Admissions Policy 2026-27

Stockport Academy is an inclusive school and welcomes children from the local community. It is part of United Learning (the Trust).

Admissions Number

The published admission number for Year 7 is 210.

Process for Application

The Governors of the Academy are delegated responsibility by the Trust for the admission of pupils. For entry into year 7 the admissions application and offer process will be coordinated via Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC)'s School Admissions Team and its timetable.

Applications should be submitted on the Common Application Form to the home borough / local authority (that is, the local authority responsible for the child's address).

The admission of students with an Educational Health Care Plan is conducted through a separate process. Parents of these students should contact their home local authority's SEND department in the first instance.

Consideration of Applications for entry into Year 7

There are no faith criteria as part of the admissions policy. Children from families of all faiths, or none, are very welcome. All students are admitted without reference to ability or aptitude.

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

Procedures where the Academy is oversubscribed

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered as follows. After the admission of pupils with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) where Stockport Academy is named on the EHCP, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

1. Children who are "Looked after" by a Local Authority, or a child who was previously looked after but immediately following being looked after were subject to an adoption or residency order, including those from outside of England *(see notes A and B).*

2. Children who have medical needs, social needs and special needs which are not covered by an EHCP but mean admission to Stockport Academy is necessary. In such circumstances, the application must be supported by written specific professional advice, e.g., from a doctor or specialist, not a primary school alone. The significant specific need which parents may ask to be taken into account must relate directly to the student and be significant to the extent that it will or is likely to have an impact on the ability of the student to access an alternative provision of education (see *note C).*

3. Children with an older brother or sister currently attending Stockport Academy in one of Years 7 to 10 and who will continue to do so in one of Years 8 to 11 on the point of admission into the Academy. See below for explanation of the term brother / sister *(note D).*

4. Distance from the applicant's home address to the Academy *(see notes E and F).* The distance is measured by Stockport MBC's GIS system from the child's main home address to the school. The applicants will beranked nearest to furthest *(see note G).*

The Academy will apply the above criteria to applicant's subject to the following exceptions:

- Where an applicant is seeking admission for September in the normal admission round, applications received before the closing date will initially be given priority over those received after the closing date. Under exceptional circumstances a late application may be considered as received on time. Exceptional circumstances could be illness involving hospitalisation or a bereavement.

- When considering twins, triplets or other multiple births places, where the final place available was offered to a twin, triplet or multiple birth, a place will be offered above the published admission number to the other twin,triplet or multiple birth children whose twin, triplet or multiple birth was offered a place within the admission number.

Admission Criteria – Notes

A. A "Looked After Child" means any child who is in the care of a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. A child who was"previously a Looked After Child" means a child who after being Looked Afterbecame subject to an Adoption Order under the Adoption Act 1976 or underSection 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, a Residence Order or Child Arrangement Order under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 or SpecialGuardianship Order under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify the previously looked after status of a child. It is at the discretion of the Academy Trust what evidence is required. The final decision will be made by the Academy Trust. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the Academy Trust to befraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Academy Trust may refuse to offer aplace, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.

B. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify the previously looked after status of a child. It is at the discretion of the Academy Trust what evidence is required. The final decision will be made by the Academy Trust. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the Academy Trust to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Academy Trust may refuse to offer aplace, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.

C. The significant specific need which parents may ask to be taken into account must: relate directly to the student; be significant to the extent that it will or is likely to have an impact on the ability of the student to access the provision of education. Parent(s) wishing to make application on the basis of this criterion must demonstrate that the Academy is specifically suited to meet the need described in the application and that no other school can meet this need. Applications made on the basis of this criterion must be accompanied by a report or letter from a relevant and appropriately qualified professional person. Such a person may be a doctor, social worker or educational psychologist. The Academy reserves the right to seek and take into account a second opinion from a suitably qualified professional person, such opinion to be gained at the expense of the Academy. Parent(s) are advised that they should provide full information with their application to enable it to be properly considered. It may not be possible for the Academy to consider late information.

D. Brothers or sisters are defined as full or half brother/sister, adoptive brother/sister, fostered brother/sister, and the children of parents who are married or cohabiting, where the parents and children live together in the same household. For the purpose of clarity, it does not include cousins. The Academy reserves the right to ask for proof of relationship.

E. The home address where a child lives is considered to be a residential property that is the child's main or only address during term time. Applicants can be asked to provide additional evidence in order to verify addresses and/or other details provided. It is at the discretion of the Academy Trust what evidence is required(evidence may include, but is not limited to, Child Benefit, GP registration, evidence of home ownership/tenancy etc.). The final decision on the home address of a child will be made by the Academy Trust. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the Academy Trust to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading, the Academy Trust may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.

F. Applications from separated Parents/Carers Only: One application can be considered for each child. Where parents/carers are separated, it is essential that agreement be reached by both parties concerning the nominated preferred schools. Where a child spends part of their week with one parent and part with the other, only one address can be used. The address used should be the one of the parent/carer who receives the Child Benefit Allowance for the child. If Child Benefit is not claimed, the address should be that at which the child spends most of their time during term time at the point of application.

G. In the case of over subscription against criteria 1 - 4, priority will be given within category to children who live closest to the Academy, as measured by Stockport MBC's computerised measuring system. Stockport MBC use a government standard Geographical Information System. Distances are measured as a straight line between the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address points for the respective home address and school, using the Easting and Northing for each address point.

H. Where it is necessary to differentiate between applicants living in flats using the same street entrance, priority will be given to the applicant(s) living closest to the ground floor and then by ascending flat number order. Where it is necessary to further differentiate between applicants living the same distance from the school, priority will be decided by random allocation. Details of this process are outlined below under 'Final tie-break allocation process.'

Waiting Lists

Stockport MBC manages a formal waiting list on behalf of the Academy for those who are unsuccessful in securing a place.

The waiting list is ranked according to the over-subscription criteria. Any places that do become available, if not required for a child with an Education Health Care Plan or one who is required to be admitted through an In-year Fair Access Protocol (see below), are allocated in accordance with these criteria. The waiting list does not give priority either to those that have been on the list longest or to those that applied after the closing date. The school governors are regularly updated on the numbers on the waiting list. All parents / carers will be asked to reaffirm their intention to remain on the waiting list at the end of each academic year.

Final Tie-Break Allocation Process

If there are insufficient places to accommodate all applicants and after using all oversubscription criteria, applicants for the final place(s) cannot be split, the remaining place(s) will be allocated using a random allocation process. This process will managed on behalf of Stockport Academy by Stockport MBC.

National Offer Day

On National Offer Day (normally the 1st of March) the child's home borough / local authority will inform parents of the outcome of the application and which school the child has been allocated. Stockport Academy will also send out offer letters with a deadline for accepting or declining a place.

In-Year Admissions: Arrangements for Admitting Pupils outside of the normal admissions round

Applications outside of the normal admissions round are known as in-year admissions.
Parents are encouraged to apply for a place in-year via Stockport MBC by completing this form here. Parents will be notified by Stockport MBC of the outcome of their in-year application within 10 school days of the receipt of the application.

If the year group applied for has a place available, the child will be admitted unless there are reasonable reason(s) not to admit in accordance with Schools Admissions Code. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria outlined above shall apply. Parents/carers whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal (see below).

Admissions: outside of the normal age-range

Families may seek a place for their child outside of his/her normal age group under various circumstances such as for summer born children who started primary school later, ill health, if the child is gifted and talented or when the child has experienced problems.

Where a parent wishes to seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, they should contact the Academy whereupon the process will be explained. The Academy will make its decision on the basis of: (a) the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned; (b) taking account of the parent's views; (c) information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; (d) the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional (where relevant); (e) whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group; and (f) whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The Academy will also take into account the views of the head teacher. When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the Academy will set out clearly the reasons for their

decision.

Where the Academy agrees to a parent's request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group as part of the main admissions round (Year 7) the local authority and Academy will process the application as though it were any other application made as part of the main admissions round, and the same oversubscription criteria shall apply. Where the application falls outside the main admission round, then the in-year admission process shall apply.

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 Academy, but it is not in their preferred age group

Rights of Appeal

Parents will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Academy. The appeal panel will be independent of the Academy. The arrangements for appeals will be in line with the School Admissions Appeals Code (the "Code") published by the Department for Education. The determination of the appeal panel will be made in accordance with the Code and will be binding on all parties.

Parents/carers can obtain appeal forms and details of the appeals process via the Stockport MBC's School Admissions Appeal page here.

If parents/carers decide to appeal, they will receive an advance notice of the hearing date. They will be invited to attend the appeal. The hearing will be conducted as informally as possible, and parents/carers will have the opportunity to put forward their case and ask questions. If the appeal is refused, the Local Governing Body will not consider a further appeal for admission in the same academic year, unless there is a significant material change in circumstances of the parent or child.

Fair Access Protocol

Stockport Academy participates in the In-Year Fair Access Protocol managed by Stockport MBC in order to minimize the number of students who are at risk of underachievement by being out of school. This is reviewed by The Admissions Forum on a regular basis.

Agreed by Stockport Academy LGB October 2025

Review: **Annually**

Signed by Chair of LGB _____

David Robinson (Chair)

Signed by Principal

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Janine McCann (Principal)