

Cowes Enterprise College Admissions Policy

Cowes Enterprise College has Trust status and takes students of mixed aptitude and ability aged 11-19. The Trust is the admissions authority with responsibility for admissions although we work closely with the Local Authority who administers the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme (CAS) and deal with appeals.

Parents who are considering applying are warmly invited to visit the College although this is not a requirement of the Admissions process. The Admissions Team at the College will be pleased to provide information and answer questions by letter or telephone, or to meet parents to discuss possible applications.

How do I apply for a place at Cowes Enterprise College for September 2013?

Cowes Enterprise College will be part of the Isle of Wight Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. For admission to Cowes Enterprise College from September 2013, the Children's Services Authority (CSA) is required to operate a Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme and applications for all school places must be made on the Common Application Form (CAF) provided by the Authority, with the opportunity to nominate up to three schools, ranked in order of preference. Alternatively, you can complete the CAF on-line at www.eduwight.iow.gov.uk/admissions. Once completed the CAF (including if you apply on-line) must be received by School Admissions, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1UD by 4.30pm on 26 October 2012.

How are places allocated?

All your preferences will be considered at the same time. If you could be offered more than one school place, you will be offered the higher ranked of the places you could be offered. The Isle of Wight is divided into geographical areas called priority areas which are served by a particular secondary school.

What happens if Cowes Enterprise College is oversubscribed?

If the number of applications for Cowes Enterprise College is less than the admissions number then all children will be offered places, no matter where they live. Please remember, however, that children of parents who apply for a place at a College by the published closing date have priority for admission over those who apply later. This means that, even though you may have moved into the priority area, your child may not get a place if the College is already oversubscribed. If this happens you can appeal and your child's name will automatically be placed on to a waiting list unless you specifically request that this must not happen.

Children for whom a Statement of Special Educational Needs has been agreed which names a particular school on the statement, are automatically admitted to the school, in

compliance with the School Admissions Code. Where places required by pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs are known before the Admissions Committee meets, the number of pupils with statements naming this School will be deducted from the places available to be offered.

However, if there are more applications to Cowes Enterprise College than there are available places, we use the same criteria as the CSA to decide which children can have places. The criteria in terms of priority with the highest first are as follows;

1. Children who are in the care of the local authority and previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order).
2. Pupils with a specific medical condition, confirmed by a consultant paediatrician or similar health professional, which makes a particular school the most appropriate. (Any application for a place at a particular school for medical reasons must be supported by independent evidence supplied at the time of application confirming the reasons why attendance at the school is essential or that this school is most suitable and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school).
3. Pupils living in the school's priority area who, at the time of application, have an elder sibling
 - who is already at the school; and
 - who will still be in attendance at the school in September 2013
4. Other pupils living within the school's priority area.
5. Pupils living outside the school's priority area who, at the time of application, have an elder sibling
 - who is already at the school; and
 - who will still be in attendance at the school in September 2013
6. Pupils living outside the school's priority area.

Tie-break

For criteria 6 above: proximity to the College will be used in the case of a tiebreak. For example: If we can offer places in the first five criteria, but there are not enough for all those children in criterion six, distance for the allocation of College places will be measured in a straight line by the local authority's Geographical Information System (GIS) from the centre of the building of the home address to the centre of the College building) with those living closer to the College receiving the higher priority. If distances are equal (for example with a block of flats) lots will be drawn by an independent person to determine the allocation. If only one place at a College is available within the admissions number and there are twins in the family who have the next highest priority within the oversubscription criteria, we will offer places to both.

Offer of a place

Firm offers will be made by the CSA on 1st March 2013 (National offer day for England). Those for whom no place at Cowes Enterprise College can be offered are advised of their right to appeal within twenty days of the date of posting of the letter. The Trust reserve their right to withdraw an offer of a place before September 2013 where it is found that this has been made on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent which effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim.

Can I appeal against the decision?

If the Trust are unable to offer a place at the College parents have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. They have at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and lodge their written appeal; All appeals should be addressed to the Clerk to the Independent Appeals Panel, Committee Services, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1UD. Its procedures are in accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admission Appeals Code (2012). Parents may attend the hearing of their appeal and make their case to the panel.

Waiting list

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How do I apply for a place at other times?

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Priority areas

The Isle of Wight is divided into geographical areas called priority areas (sometimes referred to as catchment areas). Each of these areas is served by a particular secondary school. In most cases, pupils living in a priority area have priority for places at the local school over those who live outside, as long as their parents put that school down as one of their preferences AND make sure that we have received the application form by 4.30pm on 26 October 2012. If you apply late, as some parents did last year, your child is not likely to obtain a place at their priority area school if it is already oversubscribed from applications received on time.

Further details of the Colleges priority area will be provided in the 'Educating your child' booklet on the council's website. See on the following site;

<http://www.iwight.com/education/admissions/>

What address is used for school admissions purposes?

The address you give on the application form must be the one on the Island where you and your child usually live i.e. in the case of admissions for September 2013 the relevant address will be where you and your child are living on 26 October 2012. The address of children who have parents with shared responsibility should be agreed by the parents. If no agreement can be reached then the address of the parent who is in receipt of the child benefit will be used by the Isle of Wight Council to establish the address of the child for school admission purposes.

N.B any attempt to seek admission to a school on the basis of an address other than the normal family home (even if the other property is owned or rented by you) will be regarded as providing false information and will be treated accordingly. We cannot offer places based on a possible future address except in the limited circumstances set out below.

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Common Application Form (CAF)

The form which all parents must complete when applying for school places.

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Ensures that every child living on the Isle of Wight who is due to transfer school received the offer of a place on 1 March 2013. The scheme gives clear communications on school admissions between the CSA, the foundation/trust, academy and aided schools.

Distance

Distance for the allocation of school places will be measured in a straight line by the local authority's Geographical Information System (GIS) from the centre of the building of the home address to the centre of the school building with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. If distances are equal (for example with a block of flats) lots will be drawn by an independent person to determine the allocation.

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