



The Halifax Academy

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Admissions Policy for 2026 -27

Policy Intent

At The Halifax Academy, we welcome all pupils, and places at the school are offered in an open, fair, clear and objective manner. We work to the principle that any parent/carer accessing our admissions arrangements will be able to understand easily how places for the school will be allocated and will not be alienated or discouraged from applying based on admissions criteria.

The table below sets out who the admission authority is and other responsible bodies in our school.

Type of school	Who is the admission authority?	Who deals with complaints about arrangements?	Who is responsible for arranging/providing for an appeal against refusal of a place at the school?
Academy	Impact Education Multi Academy Trust	Schools Adjudicator	Impact Education Multi Academy Trust

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and statutory requirements.....	2
3. Definitions	2
4. How to apply	3
5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group	3
6. Allocation of places.....	3
7. In-year admissions.....	6
8. Appeals	7
9. Monitoring arrangements.....	7



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The Halifax Academy, Gibbet Street,
Halifax, HX2 0BA

Primary
01422 430480 | primary@thehalifaxacademy.org
The Halifax Academy, Spring Hall Lane,
Halifax, HX1 4TW



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1. Aims

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

2. Legislation and statutory requirements

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

- [School Admissions Code 2021](#)
- [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.

3. Definitions

The **Academy/School** referred to in this document is The Halifax Academy (Secondary), Gibbet Street, Halifax, HX2 0BA and The Halifax Academy (Primary), Spring Hall Lane, Halifax, HX1 4TW.

Normal Admissions

The normal admissions round is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

Looked after children

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

Previously looked after children

Previously looked after children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
 - Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
 - Became subject to a special guardianship order
- This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted

Compulsory school age

A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their fifth birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.



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Parent

A parent is any individual who holds parental responsibility, as defined under the Children Act 1989, or any person who has care of a child, where the child lives with them either full or part time and they look after that child.

Distance

Distance is measured in a straight line from a child's home address to the school. Measurements are calculated using six-figure National Grid Co-ordinates from the National Land and Property Gazetteer. This grid reference relates to a point that falls within the permanent building structure corresponding to the address. The boundary of the building structure for the address is from Ordnance Survey's Master Map. For smaller, residential properties the grid reference marks a point near the centre of the building. For larger properties like schools with, for example, multiple buildings and large grounds, the grid reference relates to a point inside the main addressable building structure. The distance calculated is accurate to within 1 metre.

4. How to apply

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by your home local authority (regardless of which local authority the schools are in) by the closing date of 15 January 2025. You can use this form to express your preference for a maximum of 3 state-funded schools (in Calderdale), in rank order. Other local authorities may allow you to express a preference for more than three preferences.

Applications received after the closing date will be deemed to be late unless there are significant and exceptional reasons for the lateness. Proof of special circumstances will be required. Late applicants are allocated a place after all on time applicants have been allocated a place.

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from your home local authority.

The Local Authorities will coordinate all normal year of entry admissions on behalf of all our schools and the Local Authority will communicate all normal year of entry admission decisions to parents.

Procedures for applying to all our schools are explained in the 'Admissions to Schools' sections of produced on the Local Authority's website. Parents and carers should make themselves familiar with this information and take particular note of the definitions provided, dates and deadlines, which apply to our schools.

5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Impact Education Multi Academy Trust provides for the admission of children, full-time, in the September following their fourth birthday. We strongly believe that this is in the best interest of every child.

Our schools are experienced in educating and caring for children with different abilities and social and emotional needs and will be able to provide a suitable education. It is expected, therefore, that children will normally be educated within their chronological year group.

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group. They may request that their child is educated in a year group above or below their chronological age.

Evidence relating to all aspects of the child's development would be considered in the decision making process. Parents should make a request for admission outside of the year group in writing to: The Halifax Academy (Secondary), Gibbet Street, Halifax, HX2 0BA or The Halifax Academy (Primary), Spring Hall Lane, Halifax, HX1 4TW.



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Parents are advised to apply to their home local authority for a school place at the normal time to apply with their peers until a decision is made on their request. Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

- Parents' views
- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- Where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- The headteacher's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.

Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

6. Allocation of places

6.1 Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of 60 pupils for Reception and 150 for entry in Year 7 with a year group total of 210 pupils.

6.2 Oversubscription criteria

All children whose education, health and care (EHC) plans name the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated.

If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be offered a place.

In the event that the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet any of the criteria set out below, in order until all places are filled. Highest priority will be given to looked after children and all previously looked after children who apply for a place at the school.

Primary Phase:

1. Children in public care (looked after children) and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject of a residence order or a special guardianship order);
2. 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.
3. Students who have a brother or sister attending from the same address who will still be on roll at the Academy at the date of admission;



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4. Pupils living in the Halifax catchment area. This is defined at the following website: [Halifax Catchment Area 2022](#)
5. Pupils of staff employed at the Academy (having a permanent contract of at least two years at the time of application).
6. The proximity of a child's home to the Academy, defined using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system from the front door of the Academy to the home, with those living nearest being given the highest priority.

Secondary Phase:

Pupils will be admitted without reference to academic ability or aptitude. Pupils on roll at The Halifax Academy in Year 6 will be offered a place at the secondary phase without the need to apply. The number of children in Year 6 at the time of allocation will be deducted from the Secondary PAN of 210 accordingly.

The number of intended admissions for the year commencing September 2026 will be as detailed above. Where parental preferences exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below to determine which children to admit:

1. Children who are in public care, including those who ceased to be looked after because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement or special guardianship order within the regulations set out by the Admissions Code December 2014
2. 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
3. Pupils on roll at Warley Road Academy
4. A child with a sibling* on roll at the Academy at the time of application and admission and who lives at the same address
5. Pupils living in the Halifax catchment area. This is defined at the following website: <http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/sites/default/files/catchment.pdf>
6. Pupils of staff employed at the Academy (having a permanent contract of at least two years at the time of application).
7. Pupils will be admitted in the order of the proximity of the pupil's primary home address to the academy, measured by the 'straight line' method (direct distance), as defined by the Local Authority's Geographical Information System (GIS) from the main entrance to the Secondary

6.3 Tie break

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants.

Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's permanent home address to the school.

Where a child's parents live at different addresses and the child spends time at each address we will consider a number of factors when deciding on the address that will be used for admissions purposes, including:

- the amount of time spent at each address
- which parent has parental responsibility for the child
- who receives child benefit for the child
- where the child is registered for medical and dental care
- any residency or custody orders made by the courts.



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We may ask for documentary evidence to support information given about the above points.

Where the distance between 2 children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them. This process will be independently verified.

6.4 Twins/multiple births

A twin or sibling from a multiple birth can be admitted as an excepted pupil into an infant class, where admission of more than one of the siblings would exceed the infant class size limit of 30 pupils.

6.5 Waiting lists

A child's name will automatically be placed on the waiting list for the school where they have been refused a place in the normal year of entry e.g. Reception. The waiting list will be held in oversubscription order and will close on 31 December 2026. The school will take ownership of this waiting list from the local authority on 1 September 2026.

6.6 Challenging behaviour

We will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8) apply, i.e. where section 87 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 is engaged.

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked after children, previously looked after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

6.7 Fair Access Protocol

We participate in Calderdale's Fair Access Protocol. This helps ensure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

7. In-year admissions

Parents can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the normal admissions round. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose EHC plans name the school will be admitted.

Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child will be offered a place.

If there are no spaces available at the time of your application, your child's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available, it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.2 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

Further information and relevant forms can be found on our academy website.

Applications for in-year admissions should be made via the Calderdale Council portal:

[Citizen Portal - Sign in \(calderdale.gov.uk\)](https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/citizen-portal)

Parents will be notified of the outcome of your in-year application in writing within 15 school days.



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8. Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. If you wish to appeal, you must set out the grounds for your appeal in writing and send it to the following address:

primary@thehalifaxacademy.org (Primary) or office@thehalifaxacademy.org (Secondary) or The Halifax Academy, Gibbet Street, Halifax, HX2 0BA

You can find details of the school's appeals information and timetable on our academy website.

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Governors by 28 February every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the governing board will publicly consult on these changes. If nothing changes, it will publicly consult on the school's admission arrangements at least once every 7 years.