

Admissions Policy



2025/26



Admissions Policy for academic year 2025-26

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| Statutory/Non-Statutory: | Statutory |
| Approval Level: | Whole Governing Body |
| Approved by Governing Body: | |
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Next Review Date: July 2025

*Cantell – An exceptional school experience:
Academic excellence / Exciting teaching & learning
Life-changing opportunities / A richly diverse community*

Admissions Policy for academic year 2025-2026

Cantell School is a Foundation School and part of the Aspire Community Trust. The school is its own admission authority.

As required in the School Admissions Code, the authority will consider all on-time preferences at the same time for September 2025 admissions. The closing date for all applications for school places is the 31st October 2024. Further information can be found on the Southampton City Council website.

The Governing Body (GB) of the school is the admission authority for the school. The authority will consider all on-time preferences at the same time for September 2024 admissions.

Cantell School has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 250.

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) that name a school

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) that name a school must be admitted to that school under the Education Act 1996 and with regard to the SEND Code of Practice. These children will be admitted to the named school, even if it is full, and are therefore outside the normal admission arrangements. As required by the Code these children will count as part of the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school.

Oversubscription criteria

Applications submitted by 31 October 2024 will be dealt with first. If the number of applications submitted by 31 October 2024 for a school is greater than the PAN for the school, admissions will be decided according to the following priorities:

1. Children in public care (looked after children) and previously looked after children as defined in paragraph 1.7 of the School Admissions Code 2021 which states: Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to child arrangements order or special guardianship order).
2. Children subject to a child protection plan.
3. Children who have a sibling already on roll at Cantell School who will continue to attend the following year.
4. Children whose parents have satisfied the Governing Body that their child has a significant medical or psychological condition which means they must attend the preferred school rather than any other. Applications must be supported by appropriate written evidence from a doctor or psychologist.
5. Children of staff employed by Cantell School for two or more years at the time of application and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
6. Children attending a feeder junior or primary school.
7. Children who live closest to the school.

Should the school be oversubscribed from within any of the criteria, then distance, as defined below, will be used to prioritise applications within these categories. Should there be two or more identical distances requiring prioritisation, this will be done by casting lots. Lots will be drawn by the Education Lead, Southampton City Council, independent from the school.

Definitions

Sibling: This includes children living as siblings in the same family unit. A sibling is defined as a brother or sister including half, step, or foster or adoptive brother or sister, living within the same family unit at the same address.

Feeder Junior or Primary School: priority will be given to children attending a feeder junior or primary school at the closing date of applications. They are as follows:

- **Cantell School** – Bassett Green Primary School, Bevois Town Primary School, Highfield CofE Primary School, Portswood Primary School, Mansbridge Primary School, Mount Pleasant Junior School, Swaythling Primary School.

Distance: Distances are measured based on the shortest walking distance using public roads and footpaths. Distances are measured from home to school for all children. These are calculated using a computerised mapping system that uses data supplied by Ordnance Survey. Distances are measured from the point designated in the system as the home address to the point designated in the system as the mid-point of the nearest open pedestrian gate to the school, using public roads and footpaths.

Late applications

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2024. Applications received after that date will be late applications and will be dealt with after all on-time applicants have been offered a school place. If a school has places available after admitting all on-time applications, late applications will be considered in accordance with the priorities set out above.

Waiting lists

If a place cannot be offered at Cantell, all unsuccessful applicants will automatically be placed on the waiting list for the school. If places become available, children on the waiting list will automatically be offered them according to the priorities set out above.

The length of time on the waiting list cannot be taken into account. Unsuccessful late applications will be treated in the same way as unsuccessful on-time applications and placed on the waiting list according to the priorities set out above. This means that waiting lists will be re-ranked after every new expression of preference.

The waiting list will be held until 31 July 2026. Any parent wishing to remain on the waiting list after this date will need to make a new in-year application to the school.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted or talented or has experienced problems such as ill health, or they are summer born and were admitted to Year R or Year 3 outside the normal age group. All requests will be considered on their merits, taking account of the parent's view and the views of the headteacher.

Parents of summer-born children for whom education outside normal age group was previously agreed will be required to make a new request for entry into secondary school. This should be done as if the child is placed in their correct year group. For example, a child who has been held back a year (decelerated) should be making a new request when the child is in Year 5.

Before making such a request, parents are strongly advised to read the 'Guidance on the education of children outside normal age group' document available on the Southampton City Council website, which explains the procedures that need to be followed.

For all requests it is vital to understand that at each transition (starting reception, moving from infant to junior, primary to secondary, secondary to college) the decision whether to maintain the placement in a younger or older year group must be made by the admission authority for the school. As such, there is **no guarantee that it will continue throughout the child's education** and a new parental request **must** be made before each transition. As a general rule, requests should only be made once per phase transfer, unless there has been a significant change in circumstances.

One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on education out of normal age group.

In-Year Admissions

Admissions mid-year for any year group will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

Open Evenings/Visits

Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time, by appointment, where there is the opportunity to see the school in operation during the working day. Dates for the Open Evening and Events will be published on the school website. For an appointment, please contact the Headteacher's PA on 023 80516722.

Policy Review

This admissions policy will be reviewed annually.