**Dereham Neatherd High School**
**Admissions Consultation Document**

**Proposed Admission Arrangements for September 2027**

## 1. Introduction

Dereham Neatherd High School is consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for entry in **September 2027**. We are required to hold an admissions consultation at least once every seven years in accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021). This particular consultation applies to admissions to Year 7 and for in-year admissions during the **2027–28 academic year.**

This document sets out the proposed Published Admission Number (PAN), oversubscription criteria, and associated admission processes. Stakeholders—including parents, carers, local schools, the local authority, diocesan bodies, and the wider community—are invited to comment on these arrangements.

The consultation period will run from Friday 21st November 2025 to Friday 16th January 2026, after which responses will be reviewed and final admission arrangements will be determined and published.

## 2. Published Admission Number (PAN)

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry into Year 7 in **September 2027** is proposed to be **175** places.

This is the planned maximum number of pupils that the school will admit into Year 7 for the 2027–28 academic year. This figure has been recommended to the school by Norfolk County Council, using forecasts based on the actual number of children in that cohort currently attending schools in our catchment area.

## 3. Oversubscription Criteria

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

**Priority 1**: **Looked-after and Previously Looked-after Children**
Children who are looked after by a local authority, or children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted, became subject to a child arrangements order, or a special guardianship order, and who are due to transfer.

**Priority 2**: **Siblings**
Children who have a sibling on roll at Dereham Neatherd High School at the time of proposed admission. A sibling includes a brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, step-sibling, or child of the parent/carer's partner, living permanently at the same address.

**Priority 3**: **Children of Staff**

Children of staff employed at Dereham Neatherd High School. To qualify under this criterion *EITHER* the staff member must have been employed at the school for at least one year at the date of application *OR* the school must be able to demonstrate a recruitment issue for the post held by that member of staff.

**Priority 4**: **Children Living in the Area Served by the School**
Children who are due to transfer and who live within the school's designated catchment area.

**Priority 5**: **Children Outside the Area Served by the School Attending a Direct Feeder School**
Children who are due to transfer, who live outside the catchment area, and who attend one of the following direct feeder schools at the opening date of the admission round:

- Dereham Church of England Junior Academy
- Garvestone Primary School
- Hockering Church of England Primary Academy
- Mattishall Primary School
- North Elmham Church of England Primary Academy
- Scarning VC Primary School
- Swanton Morley VC Primary School
- Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary Academy
- Toftwood Community Junior School
- Yaxham Church of England Primary Academy

**Priority 6**: **Other Children Living Outside the Area Served by the School**
Children who are due to transfer and who live outside the school's catchment area and do not meet any of the criteria above.

**Notes:**

- Note 1: Siblings:

Children will be deemed to be siblings if they are half, full or adoptive brother or sister or if they are children of the same household with the same parents. They must be on the roll of the school at the time of application and expected to still be on roll at the point of entry.

- Note 2: Multiple Births:

Where an application is being submitted for a child who has a sibling (or siblings) in the same year group it will be the policy of the Local Governing Body not to offer a place to one child without the sibling(s) of the same age group. In these circumstances, governors may determine to exceed the number of places temporarily on the understanding that this will not create a new admission number and, as soon as children leave, they will revert to the published number.

- Note 3: Split residence:

In determining the home residence, where children live part of the week with one parent and part with another, Governors will need to make a judgment about where the majority of time is spent. In making this judgment they will have specific regard to where children live during the week rather than at weekends, any legal agreement concerning care and residence, and which parent is in receipt of the child benefit.

**4. Tie-breaker: Distance Measurement**

If the number of children meeting any criterion exceeds the number of available places, priority will be given to those living nearest to the school, measured on a straight-line (as the crow flies) basis. Distances will be calculated using Ordnance Survey data.

Where two applicants live an equal distance from the school, the offer of a place will be decided by an independently supervised random process.

**5. In-Year Admissions**

In-year admissions will be managed in accordance with the Local Authority's coordinated in-year admissions scheme. Applicants should visit Norfolk's School Admissions website for further information: https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/movingschools

**6. Right of Appeal**

Parents and carers whose applications are unsuccessful have the right to appeal to an independent admissions appeal panel. Information about the appeals process will be provided at the time of notification of refusal.

**7. How to Respond to the Consultation**

Comments on these proposed admission arrangements should be sent to:

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The consultation closes on Friday 16th January 2026. All responses will be considered before the final admission arrangements are determined and published by 28 February 2026, in line with statutory requirements.