

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL
YEAR 7 ADMISSION APPEALS SEPTEMBER 2024 ENTRY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT APPEALS

Admissions Numbers

| Intake Year | Applied | Appealed | Successful Appeals | Admitted |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 2023 | 449 | 6 | 0 | 210 |

School Numbers

Based on January DfE census data

| Year | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Total |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 2023-24 | 210 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 210 |

Q: Why was my child unsuccessful in gaining a place at Northampton School?

We received more applications than we have places, therefore, in accordance with our Oversubscription Criteria, after places have been allocated to children with an EHC Plan, Looked After or Previously Looked After Children, Children who are registered for Free School Meals (FSM) or have been registered in the last 6 years (FSM6), Children of Staff, those with a Sibling Link, 10% allocation from the Sports/Performing Arts Aptitude Tests, those within catchment then finally places are allocated by way of a computerised random selection process. If children are unsuccessful in gaining a place at the school this is purely because their allotted number did not come out in the random selection process. Full details in relation to the random selection process can be found in our Admissions Policy.

Q: Could you please give me the band data for this year, so how many children there were in each band and how many got allocated a place

Having completed the application and testing process there were 169 children in each of bands A(1), B(2), C(3), D(4) and E(5) and at the time that the random allocation was operated. 42 children were selected from each band.

Q: Please advise how the number of applicants taken from all of the bands is split.

The test scores of all those who took the ability test are placed into order. This list is then split into five, regardless of the amount of ‘high’ or ‘low’ achievers (for example, if 400 children took the test we would aim to have 80 children in each band). Each year there may be a small number of children who were unable to take the test, for authorised reasons, who have a banding advised from their primary schools and these are also taken into account when composing the numbers in each band (where children have the same score, they are then placed alphabetically). Children who do not attend the test are then placed randomly into bands in the order C(3), A(1), E(5), B(2), D(4). To complete the admissions process we then allocate places in accordance with the Admissions Policy, taking the same number of children from each of these bands (42). This year, boys who sat the test for NSB admissions purposes were not required to sit the test again and their score was carried across.

Q: How many Year 7 places were allocated, i.e. how many pupils were placed in each band?

The numbers in each band were allocated as per the description in our Admissions policy, giving a final number of 42 from each of 5 ability bands.

Q: What is the highest score possible in the Ability Test?

The highest score possible is 141.

Q: Please could you tell me the band data for the Ability Test this year?

Band A(1) 116 - 141

Band B(2) 108 - 116

Band C(3) 100 - 107

Band D(4) 92 - 100

Band E(5) 69 – 91

Where band scores are equal, children are placed in alphabetical order. This is why some bands have the same upper and lower values.

Application Analysis by Area

Data below is based on offer information sent to the Local Authority and not on final school intake which will depend upon the preference provided by a parent/carer to the Local Authority.

September 2024 entry

| Area | Applied (845) | Successful (214) | No. of Schools (applied from) |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Northampton Town - NN1 | 58 | 13 | 18 |
| Northampton Town – NN2 | 128 | 24 | 30 |
| Northampton Town – NN3 | 337 | 92 | 43 |
| Northampton Town – NN4 | 42 | 15 | 22 |
| Northampton Town – NN5 | 62 | 17 | 25 |
| Northampton District (NN6) | 106 | 24 | 34 |
| Northampton District (NN7) | 24 | 6 | 14 |
| Wellingborough & Rushden (NN8-NN10 + NN29) | 26 | 7 | 15 |
| Daventry & South Northants (NN11-NN13) | 18 | 10 | 11 |
| Kettering & Corby (NN14-NN18) | 43 | 6 | 9 |
| Out of County | 1 | 0 | 1 |

September 2023 entry

| Area | Applied (403) | Successful (213) | No. of Schools (applied from) |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Northampton Town - NN1 | 25 | 12 | 12 |
| Northampton Town – NN2 | 34 | 20 | 18 |
| Northampton Town – NN3 | 180 | 91 | 34 |
| Northampton Town – NN4 | 25 | 12 | 15 |
| Northampton Town – NN5 | 15 | 11 | 8 |
| Northampton District (NN6) | 59 | 33 | 25 |
| Northampton District (NN7) | 14 | 7 | 10 |
| Wellingborough & Rushden (NN8-NN10 + NN29) | 14 | 5 | 10 |
| Daventry & South Northants (NN11-NN13) | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Kettering & Corby (NN14-NN18) | 29 | 19 | 6 |
| Out of County | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Q: On average how many children decline the offer in any band normally?

2023 – it is not possible to identify how many places were declined in total (across all bands) as Northampton School sat outside the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme for admissions.

Q: What has been the appeals success rate in the past?

2023 there were 6 appeals, none of which were successful.

Q: Are you able to articulate what a random computer generated selection actually means – is it an algorithm and what does the independent person actually check?

In each band, children eligible to be allocated a place under the random selection process were allotted a number. For each band, a computer-based random number generator produced a randomised list of these numbers. Places were then allocated starting from the top of this list until all the places available in the band were filled. This was all witnessed by an independent observer.

Q: What is the School's PAN (Published Admission Number)

Schools have one PAN for admissions at Year 7, and ours has been set at 210 for September 2024 entry. We may end up with more students than this in each year group due a combination of twins being offered places above the PAN, successful admission appeals and incidences where the school is instructed by the Local Authority to take certain students, such as those with an EHCP. Trustees can exercise the right to top up certain year groups if they wish.

Q: Can you give a breakdown of how many children were offered places for September 2024 as their first, second and third choice?

Unfortunately, only the Local Authority has information about choice preferences. This is not shared with us.

Q: Please tell me the number of pupils admitted over your planned admission number, per year, for the last 3 years.

In 2024, three additional offers were made to twins and one place was given to a late EHCP application. In 2023, no pupils were admitted above PAN. The Local Authority could instruct the school to take additional children with an Education, Health and Care Plan after the original offers have been made.

The number of students admitted in Year 7, once the appeal process was completed, has been:
2023 = 210

Q: How many staff are in each classroom whilst teaching, including support staff?

Unlike many primary and secondary schools, we will not routinely have teaching assistants in the classrooms, so in the vast majority of classes there is just the one teacher present in the classroom. However, there are regular occurrences when another adult will need to be in the room.

Q: How many form groups are in each year?

There will be 8 form groups in each year.

Q: Are there any additional building plans for the school?

The school does not have any current/planned building expansion planned following the completion of the site in Moulton. During our first academic year we have been in temporary accommodation based on the Northampton School for Boys site.

Q: Why does the Admissions Code allow for sibling links?

There are a number of different options that the Code permits, such as the fair banding system we use, or having a 'catchment area', but it is up to each Admissions Authority to decide which would be most appropriate to adopt.

Q: How many appeals are allowed in a year by a parent?

The School Admission Appeals Code 2022 advises the following:

Clause 5.1 Appellants do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the admission authority has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.

Clause 5.2 A second appeal panel must be made up of different members from the first.

Clause 5.3 Appellants may apply for a place in the same school in respect of a later academic year and have a further right of appeal if that application is unsuccessful.

Q: How quickly do school appeals have to be heard?

The School Admission Appeals Code 2022 advises the following:

Clause 2.3 Admission authorities must ensure that appeals lodged by the appropriate deadlines are heard within the following timescales: a) for applications made in the normal admissions round, appeals must be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals

Q: What is the likelihood of a space becoming available in Year 7 for those on the waiting list and how would this space be allocated?

It is very difficult to gauge the likelihood of a space becoming available as this is dependent upon someone declining their place or leaving the school during the academic year. Should a place become available, a random selection process is carried out from the children in the same band in which the space has become available. We would then contact the parents of the child whose name came out of that random selection process to offer the place.

Q: Is the school fully staffed with teachers?

The school is still currently recruiting staff ready for taking on its second year group from September.