

The Forest High School

Admissions Policy – September 2021



Category of School:	Secondary
Status of School:	Academy
Specification:	Co-ed
Education:	Comprehensive
Age Range	11-16
Admission Number:	90

Section 1. Introductory Statement

The Forest High School aims to become an outstanding and pioneering school that provides a superb education for young people of all backgrounds. It has a well-established caring and individualised culture with a strong sense of community within the school. We want young people to be excited about coming to school every day and to believe their school is preparing them for a great future.

It is our absolute determination to provide the Cinderford community and beyond with a school it can feel proud of. Our commitment is to create the circumstances in which both students and their teachers can thrive and become confident and compelling individuals.

Our priority is to ensure that learning and teaching at TFHS is consistently outstanding. We are constantly reviewing the curriculum to ensure that it offers our young people a high quality of education and make sure that our young people are resilient, adaptable and inquisitive.

The wellbeing and welfare of all students is at the core of all we do. Students have a trusted adult to whom they can go when they need support. They are challenged constructively if their behaviour prevents themselves and others learning. They are encouraged to reflect and take responsibility for restoring their relationships.

Section 2. Published Admission Number

The Forest high School has an agreed Published Admission Number (PAN) of 90 per year for admission into Year 7 and will admit up to this number each year.

For each year, all applicants will be admitted if fewer applications than the PAN are received.

Section 3: Oversubscription Criteria

The Forest High School, in the spirit of inclusion and comprehensive education, seeks to serve all children within its close community. Students will be admitted at age 11 without reference to ability or aptitude. Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit:

Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

1. Where the child is 'Looked After'. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order *.
2. Children who will have siblings attending the school at the time the applicant child is admitted. For this purpose, sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address, at the time of application.
3. Children with the strongest geographical claim, measured in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the child's home address (including flats) to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Where any particular category at points 1-2 above is oversubscribed, criterion 3 (strongest geographical claim based on straight line distance) will be used to determine which child is offered a place.

In the event of a tie between two or more children when applying criterion 3 (strongest geographical claim based on straight line distance) where there are not enough places available to offer all children a place at the school, a process of random allocation will be followed by Governors. This will be in the form of a manual process which is overseen by an independent person. Where twins or children from multiple births are part of a random allocation process they will be considered as one applicant.

*** Looked After Children/Previously Looked After Children Definition**

A 'looked after child' (1) or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption (2) child arrangements order (residency order) (3) or special guardianship order (4) .

1) 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) at the time of making an application to a school. In Gloucestershire, such children are referred to as Children in Care.

(2) This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

(3) Under the provisions of section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amend section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders.

(4) See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

You will need to detail this under your sixth form criteria also if you have one.

Section 4. Appeals

If your application for a school place is unsuccessful, you will be advised of the appeal process with the outcome of the application.

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The School Admissions Appeals Code requires normal admission round appeals to be heard within the following timescales:

- For applications made in the normal admissions round, appeals must be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals
- For late applications, appeals should be heard within 40 school days from the deadline for lodging appeals, or within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.
- For in year applications, appeals must be heard within 30 days of the appeal being lodged.

Appeals will be heard by an Independent Appeal Panel with an independent clerk.

Section 5. Waiting Lists

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held for (at least) the first school term (i.e. until December). The waiting list will be prioritised according to the school's oversubscription criteria.

Fair Access Protocols – the school has signed up to the In-Year Fair Access Protocols held by the Local Authority. Should a vulnerable child within these Protocols require a place at the school, they will take precedent over any child on the waiting list.

Section 6. In-Year Admissions:

Any application for a place at The Forest High School made outside the normal year of entry to the school should be made directly to the school in the first instance.