

# Beaumont School

## Admissions Criteria for the academic year commencing September 2021

### Section 1 – General Principles

Beaumont School is a mixed secondary school in St Albans, Hertfordshire. The school caters for approximately 1200 including a large Sixth Form of over 300 students and became an academy on 1 July 2012. We hold specialisms in Languages, Maths and Computing but provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all. Students will be admitted at the age of 11+ **without** reference to ability or aptitude using the criteria below. The school will endeavour to allocate places to students whose parents wish them to attend Beaumont School, provided they can be accommodated within the school's admission limits on student numbers. There can be no guarantee that such a place will be available.

The published admission number (PAN) for Year 7 for September 2021 will be **210**.

Children with a statement of special educational needs that names the school, or children with an EHC (Education, Health and Care) Plan that names the school will be admitted and will count towards the school's published admission number.

If the school receives more applications than it has places available, places will be allocated under the oversubscription criteria rules. These will be applied in the order in which they are printed below.

### Section 2 – Oversubscription Criteria

**Rule 1** Children Looked After and children previously looked after but who ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order.

**Rule 2** Exceptional medical or social need. Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a compelling medical or social reason for attending the school. Applications for children adopted but previously looked after abroad (outside England) will be considered under this rule and accepted if the child's previously looked after status and adoption is confirmed. Hertfordshire's "virtual school" will be asked to verify all such applications.

**Rule 3** Sibling. Children with a sibling already at the school at the time of application unless the sibling is in Year 13.

**Rule 4** Children of staff.

**Rule 5** Children who live in the priority admission area for whom it is their nearest Hertfordshire maintained school or academy that is non-faith, co-educational and non-partially selective.

**Rule 6** Children who live in the priority admission area who live nearest to the school.

**Rule 7** Children living outside the priority admission area on the basis of distance, with those living nearest to the school given priority.

If more children qualify under a particular rule than there are places available, a tie-break will be used by applying the next rule to those children.

### Section 3 – Definitions and Details

**Adopted:** means under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 - Section 46 (adoption orders). All children adopted from care who are of compulsory school age are eligible for admission under Rule 1.

Children in the process of being placed for adoption are classified by law as children looked after providing there is a Placement Order and the application would be prioritised under Rule 1.

Children who were not "looked after" **immediately** before being adopted, or made the subject of a child arrangements order or special guardianship order, **will not** be prioritised under Rule 1. Applications made for these children, with suitable supporting professional evidence, can be considered under Rule 2.

**Children in Public Care/Looked-After Children:** 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.

**Child Arrangements Order:** under the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amended section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders which settle the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.

**Special Guardianship Order:** means under 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).

**Medical/Social:** applications must be supported by recent evidence from at least one relevant medical professional, social worker or other professional. HCC officers will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this rule. The evidence must relate specially to Beaumont School and must clearly demonstrate why Beaumont is the only school that can meet the child's exceptional needs and why the nearest school cannot.

All schools in Hertfordshire have experience in dealing with children with diverse social and medical needs. However, in a few very exceptional cases, there are reasons why a child has to go to one specific school.

Few applications under Rule 2 are agreed.

Applications for children adopted but previously looked after abroad will be considered under this rule and accepted if the child's previously looked after status and adoption is confirmed. Hertfordshire's "Virtual School" will be asked to verify all such applications.

All applications are considered individually but a successful application should include the following:

- a. **Evidence that the child was previously cared for by the state abroad because he or she would not otherwise have been cared for adequately and has been subsequently adopted**  
OR
- b. Specific recent professional evidence that justifies why only one school can meet a child's individual needs, and/or
- c. Professional evidence that outlines exceptional family circumstances making clear why only one school can meet the child's needs.
- d. If the requested school is not the nearest school to the child's home address, clear reasons why the nearest school is not appropriate.
- e. For medical cases – a clear explanation of why the child's severity of illness or disability makes attendance at only a specific school essential.

Evidence should make clear why only one school is appropriate.

Further details on the Rule 2 process can be found in the [Rule 2 protocol](#).

**Sibling:** a sibling means the sister, brother, half-brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, child of the parent/carer or partner or a child looked after or previously looked after\* and in every case living permanently\*\* in a placement within the home as part of the family household from Monday to Friday at the time of the application.

*\*Children previously looked after are those children adopted or with a special guardianship order or child arrangements order. This definition was amended following a determination by the OSA in August 2014.*

*\*\*A sibling link will not be recognised for children living temporarily in the same house, for example a child who usually lives with one parent but has temporarily moved or a looked after child in a respite placement or very short term or bridging foster placement.*

A sibling must be on the roll of the named school at the time the younger child starts or has been offered and accepted a place. If a place is obtained for an older child using fraudulent information, there will be no sibling connection available to subsequent children from that family.

This definition of sibling does not include cousins. The rule will not apply where a sibling is in the final year of the normal age range of the school (ie Year 13) and will not be on roll when the younger child starts.

**Children of Staff:** the school will admit a child of a member of staff provided that:

- a. The member of staff (defined below) has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
- b. The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

For the purposes of satisfying these criteria:

i) a member of staff is defined as a member of the full-time teaching staff, or of the part-time teaching staff with a 40% contract, or a member of the full-time support staff (on a 38 week and above contract), or of the part-time support staff who works 40% and above as determined by their role (on a 38 week and above contract). A panel from the Governors' Admission Committee will determine whether the member of staff meets the requirements for this rule.

This definition does not include contract staff. Where a service such as catering has been 'inhouse' and is subsequently 'contracted out', children of staff will not be eligible for admission under this criterion.

This definition does not include peripatetic staff employed by HCC.

ii) a child of a member of staff is defined as any child whom a qualifying member of staff:

- has parental responsibility for\*, **or**
- looks after on a permanent day-to-day basis (but does not have parental responsibility).

\*A qualifying member of staff has parental responsibility if:

- a. they are the child's natural mother; **or**,
- b. they are the child's natural father and **either** were married to the mother on the day of the child's birth or subsequently, **or** have entered into a legal parental responsibility agreement with the mother, **or** have been granted a residence order from the court directing the child will live with them, **or** registered or re-registered the child's birth after 1 December 2003, **or**,
- c. the child lives with them as the result of a court order.

**Type of School:** non-partially selective means that the school or academy does not offer any places based on academic ability.

**Priority Admission Area:** the school's priority admission area includes the following administrative parishes:  
**Ayot St Lawrence, Colney Heath, Flamstead, Harpenden, Harpenden Rural, Kimpton, King's Walden, London Colney, Markyate, Redbourn, Ridge, Sandridge, St Michael, St Pauls Walden, St Stephens, St Albans, Shenley, Wheathampstead.**

**Distance Measuring and Home Addresses:** The address provided must be the child's current permanent address at the time of application. "At the time of application" means the closing date for applications. "Permanent" means that the child has lived at that address for at least a year or the family owns the property or has a tenancy agreement for a minimum of 12 months.

A 'straight line' distance measurement is used in all home to school distance measurements. Distances are measured by Hertfordshire County Council using a computerised mapping system to two decimal places. The measurement is taken from the AddressBase Premium address point of your child's house to the address point of the school. AddressBase Premium data is a nationally recognised method of identifying the location of schools and individual residences.

A tiebreak is used if two applications have addresses that measure the same distance from a school. For example, if two applications had identical home to school distance measurements, a random tiebreak would be used to decide which applicant is offered a place. The tiebreak is administered independently of the school.

Every applicant is given a unique random number for each of their school preferences. When a random tiebreak is needed, this random number is used to allocate the place – the lowest number is given priority. If two applications were received from the same block of flats, the applicant with the lower door number would be classed as nearest and offered a place because they are likely to be closer to the ground floor and, therefore, the school.

In cases where the application of the admissions criteria would result in twins or siblings of a multiple birth being allocated to different schools, one of which is Beaumont School, the Governors will admit over the published admission number to avoid this occurrence.

Please note that address checking is undertaken as part of the application and allocation process and the offer of a school place will be withdrawn if fraudulent or misleading information has been provided in the application.

#### **Section 4 – How to Apply**

All applicants must complete the Hertfordshire County Council's **COMMON APPLICATION FORM (CAF)** indicating your preferred schools, including Beaumont, in rank order of preference. The CAF should be completed online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). If parents are unable to apply online they should contact the CSC on 0300 123 4043.

Parents applying under the "Children of Staff" rule must ensure they tick the relevant box on the Common Application Form (HCC's online or paper form). Evidence to substantiate the claim should be sent direct to the school.

#### **Section 5 – Continued Interest Lists, In-Year Admissions and Appeals**

**Continued Interest Lists:** All unsuccessful applicants (who do not gain a place at a higher ranked school) will automatically be added to the school's continued interest list. Any places which become available will be allocated in accordance with the admission rules set out in this document. A continued interest list will be maintained for every year group but, to retain a continued interest into the new academic year, a new continued interest application must be made.

Beaumont must admit any student who is admitted through the appeal process, or who is the subject of a 'direction' by the Local Authority, or allocated to us according to the local Fair Access Protocol. Any such students take precedence over the continued interest list.

**In-Year Admissions:** the school will remain part of Hertfordshire County Council's coordinated in-year admissions scheme for 2019. Application forms can be accessed via [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/inyear](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/inyear) or from the Customer Service Centre, 0300 123 4043. Parents should return the application form direct to the County Council (address on the form).

**Appeals:** Hertfordshire parents wishing to appeal who applied online should log on to their online application and click on the link "register an appeal." If you did not apply using Hertfordshire's online application system please contact the Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4043 to request an appeal pack. Out of county residents and paper applicants should call the Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4043 to request their registration details, login to [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals) and click on the link "log into the appeals system."

#### **Section 6 – Sixth Form Admissions**

Admission to the Sixth Form will be for any student who meets the minimum academic standards expected as set out in the Sixth Form prospectus, in the order of priority set out in the Procedure for Admission to the Sixth Form.

The PAN for external students is 150. Children with an Educational Health Care Plan that names the school will be admitted and will count towards the school's published admissions number, provided they meet the academic requirements. In the event of oversubscription to the Sixth Form from external students, places will be offered to students who meet the academic requirements by applying the following criteria in the order given:

**Rule 1** Applicants who are Children Looked After and children previously looked after but who ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order.

**Rule 2** Exceptional medical or social need. Applicants for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a compelling medical or social reason for attending the school. Applications for children adopted but previously looked after abroad (outside England) will be considered under this rule and accepted if the

child's previously looked after status and adoption is confirmed. Hertfordshire's "virtual school" will be asked to verify all such applications.

**Rule 3** Sibling. Applicants with a sibling already at the school at the time of application unless the sibling is in Year 13.

**Rule 4** Applicants who are children of staff.

**Rule 5** Applicants who live nearest to the school.

A tiebreak is used if two applications have addresses that measure the same distance from a school. For example, if two applications had identical home to school distance measurements, a random tiebreak would be used to decide which applicant is offered a place. The tiebreak is administered independently of the school.