



Our young people invest in their futures

Admissions Arrangements*

Sir James Smith's School

September 2025 to July 2026

Version 1

Sir James Smith's School

Admission arrangements 2025/26

1. Introduction

The Trustees of West Country Schools Trust are the admission authority for all member schools in the Trust, including Sir James Smith's School.

The school will participate fully in the Cornwall Council's Fair Access Protocol and Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes. Details of these schemes are available on the Council's website (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) or on request from Cornwall Council. Closing dates and other details about the application process will be stated in those schemes.

2. Applying for a place

All applications for places in year 7 or during the school year must be made direct to the applicant's home Local Authority on the appropriate application form. The application form and supporting information will be available on Cornwall Council's website. There is no supplementary information form required by the Trust Board of the admitting school.

However, if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan, you **do not** need to complete an application form as a school place will be identified through a separate process.

3. Allocation of places

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school will be admitted regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

Children in Care who are directed to the school by Cornwall Council (or Secretary of State in the case of academies) will be admitted to the school regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

The published admission number (PAN) for year 7 in 2025/26 will be 120. Places will be allocated up to this number. In the event that more applications are received than places available, the oversubscription criteria listed later in this document will be used to decide on allocations. If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be admitted.

4. Admission of children outside their normal age group

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. Those wishing to request placement outside the normal age group should contact the Headteacher. Such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and in the best interests of the child concerned. Guidance can also be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions or on request from the School Admissions Team. Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. However, they do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

5. Appeals

Applicants refused a place at the school have the right of appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel, arranged by Cornwall Council on behalf of the Trust Board. Further details and a timeline can be found in Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. Applicants can only appeal again for a place in the same school within the same academic year if the admission authority for that school has accepted a further application because there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent or carer, child or school (e.g., a change of address into a school's designated area) but has determined that the new application must also be refused.

6. Waiting lists

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held for the whole of the academic year for all year groups. Children are automatically added to this list if they are refused a place. The waiting list will be based on the school's oversubscription criteria and a child's place on a waiting list is subject to change according to additional information received about applications or children being added to the list – so their place on the list might move up or down. **No priority is given to the length of time that a child has been on the list.** Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan and Children in Care or children that were previously in care will take precedence over those on the waiting list. Children admitted under the Fair Access Protocol will also be given priority over children on the waiting list.

7. Oversubscription Criteria [secondary]

In the event of there being more than 120 applications for places in Year 7 for the 2025/26 academic year or more applications than places for any year group during the school year, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to prioritise applications, after the admission of children whose Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school:

1. Children in care and children who were previously in care but immediately after being in care became subject to an Adoption, Child Arrangement, or Special Guardianship Order including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state of care outside England and ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children whose parents/carers are employed at the school on a permanent basis.
 - a) 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, or
 - b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
3. Children who live within the designated area of the school, as defined by Cornwall Council, or whose parents/carers can provide evidence that they will be living in the designated area of the school by the date from which admission is required.

If there are more designated area children wanting places than there are places available, criteria 3 to 6 below will be used to decide which of these children should have priority for admission. If there are still places available after all the designated area children have been allocated places, criteria 3 to 6 will be used to decide which of the remaining children should have priority for any spare places.

4. Children with an unequivocal professional recommendation from a doctor, school medical officer, educational psychologist or education welfare officer that non-placement at the school would not be in the best interest of the child. Such recommendations must be made in writing and must give full supporting reasons and will be reviewed by Cornwall Council.

5. Children with siblings who will still be attending the school at the time of their admission.

6. Children on the roll of a primary school (at the time of allocation) whose designated area is contained within or forms part of the designated area of the preferred secondary school.

7. All other children.

8. Notes and definitions

8.1 Children in care

A 'child in care' may also be referred to as a 'looked after child' and is a child who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

A 'child arrangement order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989. 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).

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society (see Section 23ZZA(8) of the Children Act 1989 (inserted by Section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017)).

8.2 Designated areas

Cornwall Council has divided the County into geographical areas. Each of these areas is served by a specific secondary school, or in some cases, groups of schools. These areas are called 'designated areas' (you may also have heard these areas referred to as 'catchment' areas). The designated area used in Sir James Smith's School's oversubscription criteria will be as defined by Cornwall Council. NB: not all schools prioritise on the basis of designated area or use Cornwall Council's defined area; however, entitlement to home to school transport will still be based on these areas. Your designated school will not always be the one nearest to your home address. Maps are available for all designated areas online at: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions or by calling the School Admissions Team on 0300 1234 101 or emailing: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk.

If you are planning to move into the designated area of Sir James Smith's School, your application for a place for your child will not be given the priority accorded to designated area pupils without firm

evidence of your new address and moving date such as a copy of a signed and dated tenancy agreement or confirmation that contracts have been exchanged.

8.3 Primary schools within the designated area for Sir James Smith's Secondary School

Primary schools whose designated areas are contained within or form part of the designated area of Sir James Smith's School are as follows:

Boscastle; Camelford; Delabole; Otterham; Port Isaac; St Breward; St Teath; Tintagel.

8.4 Children with an unequivocal professional recommendation

Applicants will only be considered under this criterion where the parent/carer can demonstrate that **only** the preferred school can meet the exceptional medical or social needs of the child, supported by recommendation from, for example, a doctor, school medical officer or education psychologist. Such recommendations must be made in writing to the School Admissions Team and must give full supporting reasons. The admission authority will make the final decision on whether or not to accept an application under this criterion.

8.5 Siblings

'Siblings' means brothers or sisters. They are defined as children with at least one natural or adoptive parent in common, living at the same or a different address. Children living permanently in the same household at the same address would also be counted as siblings, regardless of their actual relationship to each other. To qualify as a sibling a child must be on the roll of or due to be on the roll of the school in question at the date of admission.

If a child is a sibling of a multiple birth (e.g. twins, triplets, etc.) and has been offered a place at the requested school, every effort will be made to offer places to siblings at the same school, which may mean allocating places above the Published Admission Number (PAN) where this is possible. However, where this is not possible, parents will be invited to decide which of the children should be allocated the available places(s).

8.6 Tie-breakers

If any of the criteria outlined earlier leave more children with an equal claim than places available, priority will be given to the child who lives nearer to the preferred school.

8.7 Final tie-breaker

Should the tie-breakers above still leave children with an equal claim because distances are exactly the same, random allocation will be used to decide on priority. The school will use Cornwall Council's Random Allocation Protocol, supervised by an independent person, which is available on request.

8.8 Distances

Home to school distances used for tie-breaking will be measured by a straight-line measurement as determined by Cornwall Council's nominated Geographical Information System. Measurements will be between your home address (the centre of the main building of the property) and the main gate of the school (as determined by Cornwall Council).

Distances used to determine nearest school with room (i.e. where it is not possible to offer a place at a preferred school) and for establishing transport entitlements will be measured by the nearest available route as determined by Cornwall Council's nominated Geographic Information System software.

8.9 Home address

Each child can only have one registered address for the purposes of determining priority for admission and transport entitlement. The address must be:

- the child's principal permanent residence at the point of application and the address from which they will attend school; or
- a future address from which the child will attend school, supported by a form of evidence from the list in Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme.

An admission authority may refuse to accept an address if an applicant still owns or rents an address at which their child previously lived. It is for the admission authority to determine:

- if the address given on an application is a child's current or future principal permanent residence and the address from which they will attend school; and
- which address should be used to determine eligibility for a place.

Exceptional circumstances in relation of the provision of a home address will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If there is shared residence of the child or a query is raised regarding the validity of an address, the home address will be considered to be with the parent with primary day to day care and control of the child. Residency of a child may also be clarified through a Child Arrangement Order where it is shown who has care of the child. Evidence may be requested to show where the child resides.

It is expected that parents will submit only one application for each child. Any disputes in relation to the child's home address should be settled before applying, the admission authority will not become involved in any parental disputes. If agreement cannot be obtained before an application is made then parents/carers may need to settle the matter through the courts. Where no agreement is reached or order obtained, Cornwall Council will determine the home address.

For information on disputes between persons with parental responsibility in relation to school preferences please see Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for the relevant year.

Applications for children of Service Families will be processed and places allocated based on the proposed address (with supporting evidence) or, if the family are not able to confirm a proposed address and a unit or quartering address is provided, an allocation will be made based on the unit or quartering address. Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address or quartering area address will be used to determine allocation of a school place. For the purpose of measuring distances, the main entrance of the unit will be used.

If you would like this in a different format, please contact the school.

Version and Date		Action/Notes
1.0	November 2023	Reviewed – Phil Banks

Policy Reviewed:	November 2023
Policy approved By:	Trust Board
Policy approved:	11 December 2023
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