

Featherstone High School

Admissions Policy

Admission Arrangements

2023-2024



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Statutory Policy

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Featherstone High School is an Academy, specialising in Sciences and Sports.

The school has a published admissions number approved by the Department for Education for 280 pupils into year 7.

Pupils can then continue onto our Sixth Form in years 12 and 13 if they meet the criteria for each course applied for. External students will need to provide a reference from a member of their school's Senior Leadership Team.

Applications for admissions are dealt with in the normal round of admissions for a place in year 7 by the London Borough of Ealing under the Coordinated Admissions Scheme. Applications should be made on the common application form. This can be done online, by the published closing date on www.eadmissions.org.

Featherstone High School will operate an admissions policy which:

- Meets the requirements of the law
- Meets the needs of parents and their child
- Is consistently applied and clearly understood by all
- Operates within the guidelines established by the Local authority.

Admission Criteria

If there are more applications than places available, the criteria as listed below will be used to decide who will be offered a place.

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after

Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangement order, or special guardianship order. Including 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 (see below for definitions of children who are looked after or were previously looked after).

Definition: Children who are looked after or were previously looked after - 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). 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 arrangement order or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after. Adopted children are those who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangement orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.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. A special guardianship order is defined by s.14A of the Children Act 1989 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 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.

2. Brother or sister who will still be attending the school at the time of admission.

The words brother and sister refer to all blood, half, foster, step, and adopted brothers and sisters, (not cousins), who live at the same home and in the same family unit as the child on a permanent basis or, for the majority of time in any calendar year. A sibling relationship does not apply when the older child(ren) will leave before the younger one starts school. A sibling connection does not apply for children whose older siblings will/may be attending the Sixth Form in years 12 and 13.

3. Exceptional Medical or Social Circumstances

Exceptional medical or social circumstances, for Featherstone High School as the named preferred school. The medical circumstances must relate to the child, and parents will be expected to provide supporting evidence from a consultant who is monitoring the child's condition (not a General Practitioner [GP]) in relation to medical circumstances, or a social worker (or other appropriate professionally qualified person) in relation to social circumstances. All supporting evidence showing why education should be at the first preference school must be submitted at the time of application. Priority under this criterion can only be given for the first preference school.

The Admissions Panel will consider all claimed exceptional medical or social circumstances in line with admissions criteria and inform parents of their decision.

4. Distance from the child's permanent home address to the preferred school.

The distance from home to Featherstone High, is measured by a straight line from a point in the property determined by Ordnance Survey to the nearest gated entrance which is used by pupils to enter the school grounds. The measuring system is an integral part of the admissions software produced by Tribal Technology Ltd. It uses Ordnance Survey maps and is accurate to 1 metre.

The distance is measured from a point determined by Ordnance Survey in the property to the centre of the road, along the centre of the road, to the nearest gated entrance which is used by pupils to enter the school grounds. It does not mean that we will be able to allocate a place at the school nearest to your address.

Any combination of two or more criteria gives higher priority than one criterion. For example, a brother/sister connection and agreed medical/ social circumstances would give priority over a brother/sister connection. If two or more children have equal priority under the criteria, the criterion of distance set out in point 4 above will then be applied.

Points 1 to 4 will be applied as the oversubscription criteria and for in year admissions.

Tie break

In the event that the distances are equal, the Local Authority (not the school) operates a random allocation to determine which applicant should be offered the place.

Twins, triplets or other children from multiple births

The Local Authority does not give priority under its admission criteria for twins, triplets or other children from multiple births. But the school will admit children from multiple births when one of the siblings is the thirtieth child admitted.

Waiting lists/Pool

When vacancies arise, places will be allocated according to the oversubscription criteria. Vacancies will be offered to the pupil with the highest priority on the waiting list/pool at the time the vacancy arises, not on a "first come, first served" basis. The position of a pupil on the waiting list/pool changes frequently and can move down as well as up if other pupils having higher priority have their names added to the waiting list.

Length of time on a waiting list/pool does not give any priority. Places are offered from the waiting list if they become available. These places cannot normally be held open and it is expected that they will be taken up almost immediately.

Children of newly appointed staff

After the published offer date, where there is a demonstrable skills shortage for a vacant post (independent evidence is required), the admission authority will place the children of a new appointee for the post in question, at the top of the waiting list for places at the school.

Shared responsibility

Where the parents have shared responsibility and the child is residing with one parent for the majority of the time or on a permanent basis, the address of this parent will be used for the purposes of the application. Where parents have shared responsibility and the child lives with each parent for half of the calendar year, the parents must come to an agreement as to whose address will be used for the application. This address will be used to process the child's application and can only be changed after the beginning of the academic year unless the address of the chosen parent changes during the admissions process. Proof of residency will be required. In all other cases of personal or family arrangements, the address of the mother will be taken as the main residence.

Admission criteria: Sixth Form

All students must meet the entry requirements for their chosen course of study as published in the Sixth form prospectus.

Places in year 12 will be awarded to students in the following order of priority:

1. Qualified students who are Children in public care.
2. Qualified students who were on roll at Featherstone High School at the end of the academic year immediately preceding the proposed date of entry into that school's Sixth Form.
3. Qualified students who have a sibling attending Featherstone High School in the year of the proposed date of entry into that school's Sixth Form.
4. Qualified students from any other school.

The distance from the student's permanent home address to Featherstone High School with those living nearest to Featherstone High School being given the higher priority. The distance from Featherstone High School is measured by a straight line from a point in the property to the nearest gated entrance which is used by pupils to enter the school grounds. The measuring system is an integral part of the admissions software produced by Tribal Technology Ltd. It uses Ordnance Survey maps and is accurate to 1 metre.

Internal Students

Internal students are actively supported and encouraged to apply to the sixth form. Access to courses will be based on the admissions criteria set out in the Sixth Form handbook. Students will be surveyed on their early intentions and be provided with support and

guidance as required on suitability of courses or career pathways. They will receive advice and guidance from their Head of Year, Tutor and where needed our Connexions personal advisor. Students will be expected to complete an application form with details of predicted grades and related course options.

Conditional offers will be sent to students based on their **predicted grades and their related course options** at that time. These are subject to change in accordance to their **ACTUAL** summer results. Access to levels of courses will be based on the following:

- Actual GCSE grades
- Admissions criteria - which is course specific as detailed in the prospectus
- Individual student data
- Advice and guidance of the Sixth Form team.

External Students

External students will be admitted onto courses subject to fulfilling all criteria which apply to internal students and subject to spaces being available on the course. Courses will be deemed full when the maximum class size of 20 for practical based subjects and 22 for classroom based, is reached. The school will consider all students on an individual basis and whether they are suitable for the courses chosen and in relation to the reference received from their high school. The reference must be from a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

It will be up to the discretion of the Sixth Form Team as to which courses students are able to follow. Course options could be subject to change during the autumn term if students are making less than the expected progress or struggling at the level they have been awarded.

Probationary Placements

Where a student's prior progress is a cause for concern, their placement on courses will be on a probationary basis and subject to a written agreement where specified targets must be met. Targets will be reviewed by the Director of Sixth Form and Head of Year fortnightly with a formal review at the end of each half term. Failure to meet the targets will result in the student being deemed to have failed his or her probationary period. All students will be tested in the first part of the half term to determine course suitability. Students will be moved to suitable courses as needed.

Overseas Students

Students will be requested to show their birth certificate, current passport and all relevant qualifications. The school will look at all students on an individual basis and whether they are suitable for the courses chosen. It will be up to the discretion of the Sixth Form Team as to which courses students are able to follow. This could be subject to change during the autumn term if students are not making the expected progress.

All students must have relevant Exam Board slips to confirm their qualifications and photocopies will be taken by the school. Students who fail to produce the appropriate documentation will not be offered a place within Featherstone High Sixth Form.

A Level Courses

In order to access A level courses students will need to have attained a minimum of 5x 9-4 GCSEs (including English language & Maths) at grade 4 or above and 6s in the courses that they wish to study. In addition, students would need to attain a minimum APS score of 4.5 points. For Science and Maths, students will be required to have a minimum APS of 5.0.

In subjects not taken at GCSE, an associated GCSE will be taken into account. For example: grade 6 in Maths to Economics, 6 in History or English language for Government & Politics or a

6 in English language for Psychology. BTEC grades would only be accepted as one grade within the 5x 9-1 grades. For Sciences, a 6 must be obtained in both Trilogy Science = Double Award.

BTEC Level 3 Diploma and Extended Certificate

In order to access BTEC level 3 certificate courses students will need to attain a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 9-3. This can include BTEC courses previously followed and in addition, they must have at least a grade 3 in English Language and Maths. Options at this level will be to retake GCSE English and / or Maths if they have a 3 grade.

Evaluation

Reviewed annually by the Student Welfare Committee and the Governing Body, unless specific changes are required by legislation.