



Spires Academy

Admission Policy

2019-2020

Admission to Spires Academy – September 2019

If you wish to apply for a place at Spires Academy, you will be required to nominate us as one of your preferences on the Common Application Form. Information and application forms are available online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or through your child's primary school.

We participate in the Kent Co-ordinated Scheme for Transfer to Year 7 as determined by Kent County Council (KCC) as a local Authority.

Spires Academy Admission Arrangements for entrance into Year 7

The academy published admission number (PAN) is 150.

The Trustees welcome applications from parents/carers who fully subscribe to our ethos and are prepared to support us in our drive for ever improving standards. Spires is a non-selective and inclusive Academy and welcomes students regardless of their aptitude or ability. The Trustee board is the Admissions Authority and as such is responsible for the administration of the admissions arrangements and for any appeals.

If the number of applications for places at the academy is greater than the admission number (150) applications will be considered against the criteria set below.

After the admission of children with statements of special educational needs/Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), where the Academy is named in part IV of the statement/recorded in the Plan, we will use the following factors, in priority order, to decide which students will be given places:

1. Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is (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).

2. Current Family Association

A brother or sister attending the school when the child starts. In this context brother or sister means children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

3. Medical, health, social and special access reasons

In accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equalities Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents' or guardians' physical or mental health or social needs means that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the school.

4. Distance of home from the Academy

Nearness of children's homes to school - we use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for an oversubscribed Community or Voluntary Controlled school, these straight-line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school.

A permanent home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only main residence and not an address at which the child might sometimes stay or sleep due to your own domestic or special arrangements. The address must be the child's home address on the day you completed your application form.

If you live separately from your partner but share responsibility for your child and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of the weekdays.

Sixth form Admissions arrangements

Priority will be given to existing students transferring from Year 11 who meet the entrance criteria. Admission to the sixth form will be as a result of applicants obtaining a minimum 5 GCSE passes at grade D or above and C grades in their preferred Advanced subjects or nearest equivalents.

The admission number for external candidates will be 10, but this figure may be exceeded in the event that this and the number of internal students transferring into Year 12 is less than the overall figure for the year group, which is 75.

Oversubscription

Following the admission of internal students transferring from Year 11 students, all remaining places will be allocated to learners who have met the entry requirements for the particular course of study. Where there are more learners seeking places than the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied in the order set out below to rank pupils until the overall figure for the year group is reached:

1. Children in Local Authority Care
2. Current Family Association
3. Medical, health, social and special access reasons
4. Distance

In the event of a tie breaker situation, the nearness of an applicant's home to school will be the decider.

If in the event that more than one applicant has the same distance from home to school (as measured by the local authority), then a random selection will be applied.

After a place has been offered the school reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

- a. When the parent or learner has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
- b. When a parent or learner has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- c. The admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from the parent or learner.

Offers and Appeals

Offers will be made on the basis of predicted performance at GCSE, with the requirement that the above grades are achieved in the final examinations prior to entry to the Sixth Form and the pupil's chosen subjects being accommodated on the timetable, in feasible group sizes.

All offers made during Year 11 are conditional on pupils meeting the grade criteria specified and will only become firm offers upon confirmation of actual GCSE results.

Offer letters will be made before the end of May. Offers will be confirmed once the school has been notified of GCSE results in August.

Where learners have achieved better result than the predicted grades they will be considered based on the grades achieved and ranked accordingly for any places that become available as a result of other learners failing to meet the required entry levels.

Parents have a statutory right of appeal, should an application for a place be refused, by writing to The Clerk to the Governors, care of the school.

Late applications will be considered if places in appropriate subjects are still available after all other applicants have been considered.

A waiting list will be held, ranked according to the over-subscription criteria.

Casual Admissions

Any application for a Casual 'In Year' Admission should be made directly to the Academy.

The application will be considered according to our published admission criteria. It is likely that the previous school will be contacted for a report and the parent and student invited into the Academy for an informal interview and tour of the facilities.

Spires Academy works in collaboration with all Canterbury Schools in regards to the agreed Fair Access Protocols. Where the application is from a child who may be considered 'hard to place' the LA Admission's officer will be informed and the application may be referred to the In Year Fair access panel. (As per The Schools Admissions Code 2014).