



HULL CITY COUNCIL

Children and Family Services

Coordinated Admissions Scheme for entry to Secondary Schools in Hull for the academic year 2026/2027

November 2025

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Qualifying co-ordinated admissions scheme for secondary schools in the area of Hull City Council

Introduction

1. This scheme is made under Section 88M of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and in accordance with The School Admissions (Admissions Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Scheme

2. This scheme complies with the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021 and all current legislation regarding school admissions. This scheme is reviewed each year and is subject to a period of consultation amongst schools, governing bodies, admissions authorities, neighbouring local authorities, parent/carers and other interested parties every seven years unless there is a substantial change. It is considered within this consultation alongside the admission arrangements of all state-funded schools within the City of Hull area
3. The scheme referred to in paragraph 2 shall be determined in accordance with the provisions set out in schedule one and processed in accordance with the timetable set out in schedule two.
4. The scheme applies to all state-funded secondary schools in the Hull area who admit children at the start of Year 7 as the normal year of entry. It aims to ensure that within the operation of an equal preference system:
 - each applicant only receives one offer of a school place;
 - each applicant is offered the highest ranked preference school that is available; and
 - a single offer is made for all applicants on the same day.
5. The admission of children with an Education, Health and Care plan are covered by different admission regulations. Where a mainstream school has been named, a place will be allocated for these children before considering other applications.

SCHEDULE 1

Part 1

The Scheme for Hull City council

1. Hull City Council will have a Common Application Form (CAF) for all applicants who reside within Hull and whose child is due to start in national curriculum year 7 for the specified year. Hull City Council will put in place procedures that, as far as possible, ensure that all parents/carers living in Hull will be aware of the application process prior to making an application. Applicants will be required to declare they have agreement with all who have parental responsibility for the child are in agreement with the application and that they have read the guide for parents and carers prior to submitting an application.

Only one CAF can be processed for any given child. If more than one form is received for the same child and the preferences expressed are different on each form, the applicants will be requested to submit a single common application form. The LA will then hold the applications until the applicants are either in agreement, or until one applicant can show the legal right to have their preference(s) considered over the preference(s) of the other applicant. Whilst applications are on hold, any available school places may have to be offered to other applicants. If no agreement is reached the LA or another local authority may be required to allocate a place at a school, often the closest school to the child's known residence with spaces available.

Applications should be made on-line using the parent portal or a paper form can be requested from the Admissions Team. Any paper application forms must be returned to the school admissions team. Any application forms received by a school or academy must be forwarded to the admissions team as soon as possible.

2. The CAF must be used as a means of expressing up to three preferences by applicants resident within Hull wishing to express a preference for their child
 - to be admitted to a school within the council area;
 - to be admitted to a school located in another council's area (including voluntary aided, voluntary controlled, trust schools, free schools, grammar schools and academies).
3. The CAF will –
 - invite the applicant to express up to three preferences of school by applying online or completing a paper form, including, where relevant, any schools outside the council's area, in rank order of preference.
 - Allow parents to put their preferences in rank order

- invite parents to give their reasons for each preference
 - provide any other details that are required to process their application e.g. permanent home address where the child is normally resident.
 - paper CAFs will specify where the form must be returned.
4. The council will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:
- that the CAF is made available to all parents, who reside within Hull.
 - the CAF and parents' booklet "A guide to secondary school admissions in Hull" available on the Hull City Council website.
 - information contained in the council's booklet "A guide to secondary school admissions in Hull" will explain that the parent will receive no more than one offer of a school place and how that place will be allocated.
 - that parents will be provided with a Supplementary Information Form for schools that require additional information in order to rank their applications.
5. Applicants are advised to –
- consider the implications of home to school transport when expressing their preferences. The Home to School Transport Policy is made available to applicants online at www.hull.gov.uk/hometoschool and upon request from the School Admissions team. Applicants from outside the Hull area are advised to contact the Local Authority in which they are resident regarding transport;
 - inform the LA if they wish to home educate their child; and
 - inform the LA if they intend to enroll their child in an independent school from Year 7
 - inform the LA if they intend to make an application for their child out of their chronological year group
 - check the school website for dates of aptitude tests or CAT tests, offered by the school as part of their published admission arrangements
6. All Preferences expressed on the CAF are valid applications
7. This scheme shall be classed as an 'equal preference scheme'. All applications will be considered against the published admission criteria, but without any reference to how the school applied for has been ranked by parents. If a child can be offered a place at more than one school, a place will be offered at the highest ranked school at which a place was available.
8. Where a school provides a supplementary form or aptitude test it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the applicant has also completed either the Hull City Council on-line or paper CAF or, if resident in another area, their home area's common application form, and the school is nominated on it. Where supplementary forms or aptitude tests are received directly by voluntary aided or academy schools the school must inform the council immediately so it can verify whether a CAF or neighbouring

area's CAF has been received from the applicant and, if not, contact the applicant and ask them to complete one.

Under the requirements of the scheme, applicants will not be under any obligation to complete an individual school's supplementary form or aptitude test where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.

Applicants can request a place based on aptitude by indicating this on the CAF. The school will not be notified by the admissions team of all applications made under the aptitude criterion so that where possible, testing can be arranged.

9. Any school which operates criteria for selection by ability or aptitude must ensure that its arrangements for assessing ability or aptitude conform with the timing requirements of the scheme as set out in Schedule Two.
10. Hull Trinity House Academy require that CAT tests are completed by pupils as part of their admission arrangements. The admission authority for the school is responsible for ensuring completion of the tests.
11. There are currently four secondary schools in Hull that undertake an aptitude or CAT selection test as part of the school's admission arrangements. These are: Hull Trinity House Academy (CAT ability test) St Mary's College (music aptitude) Sirius Academy West (sporting aptitude) Archbishop Sentamu Academy (sporting aptitude – rugby league). Where an applicant applies for a school which has a selection test as part of the school's admission arrangements, the admission authority for the school must:
 - To make clear to the applicant that they are required to express a preference on the CAF from their home council
 - Ensure that applicants are aware that up to 10% of places can be allocated based on aptitude (The school do not have to allocate 10%)
 - To make applicants aware that pupils will be required to attend a test for ability or aptitude.

Processing of CAFs

12. Completed CAFs must be submitted online or returned to the LA by **Friday 31 October 2025**. Parents can return the completed CAF to their child's current primary school (if the child is attending a Hull School), or directly to Hull City Council (the address will be included on the CAF).
13. CAF's submitted by residents of other LA's will not be processed and applicants will be advised to reapply to their own authority.

Determining offers in response to the CAF

14. The council will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAFs. Each admissions authority operating within the scheme will have published and determined their own admissions policy for their school(s). All preferences expressed for a school will be determined in line with the relevant admissions policy. The council will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF where-
- it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or
 - an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or
 - an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.
 - An application has not been received and the pupil require a school place.

The council will allocate places in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 14 of this schedule.

15. No later than **Friday 5 December 2025** the LA will have exchanged information with other councils and other admissions authorities within Hull, providing them relevant details from the CAF and any supplementary information received by this date, which schools require in order to apply their oversubscription criteria.
16. By **Wednesday 21 January 2026** admission authorities will provide the LA with a list of ranked pupils using the schools published admissions criteria.
17. By the **Friday 30 January 2026** the council will:
- Complete a provisional list of offers for Hull schools.
 - Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the schools named on the CAF, that place will be provisionally allocated.
 - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the schools named on the CAF a place will be provisionally allocated at the school ranked the highest.
 - Notify other councils of places that can or cannot be offered to their pupils who have applied for a Hull School.
 - Receive notification from other councils of places they can or cannot offer to Hull pupils who have applied for a place at a school within their authority.
18. By **Friday 6 February 2026** the council will take account of places that can and cannot be offered from other councils and:
- Inform other councils of provisional offers we wish to accept and those we do not.
 - Receive from other councils' provisional offers for Hull schools they wish to accept and those they do not.
 - Hull LA will then determine whether any more provisional offers can be made and notify other councils accordingly.
 - Other councils to determine whether any more provisional offers can be offered to Hull pupils and notify Hull LA accordingly.

This process will be repeated after receiving confirmation that offers are to be accepted or declined until no more offers can be made.

19. By **Monday 16 February 2026** the councils will have resolved all offers of places.
 - All councils will have exchanged final offers of places for schools within their authority.
 - Where a child is not eligible for a place at any school named on the CAF a place will be provisionally allocated at the next nearest Hull school with a suitable place available.

20. On **Monday 2 March 2026** applicants will be sent a letter by email or post notifying that they are being offered a place at the allocated school. This letter will give the following information:
 - The name of the school at which a place is offered.
 - Where a child has been refused a place at a school ranked higher on the CAF than the one at which a place has been offered, the reasons why the child is not being offered that place;
 - Information about their statutory right of appeal against the decisions to refuse places.
 - Contact details for the relevant council for community schools and those voluntary aided, trust schools, free schools or academies where they were not offered a place, so that they can lodge an appeal with the relevant council or governing body responsible.
 - Where a child has been refused a place at a school ranked higher on the CAF than the one at which a place has been offered, the child's name will be added to the waiting list of the school. A waiting list will be maintained until the end of the autumn term for the intake year for every school which is oversubscribed.
 - Where a child, residing in Hull has been refused a place at all of their preferences, the local authority will allocate a place at the nearest school in accordance with Schedule Three.

The letter will not inform applicants of places still available at other schools. Every effort will be made to ensure that the letters are sent out on Monday 2 March 2026. However, the Council cannot accept responsibility for any technical problems or mail delivery problems which delay the delivery of a letter or email.

21. No later than **Wednesday 4 March 2026** the council will inform all secondary schools, including those who are their own admissions authority, of all the pupils to be offered places at their school. The council will also provide a list of Hull primary schools showing the destination secondary school of each of their pupils who is a Hull resident.

22. **Wednesday 11 March 2026** will be the deadline for applicants to decline a place and request to be removed from any waiting lists they may be ranked in. If they do not respond by this date it will be assumed that they have accepted the place.

23. Applicantss must submit any appeal for a school place on or before **Monday 13 April 2026**.

Waiting Lists

24. Each oversubscribed school will compile a waiting list by Monday 16 March 2026 Which will maintained until at least Thursday 31 December 2026
25. Each waiting list will contain all the unsuccessful preferences, whether from 'on-time' or 'late' applications, and ranked in accordance with the relevant oversubscription criteria for that school according to the applicants current circumstance
26. Applicants may request to be added to a waiting list for a school, even if they did not originally express a preference for that school. Requests should be provided in writing or by completion of a Change of Preference Form, from the original applicant to the LA, who will communicate this to admissions authority for the school.
27. Each additional applicant, or change in circumstances of an applicant, will require the waiting list to be reordered in accordance with the relevant oversubscription criteria for that school
28. Should a place become available whilst the waiting list is in operation, the admissions authority for each school shall make a place available to the applicant on the top of the waiting list on the day the place became available.
29. The LA shall, as the coordinating Local Authority, oversee these waiting lists in partnership with schools that are their own admissions authority and other Local Authorities. The LA requires other admission authorities to inform the LA when places may become available, so that a coordinated allocation may be made by the LA on behalf of all schools within this coordinated scheme, and to ensure that each child is only allocated one school place.

Part II

Late Applications

30. The closing date for applications in the normal admissions round is **Friday 31 October 2025**. Where applications are received after this date and up to **Wednesday 6 January 2026**, and the lateness has been unavoidable in the opinion of the admissions authority, (e.g., parents move into the area) each application will be considered and included in the offers of secondary school places made on national offer day. Applications considered not to be unavoidable will be considered late applications and will be ranked after those applications that were received before the deadline date. Where the late application is received before **Wednesday 6 January 2026** a school place will be offered on **Monday 2 March 2026** where possible.

31. As far as is reasonably practicable applications received after **Wednesday 6 January 2026** and prior to **Wednesday 11 March 2026** will be offered a school place on **Wednesday 18 March 2026**, as part of the second allocation.
32. There will be a reallocation of places on **Wednesday 18 March 2026** where the LA will allocate places that have become available since **2 March 2026**. Late applications will be included in this reallocation. Applications received after **Wednesday 11 March 2026** and before **Tuesday 1 September 2026**, will be processed in order of the date received and an offer/refusal letter sent as appropriate.
33. Changes of preference after the closing date for applications on **Friday 31 October 2025** will be considered as a late application as set out in paragraph 21 unless the change is considered to be unavoidable in the opinion of the admissions authority, (e.g. parents move into the area).
34. Changes of address received before **Wednesday 6 January 2026** can be considered under the review procedure where evidence of the new address and change of residence is provided. Where evidence is received after **Wednesday 6 January 2026** and before **Wednesday 11 March 2025** the new address can be considered in the reallocation of places on **Wednesday 18 March 2026**.
35. Late applications received after the first day of the school year may be considered as 'in-year' applications, although these preferences, if unsuccessful, will be held on a waiting list until the end of the first term in line with 'on-time' applications. this scheme

No CAF received

36. Before **Wednesday 18 March 2026** the LA will allocate places to any Hull child of whom it is aware, or from whom it has not received an application under the scheme. A place will be offered at the nearest school with a vacancy as defined in Schedule Three.

Multiple offers

37. Where a situation arises where an applicant receives more than one offer, for example where a place is offered on appeal or from a waiting list after the second round of allocations, if applicants do not respond to indicate which offer they would like to accept within a reasonable time of the allocation then the place offered at the lower preference school will be withdrawn. In all cases the school admissions team will contact the applicant to state a deadline by which confirmation must be received before withdrawal of any offers made.

Part III

False Information

38. Where, under the scheme, the offer of a place is found to be based on a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application which effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim to the place at the school, the offer of the place may be withdrawn where this provision is included in the respective admission arrangements of the respective admission authority.
39. In determining whether to withdraw the offer of the place, account will be taken of whether the child has commenced at the school and, if so, the length of time the child has been attending.
40. Where a place, or an offer has been withdrawn, the application will be reconsidered and an independent appeal offered where the child cannot be re-offered a place or re-admitted to the school.

Part IV

Year 10 Applications for UTCs

41. Parents of children in year 9 may request a place in year 10 a University Technical College (UTC). The normal point of entry at The Ron Dearing UTC is in year 10. Applications will be processed by the UTC in line with the Year 7 transfer arrangements set out in this scheme and places offered for September 2026. Deadline and offer dates may vary to those set for the Year 7 transfer arrangements.

Part V

In year Admissions

42. Parents requesting places after **Monday 31 August 2026** of the normal entry year are classed as in year admissions. Parents requesting places for other than the normal year are classed as in year admissions.
43. The procedures for in year admissions are covered under a separate coordinated scheme.

Part VI

Admission of children outside their normal age group

44. Applications for gifted and talented children, or those who have experienced problems or missed part of a year (for example due to ill health), or delayed their entry into reception as a summer born child can be sought outside the child's normal age group.

Hull City Council will coordinate these requests. Applicants must make their request to the Admission Authorities at the start of the academic year. Admission Authorities must then make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and whether it is in a child's best interest to be educated out of their chronological age. They will then advise the applicant and the LA whether they will accept an application out of chronological year group.

These applications are considered by schools along with all other applications for the preferred cohort and following the same timetable. Schools may refuse an out of cohort place. In some cases, schools may agree to admit the child out of cohort, but the child may still not gain a place because they do not rank highly enough on application of the oversubscription criteria.

Applications agreed outside of the normal year of entry must be made within the timescales above. Applicants will receive the outcome of their application on national offer day along with all other applicants for that cohort. If no preferred school can offer a place parents may have to make an in-year application for the date of birth cohort. The home local authority will make sure that parents are informed of their statutory right to appeal. An appeal is for a place in a school rather than in a particular year group. Applicants resident in other local authority areas should note that in Hull it is always the preferred school that makes the decision to accept a child out of the normal curriculum year group.

Part VII

Applications from overseas

45. It is the responsibility of the applicant to check eligibility for a school place. The admissions team will process applications from overseas applicants in line with European Law and Home Office rules for non EEA nationals. The school admissions team will not allocate an alternative school if parental preference cannot be met.

SCHEDULE 2

Co-ordinated scheme timetable

Friday 4 July 2025	Inform other Local Authorities of Y5 pupils who reside within their administration area and received details of Hull pupils attending their primary schools.
Friday 5 September 2025	Date by which information will be issued to all Hull pupils either via schools or posted to home address if they attend a primary school outside the authority
Friday 31 October 2025	Closing date for applications
Friday 5 December 2025	Last date to exchange information between other LAs and other admission authorities within Hull
Wednesday 21 January 2026	Date by which other admission authorities provide the council with their list of ranked pupils.
Friday 30 January 2026	Last date for LAs to send first round of allocation information identifying potential offers.
Friday 6 February 2026	Councils to inform each other of places they wish to accept and those we do not and process until no more offers can be made.
Monday 16 February 2026	Final date for offers between LAs to be resolved.
Monday 2 March 2026	Notification sent to parents of their allocated school.
Wednesday 11 March 2026	Last date for applicants to notify the LA they wish to be removed from any waiting list. Last date for late applications and changes of preference to be considered in the second round of allocations.
Wednesday 18 March 2026	Second allocation date
Monday 13 April 2026	Date by which appeals should be returned to be heard in June.

SCHEDULE 3

Determination of the next nearest school

The “next nearest school” means

- The nearest school will be a school within Hull. This will be determined by measuring the shortest available walking route.
- The shortest available route is measured by using the public road network from the pupil’s home to the main school entrance as determined by the council. The distance will be measured will using Routefinder, a computer mapping system, to make measurements.
- The admission policy for the school will determine which pupils should be allocated a place where there are insufficient places.

SCHEDULE 4

Admission authorities of Hull secondary schools covered by the scheme

Academies; The Academy Trust of each school is the admission authority

Archbishop Sentamu Academy
Hull Trinity House Academy
Malet Lambert School
Newland School for Girls
Kelvin Hall school
Kingswood Academy
Sirius Academy North
Sirius Academy West
St Mary's College
The Boulevard Academy
The Marvell Academy
Winifred Holtby School

Councils who fully co-ordinate with Hull City Council;

East Riding of Yorkshire Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North East Lincolnshire Council

Glossary

In this scheme:

“the LA” means Hull City Council acting in their capacity as local authority;

“the LA area” means the area in respect of which the council is the local authority;

“secondary education” means the same as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“secondary school” has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“school” means a community, voluntary controlled school, trust school, free school or academy (but not a special school) which is maintained by the council;

“appropriate school” means a secondary school providing secondary education;

“academy” has the same meaning as in section 482 of the Education Act 1996;

“admission authority” in relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the council and, in relation to a Trust or VA school. In relation to an academy this means means the Academy Trust;

“the specified year” means the school year beginning at or about the beginning of September 2026;

“admission arrangements” means the arrangements for a particular school or schools which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school;

“late applications” means any application for a place in the first year of secondary education, received after the closing date and up to the start of the academic year 2026;

“in year” means any request for places after the start of the specified year for all year groups; and “in year” means any application for a place in the normal entry year of secondary education received on or after the start of the Autumn term 2026, and any application for a place in any other year of secondary education received at any time; and

“eligible for a place” means that a child has been placed on a school’s list at such a point which falls within the school’s published admission number or within a higher number that the school is prepared to admit up to

“faith school” means a school that has been designated as having a religious character by the Secretary of State;