

Grace Academy Solihull

Chapelhouse Road, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, B37 5JS

Admission arrangements 2025-2026

Applications for school admission will be managed by Solihull Council in accordance with the Local Authority's coordinated scheme for admission.

The school's admission number is 180. Where the number of applications is lower than the school's admission number, all applicants will be admitted. If there are more applications than places available then all applications will be considered. Places will be offered in priority order according to the oversubscription criteria.

Oversubscription criteria

- Priority 1** Looked after children and previously looked after children who are now adopted or subject to a residence order or special guardianship order. This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted, as well as children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after in England
- Priority 2** Children whose exceptional circumstances for social or medical reasons can only be met at this school
- Priority 3** Children who normally live in the school's catchment area
- Priority 4** Children who have an older brother or sister at the school at the same time
- Priority 5** Children living closest to the school, measured in a straight line from the child's home

Notes:

1. Children with a statement of education, health and care plan that names Grace Academy will be offered a place first. This will reduce the number of places available.
2. Applications with exceptional social or medical reasons must be supported by independent professional evidence. Applications will be considered by a panel of educational specialists
3. The catchment area can be seen on the Council's website: www.solihull.gov.uk/onlinemaps.
4. If there are more children wanting places in priority 3 than there are places available, places will be offered to children living in the catchment area in the following order:
 - **Priority 3a:** Children who have an older brother or sister at the school at the same time.
 - **Priority 3b:** Children living nearest the school, measured in a straight line from home to school.

5. Where a child lives with parents that have shared responsibility for the child, the “residence” shall be considered as the home in which the child resides for the majority of the school week, as demonstrated in a court order. Where the care is split equally throughout the school week or in the absence of documentation determining the main address, then the “residence” shall be defined as the home where child benefits are paid. If neither parent qualifies for child benefit we will use the address that is registered with the GP.
6. The places that are offered are provisional offers and are dependent upon the circumstances of the application remaining unchanged at the date of admission to the school. It is important that parents provide the school or Solihull Council with any information relating to changes in circumstances, such as a change of address, as soon as they occur. Offers based on fraudulent, incorrect or misleading information will be withdrawn if the child is no longer entitled to the place because there are children on the waiting list with a higher priority. In these circumstances the place will be withdrawn after the child has started the school, in line with the Admissions Code.
7. Under priority 4 a brother or sister must live at the same address and could be:
 - A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
 - a half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one parent; a stepbrother or stepsister, where two children are related by a parent’s marriage or civil partnership (a formal arrangement that gives same-sex couples the same legal status as married couples);
 - the separate children of a couple who live together; or
 - an adopted or fostered brother or sister.
8. If offering places within priority 4 would cause the school’s admission number to be exceeded, then children living closest to the school will be offered first.
9. In any priority, if two or more applicants have the same distance but only one place can be offered, a computerised random allocation system will be used to decide which applicant has the highest priority. The applicant with the lowest random number will have the highest priority. The random allocation is carried out independently from the admissions authority.
10. Distances are measured by the Local Authority’s computerised admissions system. The admissions system uses six-figure grid references provided by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). The grid references provide a unique point on each property, and distance is measured to the main pedestrian gate.
11. Waiting lists are produced in strict order of priority, against the over-subscription criteria and are managed by the Local Authority. Waiting lists for Year 7 intake are kept until the end of the autumn term. After this a Local Authority change of school application form will need to be completed. Waiting lists are produced in strict order of priority, according to the oversubscription criteria and managed by Solihull Council. Parents must email the council every half term to keep their child’s name on the list. As each child is added to the waiting list, lists are ranked again in priority order.
12. Applications received after the closing date are late and will not be processed until after the applications that were received on time. If the school is undersubscribed any application received after the closing date must be admitted.

13. If possible places will be offered at the same school to twins, triplets and children from other multiple births. If only one place can be offered the parent will choose which child should have the place.
14. 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 (born between 1 April and 31 August) 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. Children taught out of year in primary school must still request permission of the admissions authority for the application to be considered out of year for transition to secondary school. Requests should be made to the admissions authority and may be supported by professional evidence such as a speech and language therapist or it may simply be the parent's statement as to why they are making their request. If the request is agreed, this does not constitute an offer of a place. Parents should withdraw their application for the normal age group and make a new application as part of the main admissions round the following year, or proceed with their application for the normal age group and start in September. If the request is refused the application will proceed in the normal age group.
15. There is no right of appeal against the decision to decline the request. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.
16. Applications for a school place at any time other than the normal time for admission (in-year admission) should be made to parents' home council for processing. If there is a vacancy in the relevant year group a place will be offered. If the year group is full the governing body will apply the admission criteria to the application so that it can be placed on the waiting list.
17. The Governing Body recognises its duty to comply with the Local Authority Fair Access Protocol to provide fair access to school for pupils who need a school place because they have missed, or are at risk of missing, education.
18. Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Governors to refuse their child a place should contact Solihull School Admissions on 0121 704 6693 for a form. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel, arranged by the Local Authority.

Applications for Post 16

The Post 16 admission number is 50. The criteria for admission is as follows:

All requirements are discussed with potential applicants at interview, but minimum level entry requirements are GCSE level 5 and above in English Language and Maths with at least 3 other level 4s or above. Whatever the level of ability, all students are expected to show a commitment towards studying, an enthusiasm for success and a willingness to follow the dress code.