

DETERMINED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS – 2025-26

Admissions Authority

The admissions authority for George Spencer Academy is The Spencer Academies Trust (SAT). SAT determines admission arrangements for each academy within the Trust. The arrangements are implemented by the local governing body of each academy including matters relating to local Fair Access.

Published Admission Number

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for George Spencer Academy for 2025-26 is 250 pupils in Year 7.

How to apply and when decisions are made

Applications for first admission into Year 7 must be made through the child's home local authority (the area where the child lives). For Nottinghamshire Local Authority residents this can be found on the Nottinghamshire County Council's website at:

<http://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions>

Applications should be completed by the closing date for applications as stated in the Nottinghamshire Local Authority Coordinated Admissions Scheme. All other applicants must apply to their home local authority (i.e. the area where the child lives). Parents will be notified of the outcome of applications on National Offer Day which is 1st March. If this falls at a weekend, it is the next working day.

For applications into other year groups, see the section on **in year applications**.

How late applications are treated

Any applications received after the closing date, including changes of preference, are considered as late applications and will be processed after all on-time applications unless there are exceptional circumstances which must be made clear at the point of application, with supporting evidence, and before places are allocated.

Catchment Area

Criteria 6 gives priority to students who reside in the catchment areas of Chetwynd Spencer Academy, Fairfield Spencer Academy and Bispham Drive Primary School. Details of the catchment area for each of these schools can be found on our website or by using the following web address:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/search-for-a-school/>

The fact that a child lives within the catchment area of one of the George Spencer Family of Schools does not guarantee a school place. See section on Admission Oversubscription criteria.

Admission Oversubscription Criteria for Year 7

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, George Spencer Academy operates within the Nottinghamshire Local Authority Coordinated Admissions Scheme. We do not currently require additional information to consider your application fully.

In the event of oversubscription, the following criteria will be applied, in priority order, to decide which applications will be granted once places have first been allocated to pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children, 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.
2. Children who attend the George Spencer Family of Schools: Fairfield Spencer Academy Stapleford, Chetwynd Spencer Academy or Bispham Drive Schools in Toton, who were on the roll of one of these schools at the closing date for applications.
3. Children not attending the George Spencer Family of Schools who, at the time of admission, will have a sibling attending George Spencer Academy in Years 7-11.
4. Children who attend Sunnyside Spencer Academy and were on roll at the closing date for applications.
5. Children who are eligible for the Service Premium.
6. Other children who live in the catchment area of Chetwynd Spencer Academy, Fairfield Spencer Academy or Bispham Drive School.
7. All other applicants.

Multiple Births Where one child of a multiple birth can be admitted under the normal admissions process, the other child/children will also be admitted.

Admission Oversubscription Criteria for 6th form

The Published Admission Number for entry into Year 12 from beyond the school is 20. This is in addition to students who are already on the roll of the school, having transferred from year 11, known as **internal applicants**.

Our academy sets academic entry criteria for the Sixth Form for all students. These are the same for both external and internal places. Details of these criteria can be found on our school website or by contacting the academy direct.

In the event of oversubscription, the following criteria will be applied, in priority order, to decide which applications will be granted once places have first been allocated to pupils who meet the academic entry criteria and who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children, 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, who meet the academic entry criteria.
2. All other students.

Tie breaker for oversubscription criteria in any year group

In the event of oversubscription, within each of the criteria, priority will be given to children who live nearest to the school as the crow flies. Distances are measured from the home address point to the centre of the school footbridge over the A52 as this is the centre point between the Toton side and Stapleford side of the school. A map indicating the location of the bridge can be found on the school website www.george-spencer.notts.sch.uk. For applications made as part of the co-ordinated admissions scheme distance will be measured using Nottinghamshire County Council's distance measuring software. For in-year applications, distance is measured using FreeMap Tools.

In the exceptional circumstance where students have the same distance measurement and there is not other way of separating the applications then the Trust will admit the additional child above the planned admission number.

In Year Applications

All applications made outside of the normal year of entry should be made directly to the school and will be administered in accordance with the criteria. If a place is available in the appropriate year group, then that will be offered. If no places are available the application will be refused, right of appeal offered and the child's name placed on the waiting list. The position on the waiting list is determined by the school's oversubscription criteria. In the event of a place becoming available during the course of a year an offer of a place will be made from the waiting list. In year admission applications should be made using the application available on the school's website at www.george-spencer.notts.sch.uk. A hard copy of the application form can be requested by writing to the Admissions Officer at George Spencer Academy. The outcome of your application will be sent in writing within 15 school days.

The Spencer Academies Trust has regard to the DFE admissions Code in respect of in-year application requests.

Admission of children outside the normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Children should only be educated out of the normal age group in very limited circumstances.

Parents/carers should submit a request in writing to the Principal as early as possible for consideration by the Admissions Authority. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The views of the Principal will also be taken into account.

Where we agree 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 the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school, the application will be processed as part of the main admissions round, unless the parental request is made too late for this to be possible, and on the basis of our determined admission arrangements only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable.

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 school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Right of appeal

If your child is not allocated a place then you have a statutory right of appeal. Details of how to do this can be found in the letter refusing your application.

Waiting lists

Where an application has been refused because the number of applications received has exceeded the number of places available, waiting lists will be maintained from offer day (for admission to the intake year) or, for in-year applications, the date when the application was refused.

Applications are only placed on the waiting list for a school where they have been refused a place and where it is ranked above a preference that has been allocated.

Priority on the waiting list will be determined by reference to the admission criteria and not by the date an application was received.

Waiting lists are maintained in partnership with Nottinghamshire School Admissions until the end of the autumn term for admissions into the intake year academic year. At the end of each academic year the waiting list for all year groups will close and if parents wish to be considered for a place the following academic year, they would need to re-apply.

Each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria. Inclusion on a waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

Repeat applications

Repeat applications on behalf of the same child, for admission in the same academic year, will not be considered unless the applicant can provide evidence that there has been a significant change in the particular circumstances of that child.

False information

Where the offer of a place is found to be based on fraudulent or intentionally misleading information on the application, which effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim to the place at the school, the offer of a place may be withdrawn.

Where the place or an offer has been withdrawn, the application will be reconsidered and the usual statutory right of appeal made available if a place is subsequently refused.

Definitions

- **Attending school** is taken to be on roll at a school for the purposes of admissions.
- **Looked after and 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 in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to a school. 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 arrangements order or special guardianship order). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 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. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' 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 outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

- **Home Address** The child's place of residence is taken to be the parental home, other than in the case of children fostered by a local authority, where either the parental address or that of the foster parent may be used. If a child's parents live at separate addresses, the address where the child permanently spends at least three 'school' nights (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) will be taken to be the place of residence. Addresses of other relatives or friends will not be considered as the place of residence, even if the child stays there for all or part of the week. Evidence that a child's place of residence is permanent may also be sought by the governing body. **The evidence should prove that a child lived at the address at the time of the application with the exception of applications from families of Service and Crown personnel where the address at which the child will live will be used when applying criteria, as long as parents have provided robust evidence of their intended address.** Informal arrangements between parents will not be taken into consideration
- **Parents** For school admissions the school will consider the following as parents:
 - the mother of the child
 - an adoptive parent
 - the father of the child where he was married to the mother either when the child was born or at a later date
 - the father of the child if (since 1 December 2003) he was registered as the father on the birth certificate
 - any other person who has acquired 'parental responsibility' through the courts
- **Siblings:** For school admissions the school will consider the following as a sibling:
 - a brother or sister who share the same parents
 - a half-brother or half-sister or legally adopted child living at the same address as the child
 - a child looked after by a local authority placed in a foster family with other school age children
 - stepchildren or children who are not related but live as a family unit, where parents both live at the same address as the child.