

The Gatwick School Admission Arrangements 2024-2025

In Year Application

If you are interested in a place for our existing Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 or Year 11 classes please contact the Admissions Department of West Sussex County Council on 03330 142903.

If you would like further information on the school please contact us directly on 01293 538779 or info@thegatwickschool.org.uk.

September 2024/2025 Applications Reception & Year 7

If you live in West Sussex you need to apply for a place at The Gatwick School through the Admissions Department of West Sussex County Council. Please use the following link: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places>

If you live in Surrey you need to apply for a place at The Gatwick School through the Admissions Department of Surrey County Council. Please use the following link: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions>

Please contact the school either by phone 01293 538779 or email info@thegatwickschool.org.uk should you wish to visit, or require more information.

Admissions outside of a child's normal school age

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. Parents should contact the Headteacher to discuss admission outside of a child's normal age group. Decisions regarding admissions outside of a child's normal age group will be made based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child.

Admissions Policy

The admissions policy for The Gatwick School satisfies the requirements of the revised School Admissions Code (May 2021), the School Admission Appeals Code and admissions law. Our admissions process will be inclusive, open, fair and transparent. The Gatwick School's own Admission Policy is governed by Aurora Academies Trust (AAT).

The Published Admissions Number (PAN) for the Reception entry will be 60 and for Year 7 it will be 120. When full the school will have 1,020 pupils on roll. Students in the school's Year 6 will automatically enter Year 7.

In accordance with the law, children with statements of Special Educational Need or Education and Healthcare Plan will be admitted to the school where the Local Authority has specifically named The Gatwick School as the most appropriate placement.

In the event of there being greater demand than there are places available to the school, places will be offered using the following over subscription criteria in accordance with the School Admissions Code:

1. Looked after children in England, previously looked after children in England and children who appear to have been in state care outside of England¹
2. Children with exceptional medical or social needs, for example a medical condition supported by medical evidence
3. Children with one or more parents who are serving members of Her Majesty's Armed or Uniformed Forces and qualifying Crown Servants' children.
4. Children with one or more parents who are members of staff the school who were recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

To apply under category 3 or 4, please complete the attached Supplementary Information Form and forward this to info@thegatwickschool.org.uk. You must still apply through West Sussex County Council for the school place.

5. Children with a sibling at the school at the time of admission. The term 'sibling' includes a half or step child permanently living in the same family unit or a foster child permanently living in the same family unit whose place has been arranged by the social service department of the Local Authority
6. Proximity to the school. This will be measured by GIS software and the measurement to be taken is from the home (OS point) to the centre of the school site.

Tie Breaker

¹ 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, in England. A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after in England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order, as well as a child who appears to have been in state care outside of England (i.e. in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society), but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.

Applications in this category must be accompanied by supporting evidence, such as a signed letter from the child's social worker or former social worker confirming their current or previous status, an adoption or special guardianship order, and/or satisfactory documentary evidence of having been in state care outside of England (as defined above), to be received by the application deadline in the normal admission round.

In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school (as can happen with families living in blocks of flats), the tie breaker will be random allocation, where the supervised drawing of lots by an independent responsible person of good standing will be used to decide which child(ren) will be allocated the remaining place(s).

An independent appeals panel will be constituted to hear appeals. All relevant information will be made available to applicants and published on the school's website.

Reception Places

Where a child has been offered a place in Reception at The Gatwick School that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents can defer the date their child is admitted to The Gatwick School until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age² and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

² A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their fifth birthday. The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.