

The De Montfort School

Admission Policy for entry to Year 6, 9 and 12 in September 2023

Version Control

Policy author: Headteacher
Policy approved by: Trust Board

Version	Date	Details
1.0	1 st August 2021	Updated in line with the new School Admissions Code 2021
2.0	11 th July	General updates
3.0	September 2022	General updates

This policy contains four sections:

- **Introduction**
- **Admissions process**
- **Oversubscription criteria and definitions**
- **Useful contact details**

The Policy should be read in conjunction with 'Information for Parents Admissions and Transfers to Schools 2023/2024' document (available to view online at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions) published by Worcestershire County Council. This document contains full details on the application and allocation process, including the oversubscription admission criteria for each school. Parents/carers are advised to read the book prior to making an application.

Section 1: Introduction

The De Montfort School is a 10-18 mixed comprehensive serving Evesham and the surrounding area. Our DfE number is 885 4018.

The De Montfort School is part of The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust (MAT). The Trust Board is the admissions authority for all schools within the multi academy trust and approves the admissions policies on an annual basis. The Trust Board delegates the responsibility in applying the oversubscription criteria to the Local Governing Body in each school.

The main principle of admission to The De Montfort School is to maintain the character of the school as a comprehensive school, providing for the needs of young people within the 10-18 age range who live in our catchment area. The De Montfort School will endeavour to provide places for children who live outside the catchment area whose parents/carers wish them to attend the school, provided that they can be accommodated within the Published Admission Numbers.

Students will be admitted at the age of 10+ without reference to ability or aptitude using the criteria below. The Published Admission Number for entry in September 2023 will be as follows unless changed in accordance with statutory procedures:

- The Published Admission Number for Year 6 is 150;
- The Published Admission Number for Year 9 is 240. This works out to be 150 for the students in Year 8 at The De Montfort School and 90 for external students; and
- The Published Admission Number for external students (that is, students who have not attended The De Montfort School in Year 11) for entry in Year 12 in September 2023 will be 10 unless changed in accordance with statutory procedures. This is the minimum number of external applicants who will be offered places.

Admission to The De Montfort School is not dependent on any "voluntary" contribution.

Section 2: Admissions Process

Entry to the school at the normal time of transfer (Year 6 and Year 9)

The De Montfort School participates in the local authority co-ordinated admissions scheme for entry to the school at the normal time of transfer and all applicants should keep to deadlines within that scheme. Full information is contained in the Information for Parents document published by Worcestershire local authority. The co-ordinated admissions schemes can be viewed at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coordinatedschemes>. If you do not live in Worcestershire, you need to follow the procedure published by your home local authority.

Transfer packs are provided by your local authority in the Autumn term to parents/carers of pupils in Year 5 and Year 8 at maintained local authority primary schools. If your child does not attend a maintained school, you should contact your local authority for information. Applications for all school places must be made on the Common Application Form (CAF) provided by your home local authority, with the opportunity to nominate schools, ranked in order of preference. For residents living in Worcestershire, transfer information and the CAF are also available on-line at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>. Your completed application must be received by your home Local Authority by their deadline.

The parents/carers of pupils resident outside Worcestershire, but who wish to apply for a place at any Worcestershire school, must complete an application form provided by the home local authority (the home local authority is defined as the local authority relevant to the child's home address). The home local authority will ensure that the application details are passed onto Worcestershire local authority for consideration in the allocation of school places.

Parents/carers are strongly recommended to check all the information they have given on application forms. The local governing body at The De Montfort School cannot be held responsible for any places offered or refused according to ranking of applications based on incorrect or incomplete information received by the school.

There is no requirement to complete a supplementary application form.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

Children for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan has been agreed naming The De Montfort School on the EHC plan: where places required by pupils with an EHC plan are known before the Admissions Committee meets, the number of pupils with EHC plans naming this school will be deducted from the 150/240 places available to be offered. Such pupils are automatically offered places at the school and the Headteacher and local governing body will consider each application for a pupil with an EHC plan individually.

If parents/carers are considering whether The De Montfort School should be named on their child's EHC plan, The De Montfort School should be involved in the appropriate review. A response of concern may be raised if the school considers that provision will be inadequate for the child's needs or if there is evidence that to admit the applicant would have a detrimental impact on the learning of other pupils.

Please note that if your child has an EHC plan and this names The De Montfort School, you must also submit an application in the usual way via your home local authority under the co-ordinated scheme

Applying for Places

The De Montfort School welcomes applications from all parents/carers who wish their children to attend the school. Pupils and their parents/carers who are considering applying are warmly invited to visit the school on our Open Evening for Year 5 and Year 8 pupils and their parents/carers in the September of the year prior to intended admission. Details will be published on the School Admissions website, local newspapers and on our website.

Procedure

The following procedure for applications is designed to ensure that the Admissions Policy is applied as fairly and consistently as possible.

All applications submitted to the home local authority naming The De Montfort School in any position of preference will be forwarded to the school. The local governing body will rank all applications against the published Oversubscription Criteria according to the information given by parents/carers on application forms. With only 150/240 places available, this number will be reached at varying levels each year, depending on the number and nature of applications received.

The deadline for receipt of applications published by the local authority must be adhered to and applications received after this date will be at a disadvantage in the event of oversubscription.

Late Applications

Applications made after the closing date as published in the local authority's co-ordinated admissions scheme will be dealt with in accordance with this policy but will receive a lower priority than those applications received on time.

The local governing body may consider a late application (between 1 November and 31 January) as "on-time" only in the following circumstances: where a family has moved home between 1 November and 31 January; or where it is agreed by governors that individual circumstances apply and the delay was reasonable given the circumstances of the case. If requested, you must provide acceptable documentary evidence to the local governing body of The De Montfort School by their deadline including, if applicable, evidence that you have permanently relinquished ownership or tenancy of your old home.

Offers of Places

The governors' Admissions Committee will rank all applications received by the deadline in order of priority as described below. The complete ranked list will then be provided to the local authority who, according to the Co-ordinated Scheme,

will make the offers on our behalf. The offer of a place will be a single offer to you of a place at the school for which your child ranks highest, where a place is available; if it is possible to make a potential offer at more than one school, then the final offer will be for the school identified as your higher preference. If you have named The De Montfort School as your preferred school but have not been offered a place, you will be advised of your right to appeal by the local authority.

Offers will be made by the home local authority on the published date. Offers will not be made by The De Montfort School and parents/carers should not contact the school directly if they have not received an offer letter.

For pupils resident in Worcestershire: the offer emails will be sent on 1 March 2023 to parents/carers who applied online. The offer letters will be posted on 1 March 2023 to parents/carers who applied on paper via second class postage. They will be sent direct to parents/carers, by School Admissions, even if it is on behalf of the local governing body of an Academy, Foundation, Free or Voluntary Aided School, or a school in a neighbouring local authority.

In the few cases, where it may not be possible to offer a place at any of the preferences nominated on the application form, a place will be offered at the nearest school with available places.

The offer email/letter will include an acceptance/decline slip which must be returned by the date specified in the offer letter.

For pupils not resident in Worcestershire, the offer or refusal letters will be sent direct to parents/carers by the home local authority, even if it is for a school in Worcestershire.

The governors reserve their right to withdraw an offer of a place before the pupil is admitted to the school where it is found that:

- the offer of a place has been made on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application which effectively denied a place to a pupil with a stronger claim, for example, the use of an inappropriate home address; or
- the parent/carer has not responded to the offer within a reasonable period of time of the offer being made and after a reminder has been issued.

If you withdraw your application for any reason or wish to decline an offer of a place at The De Montfort School you must inform the Headteacher and School Admissions at your home local authority immediately in writing.

You must also notify any change of the child's home address immediately in writing to the Headteacher and to School Admissions at your home local authority.

Waiting Lists

The parents/carers of pupils who are unsuccessful in gaining a place in the normal round of applications may write to the Headteacher at The De Montfort School to request that the pupil's name is placed on a waiting list for a place, irrespective of whether they make an appeal against the decision not to offer them a place.

If a place becomes available, it will be allocated from the waiting list according to the Oversubscription Criteria listed below. This waiting list is maintained until the 31st July 2024. Parents/carers who have applied to be included on the waiting list will only be notified if a place becomes available which can be allocated to their child in line with the criteria published. Each waiting list is maintained strictly in order of the priorities in this policy and not based on the date the application was added to the list. Therefore, applications received after the allocation of places may receive a higher ranking than those who may have been on the list for some time if they have a higher priority in the Oversubscription Criteria.

All schools in the MAT have signed up to the local Fair Access Protocol. We have to admit any pupil who is the subject of a direction by the Secretary of State or allocated to us according to the local Fair Access Protocol and any such pupils take precedence over those on the waiting list.

In-Year Admissions for all Year Groups

Following full public consultation, the cabinet of the county council has approved a co-ordinated scheme for in-year admissions, which is applicable for any in-year admissions from September 2020. Those applications will now be co-ordinated on behalf of all schools by School Admissions on behalf of the local authority. Further information can be found at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coordinatedschemes>. All schools in the MAT take part in the local authority's co-ordinated scheme for in-year admissions.

The De Montfort School intends to hold waiting lists for any oversubscribed year group after 1 September and until 31st July. If a place should become available, applications currently on the waiting list will be ranked according to our Oversubscription Criteria as described below and an offer will be made to the child who ranks highest at that time.

Applications Outside of the Normal Age Group

Parents/carers can also request that their child be admitted outside of their normal age group, effectively in the year group below or above their chronological age group. The De Montfort School will make the decision based on the circumstances of each case after completing an educational assessment to determine whether or not it is appropriate for the individual child to delay or accelerate their entry into school and be taught outside of their chronological age group.

Entry to the Sixth Form at The De Montfort School

Separate arrangements exist for entry to the Sixth Form and these are published on our website or may be obtained from the school.

Parental responsibility

Should more than one parent have parental responsibility for a child, both parents should be in agreement over the preferences expressed prior to the application being submitted. Where more than one parent submits an application for a child, or where there is a parent not in agreement with the preferences, the local governing body, legally has to comply with the preferences expressed. If this is not the same, then parents will have to seek resolution and if necessary legal resolution. It may be necessary for the courts to determine which parent can make the final decision on schooling. Failure to ensure agreement prior to submission, may result in a delay in any application being processed.

When submitting your application, as part of the terms and conditions, you will be required to confirm that parents are in agreement with the preferences expressed, this will also apply if you wish to transfer in year. If it is subsequently determined that agreement was not made prior to the application being submitted, it could result in the withdrawal of the offer of a place, if it is determined that the information supplied was intentionally misleading or fraudulent.

Appeals

The parents/carers of children who are unsuccessful in gaining a place at The De Montfort School may appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. The Independent Appeal Panel's procedures are in accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admission Appeals Code effective from 1 February 2012.

If you wish to appeal you should write, setting out your grounds for appeal, to the clerk to the local governing body of The De Montfort School within 20 school days of receipt of notification that your application was unsuccessful. You will receive at least 10 school days' notice of the date of the appeal hearing but in exceptional circumstances you have the right to waive this notice. You will usually be told of the outcome of the appeal within five school days of the hearing.

Any additional evidence which you wish to submit after lodging an appeal must be in writing and must be received by the school at least five school days before the hearing to allow for efficient administration of the appeal hearing. If you submit information or evidence after this deadline it might not be considered at the appeal, or the appeal hearing might need to be postponed.

For on-time applications for Year 6 and Year 9 entry, appeals will be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals.

For late applications, appeals will be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals where possible or within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.

For in-year transfer applications, appeals will be heard within 30 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals.

Appeals lodged after the deadline for lodging appeals will be heard as soon as is reasonably practical.

Parents/carers are invited to attend the hearing of their appeal and make their case to the panel, although if this invitation is declined the appeal may be heard on the basis of written evidence only. You may be represented by or accompanied by a friend. You must inform the school in advance if you wish to call any witnesses or be represented at the hearing.

Only one appeal is permitted in respect of the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, a second application has been accepted because of significant and material changes in circumstances (eg a change which puts the applicant in a higher oversubscription category). The statutory right to appeal does not apply if a place has been offered at the school in the usual year group for the child's age, but this is not the year group preferred.

Section 3: Oversubscription criteria

The purpose of the published oversubscription criteria is to give everyone a fair opportunity to apply for a place at the school in accordance with our main principle of admission as defined above in the Introduction. The governors' Admissions Committee takes considerable time and the utmost care to ensure that the system is applied fairly.

Where there are more applications than places pupils will be offered places in the following order of priority (for definitions of the words in bold, see the section below on Definitions):

1. **Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.** Including **Children previously in state care outside of England** and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. **Siblings** of pupils attending the school **and living within the catchment** area of the school. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the school, the sibling must already be attending the school at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission. In the event of a school catchment area change being approved, pupils who would still have a **sibling connection** at the time of admission and who are living at the same address in the previous catchment area for a school, (but not within the revised catchment area), at the time the change was approved will be considered as living within the **catchment area**.
3. Pupils living within the **catchment** area of the school **and attending a feeder school** at the time of application.
4. Pupils living within the **catchment** area of the school **and who are children of any member of staff** employed at the mainstream school in either of the following circumstances;
 - a) Where that member of staff has been employed for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made, or
 - b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
5. Pupils living within the **catchment** area of the school.
6. Pupils living **outside of the catchment** area but who would still have a **sibling connection** at school at the time of admission. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the school, the sibling must already be attending the school at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission.
7. Pupils **living outside of the catchment** area who were attending a **feeder school** at the time of application.
8. Pupils living **outside of the catchment** area of the school and who are **children of any member of staff** employed at the mainstream school in either of the following circumstances;
 - a) Where that member of staff has been employed for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made, or
 - b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
9. Pupils living **outside of the catchment** area of the school.
10. Pupils who live **nearest** to the school by the shortest straight line distance. The measurement will be taken using the Geocode Points for each property and the Geocode point for the school. The local governing body will utilise the Local Authority software package called Arcview GIS to determine distance. Ordnance Survey supply the co-ordinates that are used to plot an address within this system. In the event of equi-distance applicants, any place will be allocated by random selection (lottery). Someone totally independent of the local governing body will supervise this process.

Where there are too many applications from within the first category, applications will be given priority if they meet the conditions of the second category. If any places then still remain, applications will be given priority according to the third category, and so on.

Definitions

Looked after Children and previously Children Looked after, including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

'Looked after' means all those currently in the care of a Local Authority or accommodated by a Local Authority under the terms of the Children Act 1989 and children who were previously in the care of or accommodated by a Local Authority but immediately after being looked after, became subject to an adoption, a child arrangements order or special guardianship order and includes those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. By children previously in state care outside of England, we mean children who have been looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious organisation or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The care may have been provided in orphanages or other settings. Independent supporting evidence will be required to be provided with the application.

Catchment Area

Our catchment area is defined on the map which may be viewed at the school on request and which is available on the school website or from School Admissions at Worcestershire County Council. Proof of residence may be required. The offer of a place may be withdrawn if acceptable proof of residence is not provided when requested.

If you wish to check whether your address falls within the catchment area for The De Montfort School, you may also visit <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolsearch> and use the on-line postcode catchment area checker.

While there is no guarantee of a place for children living in our catchment area, it has been the case in the last few years that places have been offered to most or all applicants resident in catchment. This cannot be relied upon for the future as demographic and other changes may make it less likely.

Sibling

Applicants who have a sibling on roll at The De Montfort School at the time of application who would still be on roll at the time of admission may claim a sibling connection. Siblings are defined as brothers or sisters who share at least one birth or legally adoptive parent, or who have birth or legally adoptive parents living at the same **home** address as partners. Children who are brought together as a family by a civil partnership and who are living at the same address, are also considered to be siblings. In order to claim a sibling connection, applicants must live at the same **home** address as the sibling.

In the event that one or more but not all children from that multiple birth can be allocated a place(s), all of the children from that multiple birth will be admitted even if this takes the school over PAN. In circumstances where no children from a multiple birth can be offered a place and parents/carers appeal against the decision, parents are advised to note, that all appeals are dealt with on their own merits and independent appeal panels are not obliged to allow all children from a multiple birth to be admitted, if one appeal is successful.

Feeder Schools

Our feeder schools are Bengeworth Academy, Blackminster Middle School, St Andrew's CE First School and St Richard's CE First School). Applicants must be on roll at one of these schools at the time of application to qualify under this category. There is no guarantee of a place at The De Montfort School for applicants attending a feeder primary school.

Home

Home is defined as the only or main residential address at the closing date of application where the child normally resides and which is the address of the parent/carer with main responsibility for the child.

Where parents/carers have shared responsibility, the child's home address will usually be considered to be that of the parent/carer with whom the child lives for the majority of the school week (eg three or more days out of five Monday to Friday during term-time). Where care is split equally, parent/carers must provide independent supporting documentary evidence to prove that care is equally split. In such cases the address used will be determined by random selection. Someone totally independent of the local governing body will supervise this process.

It may be necessary for the school to carry out checks to confirm that information given in relation to a child's home address is genuine. Parents/carers may be asked to produce documentary evidence of the address given. If you knowingly give false information in order to obtain a school place you could be guilty of an offence under the Perjury Act 1911.

Section 4: Useful contact details

The De Montfort School

Tel: 01386 442060

Web: www.tdms.worcs.sch.uk

Email: office@tdms.worcs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs R Allen

Worcestershire School Admissions

Tel: 01905 822700

Web: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Postcode catchment area on-line check

Web: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolsearch>

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service-SENDIASS (formerly the Parent Partnership Service)

Tel: 01905 768153

Web: www.SENDworcestershire.co.uk

ACE (Advisory Centre for Education): a national charity that provides independent advice for parents/carers of children aged 5-16 in state-funded education

Tel: 0808 800 5793

Web: www.ace-ed.org.uk

Transport Assistance

Free transport to school may be provided by the Local Authority in certain circumstances. Full details are available from your Local Authority. The contact details for Worcestershire are:

Tel: 01905 765765

Web: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooltransport

The information contained in this policy is correct at the time of going to press but minor amendments may be made without notice, for example to comply with new statutory requirements or due to circumstances beyond the control of the Trust Board of The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust including information published by Worcestershire County Council.