



The Joseph Whitaker School

An Academy specialising in Sport and Performing Arts

2025-2026

Admissions Policy

The planned admission number for Year 7 in September 2025 to 2026 is 235.

The Governors will consider any application above this number in any year group to satisfy themselves that further admission does not prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

The Local Governing Body are the admissions authority for The Joseph Whitaker School.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the school is oversubscribed, the following criteria will be used to determine the allocation of places.

In the event of over subscription in any of the categories, other than category 5, proximity to the school measured 'as the crow flies' from the entrance of the child's home to the principal entrance of the main administrative building of the school will be used as the determining factor. In the event of two distances being equal, lots will be drawn and independently verified.

1. Children in public care who are 'looked after' or 'previously looked after' as set out in the Admissions Code at the time an application for admission is made. The Governors require submission of the legal documentation which provides evidence that the child is 'looked after' or 'previously looked after' at the time of application.
2. Applications for admission for children of members of staff where 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 the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. (Note: this forms a part of the Academy's commitment to maintaining and improving high standards of teaching and learning within the school).
3. Children who attend The Joseph Whitaker Family of Schools (Abbey Gates Primary School, Lake View Primary School, Blidworth Oaks Primary School, Python Hill Primary School, Ravenshead C of E Primary School and Heathlands Primary School) and who were on the roll of one of these schools **on the closing date for applications** preceding admission to secondary school. Within this category, first priority will be given to those who already have a brother or sister attending The Joseph Whitaker School.
4. Children not attending The Joseph Whitaker Family of Schools above who have a brother or sister attending The Joseph Whitaker School **at the date of admission**.
5. Up to 20 places may be allocated to pupils who, at the closing date for applications, can show an aptitude for sport or performing arts, and whose parents have requested a place at the school. Places will be allocated to those achieving the highest scores, following the completion of the supplementary form.
6. Remaining places will be allocated on proximity to the school measured 'as the crow flies' from the entrance to the child's home to the principle entrance of the main administrative building of the school. Note; where the

final remaining place requires decision between children of a multiple birth, both or all of the children will be admitted.

Waiting List

If, after the offer of places has been made, the school is over-subscribed, all unsuccessful applicants will be placed on the waiting list which will be administered by the governors of the school in partnership with the local authority for the duration of the coordinated admissions scheme. Your position on this waiting list will be determined by the school's published over-subscription criteria above. The waiting list will remain open until 31 December in the year of admission and will be administered by the governors of the school. No waiting lists for any other year are maintained.

As children are added to the school's waiting list, the list will be ranked again, in line with the published oversubscription criteria.

All applications for places in the normal year of entry are made on the common application form. **For parents applying under the specialist criteria both the supplementary form and common application form should be completed.**

For entrance to the school in September 2025, the timetable for applications and closing dates are those set out in the co-ordinated admissions scheme, a copy of which is available from Nottinghamshire County Council. Application for admission in the normal round must be made to the child's home Local Authority by the national closing date, 31st October.

Sixth Form Admissions

Admissions into the Sixth Form will be allocated to those who have applied by the closing date and who meet the school's minimum entry requirements having regard to the following factors set out in order of priority:

1. Pupils transferring from within The Joseph Whitaker School are guaranteed a place irrespective of numbers.
2. The Planned Admission Number for external pupils is 20.
3. The Planned Admission number for Year 12 is 150.

In the event of there being more applicants than places available in 2 above, the deciding factors will be, in order of priority:

- i Children in public care who are 'looked after' or 'previously looked after' as set out in the Admissions Code at the time an application for admission is made. The Governors require submission of the legal documentation which provides evidence that the child is 'looked after' or 'previously looked after' at the time of application;
- ii Whether there is a brother or sister on The Joseph Whitaker School roll at the time of entry to the Sixth Form;
- iii Pupils who live nearest to the school 'as the crow flies' with distances measured from the entrance to the pupil's home to the principle entrance of the main administrative building of the school.

The minimum entry requirements are available in the Sixth Form prospectus.

Late and Mid-Term Applications

Late applications are those submitted after the closing date for the co-ordinated admissions scheme and will be dealt with in accordance with that scheme. Late applications will be considered at Appeal, providing the applicant can evidence that there were exceptional reasons for missing the closing date, for example family bereavement, hospitalisation or family trauma.

Applications received in mid- term are made directly to the school (application forms are on the website) and will be dealt with in accordance with the above criteria. In the event of a place being available in the appropriate year group then that will be offered.

Children of UK service personnel and crown servants

Applications from families of UK Service Personnel and other Crown Servants will be processed in line with the Governors admissions criteria. The Governors will accept an official MOD, FOC or GCHQ letter declaring a relocation date as proof of residence within the catchment area of the Family of Schools and the child or children will be offered a place if places are available or placed on the waiting list and be subject to move up and down the list as described above.

The Governors will:

- Process such applications in advance of the family arriving in the area, provided that the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address to use when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child

The Governors will not:

- Refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area.
- Reserve blocks of places for these children.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group if, for example, the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. This also applies to parents of summer born children (1 April to 31 August). When applying for a place parents need to make it clear that they are seeking a place outside of the child's normal age group and they should clearly state why. Parents should supply any relevant supporting information such as the child's academic, social and emotional development, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional, and whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group.

You will be informed in writing of the governors' decision with clear reasons for this decision. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place. The right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school, but is not in their preferred year group.

Withdrawing an Offer of a Place

Any offers of a place found to be made on the basis of inaccurate information can be withdrawn. Such examples would indicate fraudulent application, intentionally misleading applications, a false claim to residence leading to entry to one of the schools in the family of schools, and the failure of a parent to respond to an offer of a place within 14 days of the offer of a place being made.

Proof of residency and of the registration of the child at their previous school will normally be required for all applications to The Joseph Whitaker School other than transfers from the family of schools as set out in criterion 3 above.

Appeals

Parents have the right to an independent appeals panel if they are not happy with the outcome of their application. Any appeal must be made to the Clerk to the Governing Body in the first instance, within **twenty school days** of the date of the refusal letter. Repeat applications in the same academic year will not be considered unless there is a significant and material change in circumstances.

Specialist places

Supplementary forms should be submitted to The Joseph Whitaker School by **31 October** for assessment.

Applicants will be awarded points as follows:

Commitment to the Specialism ethos	3 points
For regular involvement in school/external sport	up to 3 points
For regular involvement in school/external performing arts	up to 3 points
For regular involvement in sport at County or National level	up to 3 points
For regular involvement with the performing arts at County or equivalent level	up to 3 points
For exceptional aptitude in sport or performing arts	up to 9 points
(To be detailed in the Supplementary Form)	

All points will be added and a rank order of students produced with the highest score first. Then up to 20 students who have demonstrated an aptitude for sport and/or performing arts will be allocated places based on this list. Unsuccessful students will join the pool for the remaining places. These students will be admitted on the basis of the remaining criteria.

Please note that the candidate's primary school, club or other organisation may be approached to confirm any involvement in any sporting or performing arts activities mentioned on the supplementary form.

Definition of Terms Looked after children and previously looked after children

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 accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to a school. Previously looked after children are 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) including those children who the admissions authority determine, based on the evidence provided, that were in state care outside of England, but who were then adopted. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

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.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

The Governors require documentary evidence in line with the above to be made available to the school at the time of application.

Staff: What is meant by 'demonstrable skill shortage?'

- a. there are fewer than four applicants for any teaching position
- b. there are no suitable applicants and the position is re-advertised

In such circumstances the offer of a place for a staff child may be made at interview.

Residence

This is defined as the child's ordinary place of residence, which is deemed to be the residential property at which the child normally and habitually resides with the person or persons having parental responsibility for the child at the time of completion of the application form. If a child's parents live at separate addresses, whichever of the two addresses the child spends at least 3 school nights i.e. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday will be taken as the place of residence. Addresses of other relatives or friends will not be considered as the place of residence even when the child stays there for all or part of the week. The School may seek proof of residence and may require evidence from the courts regarding parental responsibilities in these matters. Evidence that a child's place of residence is permanent may also be sought. Such evidence should demonstrate that the child lived at the address before the application was made and will continue to live there after the time of admission. Informal arrangements, even between parents, are not acceptable.

Brother and Sister

The Governors define brother and sister as being those children who share the same biological parents.

This includes half-brother or half-sister or a legally adopted child living at the same address as the child.

Parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' to include; all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or a young person.

Having parental responsibility means assuming all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority that a parent of a child has by law. People other than a child's natural parent can acquire parental responsibility.

Regular involvement

This is defined as follows:

School/external sport: Weekly

- School/external performing arts: Weekly
- Sport at County or National Level: Representation during the past six months from the date of application

Performing arts at County or equivalent level: Representation during the past six months from the date of application.

Measuring Distance 'As the crow flies'

For applications in the normal year of entry which are managed under the coordinated admissions arrangements distance is measured using software available to the Local Authority and the school governors use this information to rank order applications. For all other applications the governors of the school use Google Maps to measure distance. Distances are measured in a straight line from the main administrative point of the school campus to an address point to the child's home.

The Joseph Whitaker School

An Academy specialising in Sport and Performing Arts

ADMISSIONS 2025-26 SUPPLEMENTARY APPLICATION FORM

Please complete this form, **in addition** to the Local Authority Application Form, if you are applying for either a Sport or Performing Arts place.

Only complete this form if you are applying for a place at The Joseph Whitaker School and you do not qualify for a place under criteria 1 to criteria 4.

Please return this form **directly to The Joseph Whitaker School** no later than: **12 noon on 31 October 2025**

The form should be posted to, Admissions The Joseph Whitaker School, Warsop Lane, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire NG21 0AG, or completed online and e-mailed to admissions@josephwhitaker.org.

Child's First Name	Child's Surname	Date of Birth
Home Address		Postcode
Home Telephone Number	Mobile Telephone Number	
Primary School Attended		
E-Mail Address		
Achievement in Sport or Performing Arts (Drama, Dance and Music) Please provide supporting details or evidence (for example clubs represented other than at school, county or national representation/honours, grades achieved, awards won etc.)		
Signed (Parent/Carer):		
Print Name in Block Capitals:	Date:	

| This policy will be reviewed annually

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Adoption by the Governing Body



Headteacher

Signature Date: October 2023



Signature Date: October 2023

Chair of Governors

The Joseph Whitaker School



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The Joseph Whitaker School

Warsop Lane

Rainworth

Nottinghamshire

NG21 0AG



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