



Hensingham Primary School

Admissions Policy

2026 - 2027

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Section 1 – General Principles

Hensingham Primary School is part of the Cumbria Education Trust (CET). CET is the Admissions Authority for all academies within its family of schools. CET participates in the Local Authority Co-Ordinated Admission Scheme.

The published admissions number (PAN) for September 2026 and subsequent years is 30.

The main principle of admission to Hensingham Primary School is to provide a welcoming, safe, and supportive learning environment that meets the needs of young people within the 3-11 age range, who live in the surrounding area.

CET will endeavour to provide places for students who wish to attend Hensingham Primary School provided they can be accommodated within the scope of this policy.

The closing date for applications for September 2026 is 15 January 2026.

Section 2 – Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of CET to set and publish the admissions criteria for the school as defined in this policy and for ensuring that these criteria meet with the requirements of law.

The Trust will ensure that:

- admissions criteria are clear, fair, and objective;
- arrangements are as simple as possible;
- all parents' preferences are treated on an equal basis.

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure the requirements of the Trust's policy are implemented at all times and reviewed on an annual basis. Where changes are to be made, public consultation will occur as required and outlined in Department for Education's (DfE) Admissions Code (September 2021) [School admissions code - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97222/school-admissions-code-2021.pdf).

Section 3 – Definitions

The catchment area is in and around Hensingham Primary School. A catchment map is available on request.

By sibling we mean:

- children living at the same address who have one or both natural parents in common;
- children living at the same address who are related by parent's marriage;
- children living at the same address whose parents are living as partners at this address;
- children who are adopted or fostered;
- we do not include "cousins" within our definition of sibling.

Section 4 – Admission Criteria and Oversubscription

Places will be offered firstly to Looked After Children i.e. children who are looked after by a public authority and are in public care, and previously looked after children who were adopted, or subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after.

Children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school will also be admitted.

In the event of over-subscription, the following criteria will apply:

- where the child lives in the school's catchment area, as defined by the catchment area map, and have a brother or sister (sibling) attending the school at the time of application;
- applications from within the school's catchment area;
- where a child lives outside the catchment area and has a brother or sister in the school;
- where a child attends Hensingham Primary School nursery;
- children of staff members working at a Trust school where (a) the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or (b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
- children from outside the catchment area.

In the event of oversubscription in any category above, priority will be determined by the proximity of the child's home to Hensingham Primary School using the shortest walking distance by road from the main entrance of Hensingham Primary School to the main door of the residence, with those living nearest being given priority. The child's home address is defined as the child's permanent residence. In situations where a child spends equal time between two addresses, the permanent address is defined as the address at which the child is registered with a GP.

(The distance would be determined by using a distance measuring tool - AA route planner will be used by Cumbria Education Trust). Apartments/flats will be treated equally with the measurement taken to the main entrance of the block. If after applying the distance tie-breaker there are more applications than places available from the apartment/flat block furthest away, a further tie-breaker of Random Allocation will be used for the applications from this block. This will be overseen by someone independent of the Trust.

Section 5 – In Year Admissions

In year admissions enables parents to transfer their child between primary schools. To apply for a place applicants should contact the school.

In year admissions will be based on the size of the year group, including the size of teaching groups already in the school. If there are places available in the year group, then applicants will be admitted. If the year group is full, it may not be possible to offer your child a place. If the number of applicants for a year group exceeds the number of places available, the oversubscription criteria detailed in this policy will be applied. Waiting lists will be held by the school.

Section 6 – Waiting Lists

Hensingham Primary School will operate a waiting list for admissions until 31 December 2026. If places become available during this period places will be allocated in the same priority as the oversubscription criteria detailed in this policy. The waiting list will be re-ordered when anyone leaves or joins the waiting list up until 31 December 2026.

Section 7 – Appeals

If a child is not offered a place at the school, the applicant will be informed of the reason why admission was refused. Applicants have the right to appeal to an independent panel. The deadline for lodging an appeal is 20 school days of notification of an unsuccessful application.

Please see the agreed timeline below for hearing any admission appeals:

16 April 2026	Parents and carers will be notified of their child's allocated school.
April 2026	Parents and carers should notify the school of their intention to appeal and request a Notice of Appeal form. The completed Notice of Appeal form should be submitted to the Administrator.
14 May 2026	Deadline for lodging appeals with the school.
	Written notification of the hearing to be sent no later than 10 school days before the hearing.
28 May 2026	Appeal hearings.
5 June 2026	Appellants to receive notification of the Panel's decision.

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