



Admissions Policy: 2026-2027

Contents

1. Aims.....	2
2. Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan	2
3. Oversubscription Criteria.....	2
4. Definitions	3
5. Tie-breaker.....	4
6. Additional Information	4
Late Applications	4
Waiting Lists	4
In-Year Applications and Reserve Applicant Lists.....	4
Entry into Reception Class	5
Multiple births	5
In-Year Fair Access placements by the local authority.....	6
School Closures	6
In-Year Admissions	6
Legislation	6

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Portswood Primary School Admissions Policy: 2026-2027

1. Aims

This policy will apply to all admissions from 1 September 2026, including in-year admissions. It will be used during 2025-2026 for allocating places for September 2026 as part of the main admission round for Year R.

Portswood Primary School is part of the HISP Multi Academy Trust. The Local Governing Body of the school is the admission authority for Portswood Primary School and will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on 15 January 2026**. Notifications to parents offering a primary school place will be sent by the Local Authority on **16 April 2026**.

The published admission number (PAN) for Portswood Primary School for 2025-2026 is **60**.

Applications made after midnight on 15 January 2026 will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all on time preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

2. Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming Portswood Primary School will be admitted. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

3. Oversubscription Criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to children in the following priority order:

1. Children who are currently, or have previously been in care (Looked After and Previously Looked After Children) as defined by the Admissions Code 2021
2. Children subject to a Child Protection Plan or deemed to be vulnerable by a senior officer with responsibility for safeguarding in Southampton City Council
3. Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school that will continue to attend that school for the following year
4. Children whose parents have satisfied the Local Authority that their child has a significant medical or psychological condition which means they must attend the preferred school rather than any other
5. Children who qualify for the Service Premium, as the child of a member of the Armed Forces
6. Children who live within the school's designated catchment area

HISP Multi Academy Trust

Portswood Primary School Admissions Policy: 2026-2027

7. Children whose parents are employed at the school they are applying for, as defined below
8. Children who live closest to the school

4. Definitions

Previously/Looked After Child: Looked After Children are Children who are in the care of local authorities as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. In relation to school admissions legislation a 'looked after child' is a child in public care at the time of application to a school. A Previously Looked After Child, as defined by the Admissions Code, is one who was: 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 appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Sibling: This includes children living as siblings in the same family unit. In the case of applications for places at infant schools a sibling at the linked junior school will count as a sibling at the infant school. A sibling is defined as a brother or sister including half, step, foster or adoptive brother or sister, living within the same family unit at the same address for the entirety or majority of the school week.

Catchment Area: A "designated catchment area" for a school is the area set out in the definitive catchment area map for each school. This map is held by Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY. A schedule of addresses, to be read in conjunction with the map, is also kept by the Council. Parents wishing to know if their address is in a particular catchment area can contact the Admissions Team, or log on to the council website www.southampton.gov.uk, click on "My Southampton", follow the links, and enter their postcode.

Service Premium: A child will qualify for the Service Premium if their circumstances satisfy any of the following:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve)
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

Proof of this criteria may be provided in a letter from the service parent's commanding officer, confirming employment, or evidence of the receipt of a service pension.

Children of Parents Employed at the School: In line with the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021, a child can be prioritised in the oversubscription criteria for a school if the parent:

- Has been employed at the school for two or more years from the time of application
- Has been employed to fill a position for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage

HISP Multi Academy Trust

Portswood Primary School Admissions Policy: 2026-2027

5. Tie-breaker

Should a school be oversubscribed from within any of the criteria above, then distance will be used to prioritise applications within these categories. If there are two or more pupils who live identical distances from the school, the decision will be made by casting lots drawn by the Education Lead, Southampton City Council. 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 the 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.

6. Additional Information

Late Applications

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2026. 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 to an applicant in Year R, they will automatically be added to the school's waiting list.

Waiting lists are kept in the order of the school's oversubscription categories, and not how long a child has been on the waiting list for. This means that each new application will cause the list to be re-ranked, and children could move down as well as up the list.

Places will be offered for Year R from the waiting list if a vacancy arises at the school.

The Year R waiting list will be held until 31 July 2027.

In-Year Applications and Reserve Applicant Lists

In-year applications will be considered against this policy and its oversubscription criteria.

If a place cannot be offered to an applicant in Years 1-6, they will automatically be added to the school's reserve applicant list, unless they ask not to be.

The reserve applicant list will be kept in the order of the school's oversubscription categories on the basis of the information provided in their first applicant, and not how long a child has been on the list.

HISP Multi Academy Trust

Portswood Primary School Admissions Policy: 2026-2027

When vacancies arise, the applicant(s) at the top of this list will be invited to reapply.

This does not guarantee that a place will be offered at this time, as the application will need to be considered freshly against the Admissions Code 2021 and the school's admissions policy.

Entry into Reception Class

The offer made to parents for reception class on the initial offer date is of a full time place from the start of term after 1 September 2026. Schools normally wish to stagger entry into school from that date and arrange for some initial part time attendance to ensure a smooth transition from pre-school / home into school.

Flexibilities exist for those parents who do not feel that their child is ready to start school in the September following their fourth birthday. It is possible for them to:

- Request part-time admission to the allocated school from the September following their child's fourth birthday. This should be negotiated with the Headteacher of the allocated school.
- Request to defer their child's entry until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach Compulsory School Age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. This should be negotiated with the Headteacher of the allocated school.
- Request to defer their child's entry until the September following their fifth birthday.

Parents must make an in-year application and the pupil would start in Year 1. Parents of summer born children, that is children born between 1 April and 31 August, may, in addition, choose to send their child to school in the September following their 5th birthday and may request that their child is admitted out of their normal age group to reception year rather than Year 1. Any parent wishing to apply for their summer born child to start school outside their normal age group should 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.

Multiple births

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a school under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the school's PAN.

HISP Multi Academy Trust

Portswood Primary School Admissions Policy: 2026-2027

In-Year Fair Access placements by the local authority

The local authority must ensure that all pupils are placed in schools as quickly as possible. It may therefore sometimes be necessary for a pupil to be placed by the local authority, or a local placement panel acting on behalf of the authority, in a particular school even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements will be made in accordance with the provisions of the local authority's In-Year Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

School Closures

In the event of a school closure, pupils from the closing school may be given priority for any school nominated as the receiving school. Specific arrangements will be determined by the Local Authority in accordance with the School Admissions Code and will be published at the time for the specific schools affected.

In-Year Admissions

Admissions mid-year for any year group will be dealt with in accordance with this policy. Please contact the current school for more information on how to apply. For any questions or queries relating to Admissions, please contact Mel Saunders on 02380 246589.

Legislation

This policy takes account of all Equalities legislation, together with all relevant regulations and the School Admissions Code (published by the DfE in 2021).