

Admissions Policy 2027-2028

for the following schools



Bacton
Primary School



Cedars Park
Primary School



Mendlesham
Primary School



Stowupland
High School

This Policy has been adopted and approved by Oxlip Learning Partnership and is to be used by the named schools in this policy.

History

Version	Reviewed / approved by Trust on	Lead Personnel	Details	Next Review Due
V9: 2026-27	4-Feb-2025	EA	This policy was open to consultation from 19/12/2024-30/01/2025	Autumn 2025 (for 2027-28)
V10: 2027-28	6-Dec-2025	EA	Amendment to section 8. Sixth Form Admissions at Stowupland	Autumn 2026 (for 2028-29)

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1. Introduction

1.1 Bacton Primary, Cedars Park Primary, Mendlesham Primary and Stowupland High School operates a joint admissions policy.

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

Parents should note that for Suffolk schools there is no automatic right to a place at the local school. It is essential that application forms are completed and returned by the closing date. If you make an application for a school which is not your local school and, subsequently, are not allocated a place, there is no guarantee that a place will be available for your child at the local school.

Please note this does not apply to sixth form admissions at Stowupland: see section 8.

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

[School Admissions Code 2021](#)

[School Admission Appeals Code](#)

As academies, the schools are required by their funding agreements 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 agreements and articles of association.

Mulberry Units at Mendlesham and Stowupland: Any admission request for your child to have a place in the Mulberry will be made by the local authority and not directly by parent/carers. Parent/carers should contact the Local Authority as places are accessed through the specialist decision making panels.

2. Procedures for Admissions

2.1 Normal Admissions Round

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 the Local Authority.

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

2.2 How to Apply

Procedures for applying to Bacton Primary, Cedars Park Primary, Mendlesham Primary and Stowupland High School are explained in the publication 'Admissions to Schools in Suffolk'. 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.

The 'Admissions to Schools in Suffolk' publication is updated each year and can be found on Suffolk County Council's school places pages of their website: [School places](#)

Please note: a separate application must be made for any transfer from nursery to primary school.

2.3 Admissions for normal age group

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 normal age (chronological year) group.

At Stowupland, entry to the normal age (chronological year) group is deemed essential.

Our primary schools provide 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. However, parents can request that the date their child is admitted to primary school is deferred until later in the school year or until the term in which the child reaches 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.

Full-time reception places are offered and parents may decide that their child will be part-time in the autumn and spring terms, unless they reach compulsory school age as they would then have to be full time. However, your child must be full-time in the reception class by the beginning of the summer term at the latest.

2.4 Applications for a place outside the normal age group

Where a parent wishes to make an application for a pupil of primary school age to be admitted to a school earlier or later than normal, to stay longer with a younger year group or to be taught ahead will be considered carefully. This may apply when a parent wishes to delay their summer born (April to August) child entry to full-time education until the following school year. When a parent does not wish to take up a full-time place in their child's chronological school year then an application for delayed entry would need to be made.

This could lead to:

- a) The parent making an application for a reception place for the following school year and providing written evidence from the relevant admissions authority school to agree a delayed entry with the application; or
- b) making an in-year application for a Year 1 place in the child's chronological year group, effectively missing out on the reception year.

The decision 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:

- Parent or carers' 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 Principal's views

Any evidence in respect of these or any other reasons can be submitted. Where relevant, consideration can be given to the child's medical history and any evidence from a medical professional involved with the child's care or treatment such as:

- A speech and language therapist
- An occupational therapist
- A social worker
- A paediatrician
- The child's nursery, child minder or current school

Parents and carers are not expected to provide evidence that they do not already have.

Parents or carers should make a request to the school(s) in writing. Requests will be considered with the supporting evidence provided. The academy trust will make a decision on the request and the school(s) will write to the parent or carer with the outcome including the reasons for the decision. If the request is refused, details of how to complain to the school(s) will be given.

An application for the child's normal transfer year group should be made at the same time. For requests for admission outside a child's normal age group a CAF1 application form must be submitted to the Local Authority, along with the decision letter(s) from the school and other relevant evidence, by the relevant national closing dates.

Any decision made by one school named within this policy will not be binding on any other school named within this policy, for the same year group or for a school in later years, e.g. transfer from primary to secondary school.

Please note that even if the request is agreed, there is no guarantee there will be a place available.

2.5 Application Forms and Deadlines

Applications for the normal year of entry should be made using the Suffolk normal year of entry application form (CAF 1), which is available from Suffolk County Council at [School places](#).

Parents/carers are encouraged to apply online. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Local Authority.

The annual closing dates for submitting application forms are:

- 15 January for transfer to the Foundation Stage at Bacton Primary, Cedars Park Primary and Mendlesham Primary School
- 31 October for transfer to Year 7 at Stowupland High School

2.6 National Offer Day (for Normal Admissions Round)

The day each year on which Local Authorities are required to send the offer of a school place to all parents in their area. For Suffolk parents/carers, those who applied online will receive an email with the offer of a school place and those who applied, by the closing date, using the CAF1 paper application form will be posted an offer of a school place on the relevant National Offer Day. The National Offer Days for 2027/28 are as follows:

Primary schools	-	16th April 2027 – or next nearest working day
Secondary schools	-	1st March 2027 – or next nearest working day

3. Details and Definitions for Admissions

3.1 Priority Admissions

EHC Plans (All Schools)

The first priority admission group to all schools is children whose Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan names the school. All those in this group must be admitted and this applies to all schools named in this policy.

3.2 Definitions Used in Oversubscription Criteria

Children in Care 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

Children previously in care included children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

Children adopted from state care outside of England is a child regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Family of Schools (Stowupland High School)

One of the priority admission groups for Stowupland High School is our Family of Schools, defined for this purpose as our named partner feeder primary schools:

- Bacton Primary
- Cedars Park
- Mendlesham
- Freeman
- Haughley Crawfords
- Old Newton

This means that pupils attending one of our named partner feeder primary schools at the application closing date will be considered to 'reside' in our priority admissions area and will be given priority.

Sibling of students already on roll at the school (All Schools)

By sibling we mean:

- Natural, half, step and adopted brothers and sisters
- A child of the partner of the parent
- Children who are fostered into the family

In all these cases, the child and their sibling will both be living at the same address (that is where the child is ordinarily resident) in a single family unit. This means that children from different family units, where those separate families are living together at the same address, are not considered siblings under this criterion. We do not include 'cousins' within our definition of sibling.

4. Allocation of Places

4.1 Published Admissions Number

The agreed Published Admissions Number (PAN) for the normal year of entry is:

Bacton Primary School	30	
Cedars Park	60	
Mendlesham Primary	15	
Stowupland High School	210	for Year 7 and subsequent Year 7 intakes

4.2 Admissions Oversubscriptions Criteria (Secondary)

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.

The following details the order of priority for places in the case of oversubscription:

1. Children in care and children who were previously in care (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, immediately following having been in care, including those 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);
2. Children from the named local partner feeder primary schools; the Family of Schools, with a brother or sister (sibling) attending Stowupland High School at the time of application, with a reasonable expectation they will be attending at the start of the new school year. Attendance at Stowupland High School will also include the sixth form. Priority will be given, where necessary, to applications where there is the smallest age gap between siblings in calendar days. This is between the child's date of birth and the date of birth of the sibling already attending the school, or who has been offered a place at the time of application. If you have more than one child at the High School, please name the youngest one;
3. Children attending one of the named local partner feeder schools identified as the Family of Schools, who do not have a brother or sister (sibling) attending Stowupland High School. Applications in this category will be ranked using the distance criteria described in the tie-breaker (section 4.4);

4. Children of staff employed by the school in the following circumstances:
 - a. Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which application for admission to the school is made, or
 - b. The member of staff is recruited to the school to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
5. Children who do not attend a named local partner feeder primary school with a brother or sister (sibling) attending Stowupland High School at the time of application, with a reasonable expectation they will be attending at the start of the new school year. Priority will be given, where necessary, to applications where there is the smallest age gap between siblings in calendar days. This is between the child's date of birth and the date of birth of the sibling already attending the school, or who has been offered a place at the time of application. If you have more than one child at Stowupland High School, please name the youngest one;
6. All other applicants will be ranked using the distance criteria described in the tie-breaker (section 4.5).

4.3 Admissions Oversubscriptions Criteria (Primary)

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.

The following details the order of priority for places in the case of oversubscription for Bacton Primary, Cedars Park Primary and Mendlesham Primary:

1. Children in care and children who were previously in care (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, immediately following having been in care, including those 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);
2. Children with a brother or sister (sibling) attending one of the following schools; Bacton Primary, Cedars Park Primary, Mendlesham Primary and Stowupland High School, at the time of application, with a reasonable expectation they will be attending at the start of the new school year. Priority will be given, where necessary, to applications where there is the smallest age gap between siblings in calendar days. This is between the child's date of birth and the date of birth of the sibling already attending the school, or who has been offered a place at the time of application. If you have more than one child in one of the above schools, please name the youngest one;
3. Children of staff employed by the school in the following circumstances:
 - a. Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which application for admission to the school is made, or
 - b. The member of staff is recruited to the school to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
4. All other applicants will be ranked using the distance criteria described in the tie-breaker (section 4.5)

4.4 Sibling Tie-Breaker

Priority will be given, where necessary, to applications where there is the smallest age gap in calendar days between the child's date of birth and the date of birth of any sibling already attending the school, or who has been offered a place at the time of application.

In the unlikely event that two applicants competing for a single place at a school have the same number of days difference in age from their closest aged sibling, the place will be offered to the one applicant on the basis of lots drawn by a member of staff not involved with admissions.

4.5 Distance Tie-Breaker

In the event of oversubscription, having applied the criteria outlined above, priority will be determined by the distance of the child's home from the school they have applied to. This will be done by measuring the distance by a straight line ('as the crow flies').

All straight line distances are calculated electronically by Suffolk County Council using data provided jointly by the Post Office and Ordnance Survey. The data plots the coordinates of each property and provides the address-point between which straight line distance is measured and reported to three decimal places. Where there is more than one home within a single building (for example apartments) we will measure to a single point within that building irrespective of where those homes are located.

If after the distance tie-breaker, with two or more applications ranked at the same distance, and there are more applications than places, a further tie-breaker of Random Allocation will be used for the applications from this group. Lots will be drawn. This process will be independently verified.

4.6 Home Address

As part of the tie-breaker process, proof of residence, such as a lease agreement, may be required by the co-ordinated scheme. The Local Authority will investigate allegations of false addresses or other false information given on the online application/CAF1 and will liaise with the school to seek agreement to withdraw places if the details are found to be deliberately false or misleading.

Where a child lives with separated parents who have shared responsibility, each for part of the week, the address at which the child is ordinarily resident will be considered to be the address that the child lives at for most of the week (excluding weekends and school holidays). Both parents must provide evidence in writing to confirm the child's living arrangements at the time of the application.

4.7 Multiple Births

Our policy is not to separate multiple births. If the final place available at a school is offered to a twin, triplet or other multiple birth and the remaining sibling/s would ordinarily be refused, the academy trust will offer places to the remaining sibling/s.

4.8 Parents and Guardians

A parent can apply for a school place. We reserve the right to carry out necessary checks as to the legal guardianship of an adult making an application for admission for a child whether as an in-year admission or as part of the normal admissions round. It is recognised that this can relate to safeguarding issues and is therefore of the highest priority.

For the purposes of education law, section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' as:

- all natural (biological) parents, whether married or not;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for the child or young person (this could be a step-parent, guardian or other relative);
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

A person has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child.

4.9 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.

4.10 Children of UK service personnel and crown servants

Families of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting, or crown servants returning from overseas, will be allocated a place in advance of the family arriving in the area, provided a place is available and the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date.

We will use the address at which the child will live when applying our oversubscription criteria, provided the parents provide some evidence of their intended address. Alternatively, the unit or quartering address will be used as the child's home address when considering the application against the oversubscription criteria, where this is requested by a parent.

4.11 Fair Access Protocol

We participate in Suffolk County Council'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.

5. Waiting Lists

If you apply for a school place in the normal year of entry and one (or more) of your preferences is refused, your child's name will automatically be placed on a waiting list for these schools. Names are placed on the waiting list in the priority order set out in our admissions oversubscription criteria. Please note:

- The order of children does not remain static - as circumstances change a child's place on the waiting list can go up or down, for example due to withdrawals or additional applications. If you change your address while your child is on a waiting list you must let us know. Please be aware that this may change your child's position on the waiting list. Written evidence of this will be required.
- Having your child's name on a waiting list will not affect your right to appeal for any of the schools for which you have been refused a place.
- Late applicants will be added to any waiting lists in oversubscription priority order if their parental preferences cannot be met.
- If a place becomes available, we will offer it to a child on the waiting list for that school in priority order. We do not offer places on the basis of the date on which names were placed on the list.
- The waiting lists will cease to operate on 31st December in each year. For details of how to make an in-year application, please see the section on this below.

6. In-Year Admissions Applications

You can apply for a place for you child at any time outside the normal admissions round. All in-year admissions are processed by the individual schools. You should apply using the In-Year Application

Form (available on school websites) and submit this directly to the relevant school. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose EHC plans names one of our schools will be admitted to that school.

The school will then consider the application. If the year group has vacancies, the application will normally be accepted. Where the school does not have sufficient places for every child who has applied for one, the oversubscription criteria will be used.

Our policy relating to admissions outside the normal age (chronological year) group remain the same for both in-year admissions and standard entry points (see paragraph 2.4).

Parents / carers will be notified, by the school, of the outcome within 15 school days of receiving the application form.

7. **Withdrawing an offer of a place**

We will not withdraw an offer unless it has been offered in error, a parent has not responded within a reasonable period of time, or it is established that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

Where a parent has not responded to the offer, we will give them a further opportunity to respond and explain that the offer may be withdrawn if they do not respond.

If an offer is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information, we will consider the application afresh and a right of appeal will be offered if an offer is refused.

We will not withdraw an offer of a place once a child has started at one of our schools except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In these circumstances, we will consider the length of time that the child has been at the school before deciding whether to withdraw the place.

8. **Right of Appeal**

When an applicant is unsuccessful, there is an automatic right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Details of how to appeal will be sent with the letter of refusal. This information will be sent by the Local Authority for standard entry points and by the Trust for in-year admissions.

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:

Education Appeals Office	Telephone: 01473 264218
PO Box 579	Email: statutory.appealsoffice@suffolk.gov.uk
Ipswich	
Suffolk	
IP1 2BX	

You can find details of the appeals timetable within the 'A Guide to Education Admission Appeals' document on the following webpage: [Education Admission Appeals and Permanent Exclusion Reviews | Suffolk County Council](#)

9. **Sixth Form Admissions**

Applications for the Sixth Form at Stowupland High School have been paused since September 2024, however the school currently plans to offer places in its Sixth Form provision in 2027/28. Admission will be based on the viability of and student suitability for the courses offered, which are

currently under review. All information will be available on the school website nearer the time:
<https://www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk/>

10. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the trust board every year.

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

Contact details for each school

School	Telephone	Email	Website
Bacton	01449 781367	admin@bactonschool.org.uk	bacton-pri.suffolk.sch.uk
Cedars Park	01449 778230	admin@cedarspark.suffolk.sch.uk	cedarspark.suffolk.sch.uk
Mendlesham	01449766224	admin@mendleshamschool.org.uk	mendlesham.suffolk.sch.uk
Stowupland	01449 674827	enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk	stowuplandhighschool.co.uk