

Admission Arrangements Future Academies Watford 2020-21

Future Academies Watford is an all ability 11-18 Secondary Academy. The Published Admission Number for Year 7 in 2020-21 is 210.

Year 7 September Admissions

1. Process of application

Applications for places in the normal admissions round in Year 7 at Future Academies Watford will be made in accordance with Hertfordshire County Council's co-ordinated admissions arrangements. Application forms can be obtained from the Local Authority and admissions can be made online: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Future Academies Watford does not require applicants to complete a supplementary information form (SIF). All deadlines within the secondary transfer process must be adhered to by applicants. Hertfordshire County Council will make offers of places on behalf of the school.

If applicants for admissions exceed the number of places then the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which pupils to admit.

2. Consideration of applications

The Academy will consider all applications for places. Where fewer than 210 applications are received, the Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

3. Procedures where Future Academies Watford is oversubscribed

3.1 The published admission number for Year 7 in 2020-21 is 210. Where the number of applicants for admissions is greater than the published admissions number, applicants will be considered against the criteria set out below. After admission of children with statements of Special Educational Needs and children with an Educational, Health and Care Plan where Future Academies Watford is the named school, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

Rule 1

Children looked after (in public care) and children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or a special guardianship order).

Places are allocated to children in public care according to Chapter 7, Section 2 of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. These children will be prioritised under rule 1. Highest priority will also be given to children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order.

A "child looked after" 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 (section 22(1) of The Children Act 1989)*

All children adopted from care who are of compulsory school age are eligible for admission under rule 1.³

Children in the process of being placed for adoption are classified by law as children looked after providing there is a Placement Order and the application would be prioritised under Rule 1. Children who were not "looked after" immediately before being adopted, or made the subject of a child arrangement order or special guardianship order, will not be prioritised under rule 1.

¹ *Child arrangements order*

Under the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amended section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders which settle the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.

² *Special guardianship order*

Under 14A of The Children Act 1989, an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians.

Rule 2

Children previously looked after from abroad (outside England) and subsequently adopted.

Rule 3

Pupils who, on the date of admission, will have a sibling (i.e. a natural brother or sister, or a half brother or sister, or a legally adopted brother or sister or half brother or sister, or step brother or sister who will be living with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the Academy) on roll, in years 7 to 13, at the Academy (proof of the sibling relationship will be required if a place is offered). This definition includes a child looked after or previously looked after and in every case living permanently in a placement within the home as part of the family household from Monday to Friday at the time of this application. A sibling link will not be recognised for children living temporarily in the same house, for example a child who usually lives with one parent but has temporarily moved or a looked after.

Rule 4

Children of a parent employed to work at the Academy for two years or more at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or where the member of staff has been recruited to meet a demonstrable skills shortage. A parent means the mother, father, stepmother or stepfather of the child and in every case, living at the same permanent address as the child.

Rule 5

The remaining places will be offered to pupils with the nearest distance measurement on the basis of proximity; i.e. pupils who live the nearest distance at the close of the Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) admission application date as designated by HCC's computerised mapping system.

The home to school distance measurement, for the purposes of admissions, is defined by HCC as "a 'straight line' distance measurement from the address point of the pupil's home to the address point of the school."

"A 'straight line' distance measurement is used in all home to school distance measurements. Distances are measured using a computerised mapping system to two decimal places. The measurement is taken from the Address Base Premium address point of your child's house to the address point of the school. Address Base Premium data is a nationally recognised method of identifying the location of schools and individual residences"

Parents who are applying under rule 5 will need to provide proof that the home address quoted is the permanent residence of the applicant: this proof should include either a photocopy of (custodial) parent's driver's licence, child benefit letter or utility bill. The school may check the authenticity of the address stated. Further proof of residence or other information may be requested and must be provided.

3.2 Tie Break

3.2.1 Siblings

In the event of a tie break under the sibling criterion, random allocation will be used.

3.2.2 Children of staff

In the event of a tie break under the children of staff criterion, random allocation will be used.

3.2.3 Distance

In the event of a tie break under the distance criterion, random allocation will be used.

3.2.3 Multiple Births

Children from multiple births will be considered as individuals under the admissions criteria. In the event that the last available space is offered to one twin or child from a multiple birth, the other twin or sibling will be offered a place, taking the Academy over PAN. There will be no displacement to other children, however further offers will not be made from the continuing interest list until the number allocated drops below the original PAN.

4. Operation of Continuing Interest Lists

Where Future Academies Watford receives more applicants for places than there are places available at secondary transfer, parents may decide to place their child on the continuing interest list. Until 31st December names will be ranked according to the above criteria. Those applicants who have been unsuccessful in obtaining a place for the start of Year 7 are offered the right to appeal in the summer of Year 6.

Those who are unsuccessful or who do not appeal may request to be placed on the continuing interest list. The continuing interest list will be maintained until the applicant reaches the end of the first half term of the Autumn Term in Year 10.

5. In-Year Admissions

5.1 The Academy is not part of the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme for In-Year admissions. Those parents who wish to be considered for a place in any year group must contact the Admissions department at the Academy to request an application form, or download from the website.

5.2 Where no place exists, parents will be advised of their right to appeal.

5.3 The Academy operates a continuing interest list. This list will be maintained until the applicant reaches the end of the first half of the Autumn Term in Year 10.

5.4 The Academy will not admit pupils in any year group where to do so would cause the Academy to exceed its net capacity.

5.5 Criteria

5.5.1 Children looked after (in public care) and children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or a special guardianship order).

5.5.2 Children of UK Services personnel (UK Armed Forces). The Academy will allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation and a Unit postal address or quartering area.

5.5.3 Those who have moved into the area within the last 90 calendar days and are without a school place or an offer of a school place.

5.5.4 Those who have a current sibling at the Academy (i.e. a natural brother or sister, or a half brother or sister, or a legally adopted brother or sister or half brother or sister, or step brother or sister who will be living with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the Academy) on the roll of the Academy (proof of the sibling relationship will be required if a place is offered).

5.5.5 The remaining places will be offered to pupils with the nearest distance measurement on the basis of proximity; i.e. pupils who live the nearest distance at the close of the Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) applications date as designated by the HCC's computerised mapping system.

The home to school distance measurement, for the purposes of admissions, is defined by HCC as "a 'straight line' distance measurement from the address point of the pupil's home to the address point of the school".

5.6 In addition to the above criteria the Academy complies with all elements of the School Admissions Code including admitting children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs and children with an Education, Health and Care Plan, where Francis Combe Academy is the named school; who are currently, or have previously been in the care of the local authority; and pupils under the Local Authority's 'Fair Access protocol'. In these cases pupils will not need to wait until a place becomes available but will be admitted immediately even if this causes the Academy to exceed its published admission number in a particular year group. The Schools Admissions Code should be consulted for full details of rights and responsibilities with regard to In-Year Admissions.

5.7 In year application forms can be found on the school website or collected from the school's reception.

6. Children out of year

Hertfordshire County Council's policy is for children to be educated within their correct chronological year group, with the curriculum differentiated as necessary to meet the needs of individual children. If parents/ Carers believe their child should be educated in a different year group they must, at the time of application, submit supporting evidence from relevant professionals working with the child and family stating why the child must be placed outside their normal age appropriate cohort. Future Academies Watford is responsible for the decision to accept the application on the basis of the evidence submitted. There is no guarantee that an application will be accepted on this basis. If the application is not accepted this does not constitute a refusal of a place and there is no right to an independent statutory appeal.

Parents have the right of appeal against Non-Admission to the school.

Future Academies Watford will write to you with the outcome of your application and if you have been unsuccessful, the County Council will write to you with registration details to enable you to login and appeal online at:

<http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals>