or as part of the distance tie breaker, and there are insufficient places within the admission number for two (or more) children living in the same building (e.g. flats) or otherwise equidistant from the school, then any final place will be allocated by the simple drawing of lots by a representative of the Local Authority independent of the School Admissions Team.

Where applications are received for twins, triplets, siblings born in the same academic year etc these will be treated equally as there is nothing within the admission criteria to distinguish between them.

Places will be allocated in accordance with the LA's co-ordinated admissions schemes for Secondary schools. In assessing preferences, the LA will operate an 'equal preference' system, which means that no priority will be given according to the ranking of the preference, except where a

potential offer can be made in respect of more than one school. In that situation, the final offer of a place will be made at the highest preferred school as named on the application form of the potential offer schools.

Children issued with an Education and Health Care Plan will gain a place at the school named in the plan as part of that process.

## CATCHMENT AREA

Information on the catchment area for the school can be obtained by contacting the School Organisation Team on (01709) 254831 or on the Local Authority website at:

[School catchment areas - City of Doncaster Council](#)

**For our schools catchment areas list of streets** – Please see the school website 'Admissions' section for the most up to date list of streets that make up our catchment area.

## APPLICATIONS

Parents/carers should submit their secondary school application by the National closing date of **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025** to ensure their application is considered as an on time application in the first round of school offers.

[School admissions - City of Doncaster Council](#)

**The Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry to Year 7 for the 2026/27 Academic Year is:**

**Sir Thomas Wharton Academy                      210**

In the event that there are more applications than places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied:

### **Admissions Criteria**

#### **A) Children with Special Educational Needs:**

A small number of children will have an Education Health Care Plan that names the school and these children must be admitted to the school if named as part of that process.

The majority of children with special educational needs will not require an Education Health Care Plan. Applications for children who have special educational needs but no Education Health Care Plan, will be considered on the basis of the Admission Authority's published admissions criteria.

#### **B) For all other applications places will be allocated in the following order of priority:**

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children (see note (a) below for the full definition).

2. Children who, on 31st October 2025, live in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Admission Authority and it is expected will have an older brother or sister on the roll of this school in Years 8-11 at the start of the academic year 2025 (see notes (b), (c) and (d) below)
3. Children who, on 31st October 2025, live in the catchment area of this school as defined by the Admission Authority (see note (b) below)
4. Children who, on 31st October 2025, it is expected will have an older sibling on the roll of this school in Years 8-11 at the start of the academic year 2026 (see notes (c) and (d) below)
5. Children who, on 31st October 2025, are on the roll of one of our associated primary/ junior/junior and infant catchment area schools (feeder schools) as identified by the Admissions Authority. (see note (f) below)
6. Children who, on 31st October 2025, live nearest to the school measured by a straight line on a horizontal plane, (commonly known as a measurement "as the crow flies").

**Please Note:**

In the event of over-subscription (the PAN being reached) within any criterion, preference will be given to children who live nearest to the school 'as the crow flies'.

Distance measurements are calculated (by the Local Authority Admissions Team) using GIS which applies seed points as determined by Ordnance Survey. Measurements are taken from the seed point of the ordinary place of residence to the seed point of the school. Where the school has more than one seed point, the seed point closest to the geographical centre of the school site is used. In the event of two distances being equal, lots will be drawn by a representative independent of the admission authority.

## NOTES

- a) A 'relevant Looked After Child' is a child that is looked after by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to a school is made, and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when he/she is admitted to the 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). All references to previously looked after children in the Code mean such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those 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.

- b) Places will be allocated based on your residential address on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. Therefore, you must notify the Local Authority Admissions Team in writing if you change address before this date. You may be asked to provide proof of residence (e.g. utility/council tax bill). Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residency at the property concerned. The School / Trust / Local Authority reserves the right to request an affidavit where there is uncertainty regarding a child's ordinary place of residence.

- c) For a child to be considered a sibling, one of the following conditions must exist: (you may be asked to provide proof e.g., Birth Certificate and proof of residence)
- Brother/sister to be permanently resident at the same address.
  - Stepbrother/stepmother to be permanently resident at the same address.
  - Half-brother/half-sister to be permanently resident at the same address.
  - Brother/sister who do not live at the same residence but, who share the same parents.
  - Child of the parent/carer's partner to be permanently resident at the same address.
  - Adopted brother/sister permanently resident at the same address.
  - Foster brother/sister resident at the same address
- d) Children with an older sibling on the roll of the school who will be in **Years 8-11** for the commencement of the 2026/27 academic year and are on the roll of the school on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.
- e) Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces) – For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to their area, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in that area, admission authorities must allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address when considering the application against their oversubscription criteria. This must include accepting a Unit postal address or quartering area address for a service child. Admission authorities must not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area, or reserve blocks of places for these children.
- f) **The Associated Primary (Feeder) Schools are:**

**STWA:** Edlington Victoria, Warmsworth Primary, Hill Top, Wadworth Primary, Tickhill Estfeld, Tickhill St. Mary's C of E

## WAITING LISTS

On the National Offer Day of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 (or first working day after where the 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a weekend), the Local Authority Admissions Team will establish a waiting list for secondary schools in Rotherham where the number of applications for those schools has exceeded the available places in Year 7.

The Local Authority Admissions Team will administer the waiting list on behalf of this school which will operate until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026 when it will cease.

The child's name will automatically be put on the waiting list for a school where they have not been made an offer of a place and where that school is named as a higher preference than the school at which an offer has been made.

Children's positions on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, with no reference to the date of receipt of the application. The waiting list will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list. Should a place become available it will be allocated to the child whose name is at the top of the waiting list on the day that the Local Authority receives written confirmation of the vacancy.

## IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS – TRANSFERRING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Any application for an in-year school transfer should be made via the Local Authority Admissions Team in the first instance. The Local Authority will co-ordinate in-year transfers for most of the schools in Doncaster. Further information and the relevant application form is available on the Authority website:

[Secondary admissions - City of Doncaster Council](#)

A paper copy of the application form can be requested from the Admissions Team:

Email: [admissions@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@doncaster.gov.uk)

If you are moving homes, please apply in advance of your move to reduce the risk of your child being out of school while your application is processed. You will need to provide details of your new address and when you intend to move.

You are advised to discuss your transfer request with a member of staff at your child's present school.

The Local Authority Admissions Team will record all in-year transfer applications and will forward your application via secure email for consideration by the relevant Admissions Authority.

- Applications received will be forwarded to preferred schools on the day of receipt where possible, or the following working (school) day.
- Applications received during a weekend or bank holiday or during school holidays will be forwarded to the preferred schools on the next working (school) day.

It is not possible to process any applications during school holidays and your application will be considered as soon as schools re-open. Schools are required to respond to in-year transfer requests within a **maximum of 15 school days** from receipt of the application therefore, although in-year applications may be forwarded to schools during school holiday periods, it is unlikely that you will be notified of the outcome of your application until schools re-open and the 15 school day response time commences.

In many cases a child will transfer to a new school only at the beginning of a new term, unless there is agreement by all concerned that the transfer should take place earlier. Until the transfer arrangements have been approved it is expected that your child will continue to attend their present school.

Parents can make applications up to one term before the date when they would like their child to start at the preferred school. Parents can apply from the 1st May onwards for Admission in the following September. Any application for admission in the following

September which is received prior to this date will be considered as having been received on 1st May.

You will be notified in writing of the outcome of your application. This decision will usually be sent on behalf of the Governing Body (as the Admissions Authority) by the Local Authority Admissions Team.

It should be noted that it is the Local Authority's policy that repeat applications made for entry to the same year group at the same school will not be considered unless there has been a significant and material change of circumstances which is relevant to the application for admission.

## INFORMATION ON APPEALS

Where it is not possible to offer your child a place at the school you have applied for, you will receive a letter advising you of the reasons for this decision. This will usually be sent on behalf of the Governing Body / Trustees (as the Admissions Authority) by the Local Authority Admissions Team.

All parents/carers have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel if you have received written confirmation that it has not been possible to offer your child a place at the schools you have applied for.

All independent appeals are organised by an Appeals Clerk and follow procedures, which are set out in legislation and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice. The Appeals Clerk, Panel and process are independent of the Admissions Authority.

Important requirements to note are:

- Appeals must be in writing stating the grounds on which the appeal is made.
- Every parent/carer has the right to attend the independent appeal in order to make their case.
- Parents/carers can be accompanied by a friend or be represented by them.
- Independent appeals are heard in private.
- The decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on both parents and the Admissions Authority.
- Parents/carers will receive written notification of the Appeals Panel decision.
- Dates – (parents will be advised at the earliest opportunity of appeal dates by the Clerk)

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON APPEALS

A separate document containing details of the appeals procedure is available from the Local Authority to parents whose applications could not be satisfied.

Any member of the Authority may attend, as an observer, any hearing by an Independent Appeal Panel established by the Authority.

Parents/carers will be given at least 14 days written notice of the date, time and place of the appeal hearing and will receive prior to the appeal, written documentation summarising the reasons for refusing the admission.

If a parent/carer does not attend the appeal or is not represented by another person the hearing may be held and the case dealt with in the absence of the parent using only the written documentation submitted.

In some cases, parents/carers who are not successful at the appeal occasionally consider applying again for the same school in the same academic year. Unless there has been a significant and material change of circumstances which is relevant to the application for admission, the Authority is not required to reconsider its decision and therefore parents do not have the right of another appeal.

Further information is available on the Local Authority website.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS - City of Doncaster Council**

Civic Office

Waterdale

Doncaster

DN1 3BU

Email: [admissions@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@doncaster.gov.uk)

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY APPEALS**

[Admission appeals - City of Doncaster Council](#)

Email: [admissionappeals@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:admissionappeals@doncaster.gov.uk)

*Policy approved by Maltby Learning Trust*