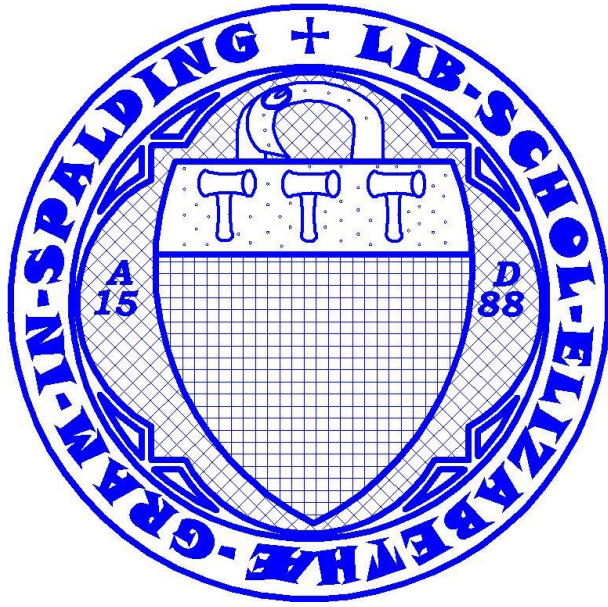


Spalding Grammar School



Admissions Policy 2025 entry

Author:

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Governor Committee:

Full Governors

Next Review Date:

January 2025 (for 2026)

Next Full Consultation:

November 2025 (for 2027)

As a selective Academy Spalding Grammar School is its own admissions authority. It adheres to the nationally agreed Code of Practice but the Governors are able to set their own admissions criteria and are not bound by the Local Authority's admissions policy.

Coordination

Arrangements for applications for places in Year 7 at Spalding Grammar School will be made in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements: Parents resident in Lincolnshire can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions; they can also apply by telephone, or ask for a hard copy application form, by telephoning 01522 782030. Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home Local Authority. Spalding Grammar School will use the Lincolnshire County Council's timetable published online for these applications and the relevant Local Authority will make the offers of places on our behalf as required by the School Admissions Code (2021).

Admissions Criteria

Admission is normally at age 11 and is offered to boys who achieve an agreed standard in two entrance tests taken during their final year at primary school. Sitting the test does not constitute an application to the School. The results are standardised so that 25% of the Year 6 population living in the areas of Lincolnshire served by grammar schools attain an agreed aggregate score of 220 across both tests. This is known as "the county standard" and all pupils who attain this score qualify for a Lincolnshire grammar school place. That qualification score (220 or above) remains valid for the duration of the pupils' secondary school education. A non-qualification score (below 220) will remain with the pupils until the end of Year 7. They are then eligible to sit a 'Late Entry' test for admission into Year 8 and beyond (see below for details).

By law, the Governors must consider parents who have named the School using the Common Application Form, or who have applied online, before any other parents.

Places at Spalding Grammar School are offered to pupils who have attained the county standard irrespective of race, disability or social background. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, all children whose statement of Special Educational Needs names the School will be admitted; the allocation of school places for those pupils will take place before the School allocates other places as part of the normal admissions process. Only boys may be admitted below the Sixth Form.

Oversubscription

In accordance with legislation the allocation of places for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (Children and Families Act 2014) where the School is named, will take place first. Remaining places will be allocated in accordance with this policy.

Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children, including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted, will be given first priority.

- 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.
- 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 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).
- Child Arrangements Orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.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 accommodated by, a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

There is an admission limit of 150 in each year spread over five forms of entry. If more than 150 pupils qualify, then all those who live in Lincolnshire County Council's designated transport area for the School, defined as Spalding and the feeder Parishes of South Lincolnshire (listed in Appendix 1 "the Feeder Parishes"), will be considered before those who live outside Spalding and the Feeder Parishes. If numbers still exceed 150, then the aggregate score of 220 will be raised in order to contain the number of admissions. If fewer than 150 from Spalding and the Feeder Parishes qualify, then those who live outside Spalding and the Feeder Parishes who qualify will be considered in score order (highest first) until the limit of 150 is reached. In the event of two or more boys having the same aggregate score then a place will be offered to the boy who lives nearest to the School, measured by the Local Authority as the direct distance ("as the crow flies") from the boy's home postcode Post Office address point to the School's. If two or more children are tied for the last place a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the School or working in Children's Service Directorate at the Local Authority.

For families of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning to live in the area from overseas, the Governors will:

- Process an application in advance of the family arriving in the area provided it is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address, intended address or quartering area address to use when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child where the parent requests this
- The Governors will not refuse a service child a place solely because the family does not have an intended address or does not yet live in the area.

Evidence of an intended address will be required such as tenancy agreement, or mortgage statement. Please contact the school for more details.

For late coordinated applications and midyear applications supported by the appropriate military documentation, we will aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces). The governors will consider whether:

- An application from that address would normally succeed in an oversubscribed year
- There is any child on the reserve list with higher priority under the oversubscription criteria
- The prejudice from admitting an extra child would be excessive.

The governors have discretion to admit above the admission number in these circumstances if they wish but are not obliged to do so. If a place is refused, you will be informed of your right of appeal.

Reserve List

For admission into the intake year the Governors will keep a waiting list, which we call a reserve list. The School will only add to the reserve list children who have achieved the required standard in the selection tests.

If the School has to refuse a place, a qualified child is automatically put on the reserve list, unless a higher preference school has offered a place.

This list is in the order of the oversubscription criteria, as required by the School Admissions Code. This means that names can move down the list if someone moves into the area and is higher placed under the oversubscription criteria. The Governors must not take account of the time a child has been on the list.

Spalding Grammar School will keep the reserve list until the end of the academic year. If you wish your child to join the School in another Year group and it is full, you can contact the School and request to be added to the reserve list. The reserve lists for Years 7 to 9 are cleared at the end of each academic year. If you would like your child to be placed on the reserve list for the following academic year, please contact the School. In Year 10 the list is cleared at the end of the Autumn Term. There is no reserve list for Year 11.

Late Entry

Pupils may also be admitted after the age of 11 - the School normally admits up to the PAN for the intake year in all other Year groups. For entry into Years 8 and 9 they will need to reach the required standard in a GL Assessment verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning test. For entry from Year 10 students will sit tests in English, Maths and Science, based on GCSE-style papers.

When transferring from another school, it may not be possible to match all the subjects a pupil has been studying.

If the Year in which a pupil seeks entry is already full and he meets the academic entry requirements outlined above, he will be placed on a reserve list and offered a place if and when a current pupil leaves.

Fraudulent or misleading applications

As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information; for example, a false address was given that denied a place to a child with a stronger claim.

We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group; for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Parents wishing to make these requests must contact their home Local Authority for guidance on the procedure to follow.

It is important for parents to note that they will have the opportunity and responsibility to provide whatever evidence they wish to support their request.

Spalding Grammar School will make decisions 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 parents' views;
- any available 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;
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- the views of the Primary Head Teacher

Fair Access Protocols

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children who live in the home Local Authority, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full.

SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS

Year 11 students at this School have the right to transfer to our Year 12 provided that they meet the academic standards set out below and provided that the School can offer the preferred subject or combination of subjects in an efficient and effective manner. The Sixth Form prospectus gives full details of the subjects and courses on offer and any individual entry requirements.

We also welcome applications from students attending other schools and have set an admission number of 60 for these applications.

When we do not offer a place in the Sixth Form the student and their parents both have the right of appeal to the Governors if they feel our admissions criteria have not been applied fairly.

Sometimes we may be able to offer a place in Year 12, but not for the student's preferred combination of subjects (in this case there is no right of appeal, as a place has been offered within the Sixth Form).

Students may join the Sixth Form after courses have begun, provided they meet the entry requirements, there is room in the subjects they are requesting, and there is a suitable match between the courses they have already begun and those offered by the School.

Our Year 12 is normally around 150 students; the Sixth Form as a whole is usually 300 in total.

Process of application

The deadline for all applications is 1 March 2022. If we receive any applications after this date we will deal with them as soon as possible.

We will make conditional offers in March. These will be subject to the applicant achieving the required standards in their examinations. For external applicants we will contact their current school to find out their predicted grades and their academic ability for A level study.

In order to support prospective students in making sensible decisions about their courses, all applicants will be offered a chance to discuss their application with a senior member of staff.

Academic Standards Required

- Admission to Sixth Form courses is open to all students, male and female, and is dependent upon students achieving at least **six** grades 4 or higher at GCSE, **including** Maths and English Language or English Literature. This is the general entry requirement.
- Subjects being continued to A level should be grade 5 or higher. That said, some subjects have additional expectations. Please see the individual subject information for details. (Appendix 2).
- Students wishing to undertake subjects **not** previously studied should have a grade 5 or higher in a *related* subject. Again, please see the individual subject information for details.

General oversubscription

Where the Sixth Form or an individual subject is oversubscribed, the following oversubscription criteria will be used:

- a) Applicants with a statement of Special Educational Needs or EHC that names the School, and those in (or who have ever been in) local authority care, will be given priority provided they meet both the general and subject specific entry requirements.
- b) Students currently studying at the School
- c) Applicants living in Spalding or in the feeder Parishes of South Lincolnshire listed in the Appendix ("the Feeder Parishes").
- d) Priority will be given to the most qualified applicants in rank ordering according to:
 - First, according to the grades predicted in the applicant's chosen subjects (or, for those subjects not previously studied, a *related subject* as specified in the subject's information sheet).
 - Secondly, according to the average points score predicted across all GCSE subjects taken by the applicant.

APPEALS

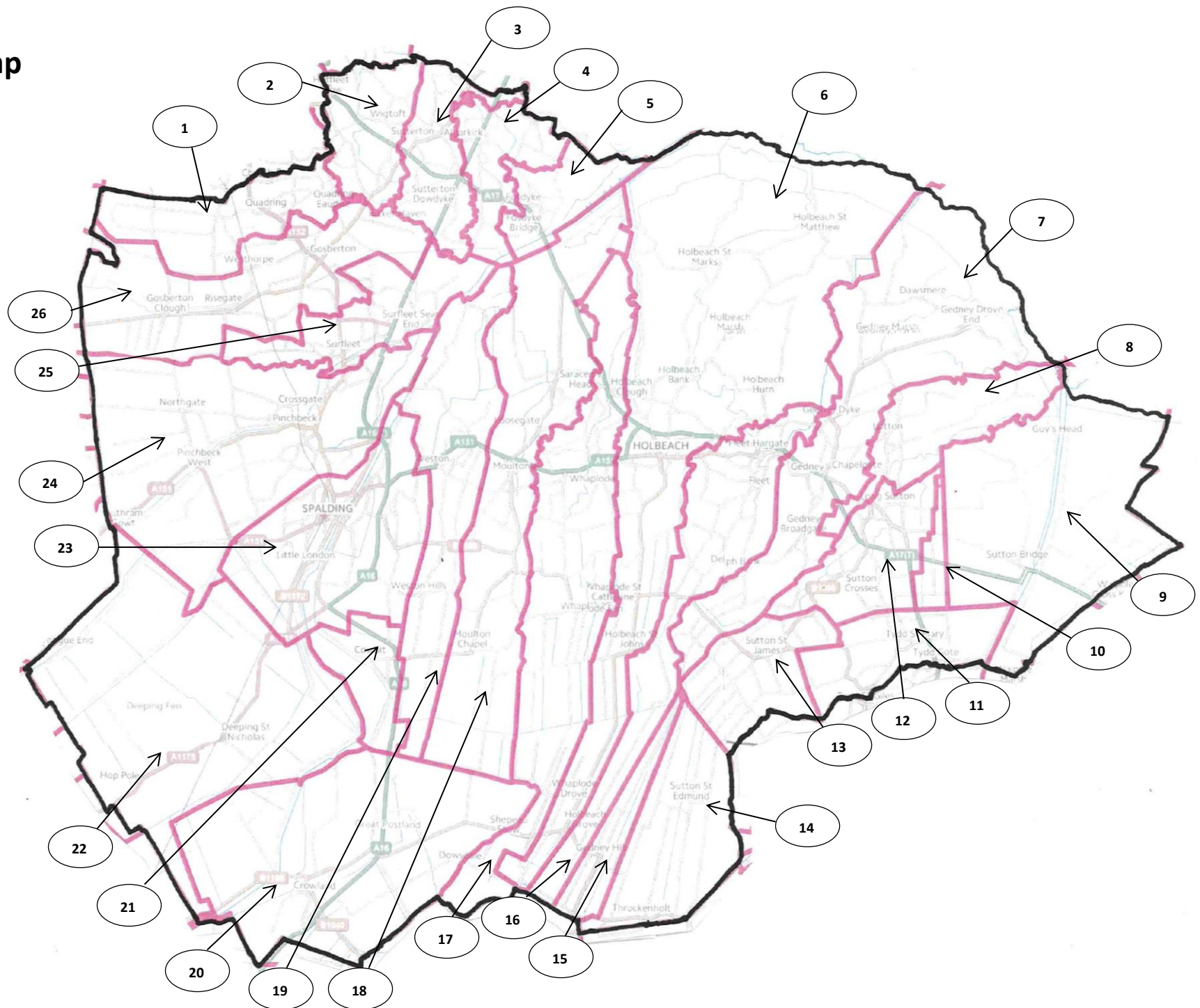
If a pupil is refused a place for any reason, parents have a right of appeal. They should write to the Clerk to the Governors at the School to register their appeal or may appeal on-line at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions. As an Academy, Spalding Grammar School has the right to convene its own Appeals Panel. At present it makes use of the independent panels convened by the Local Authority and complies fully with Local Authority procedures in such matters.

APPENDIX 1

Priority Area Map

Comprising the Parishes:

Algarkirk (4)
 Cowbit (21)
 Crowland (20)
 Deeping St Nicholas (22)
 Fleet (16)
 Fosdyke (5)
 Gedney (7)
 Gedney Hill (15)
 Gosberton (26)
 Holbeach (6)
 Little Sutton (10)
 Long Sutton (12)
 Lutton (8)
 Moulton (18)
 Pinchbeck (24)
 Quadring (1)
 Spalding (23)
 Surfleet (25)
 Sutterton (3)
 Sutton Bridge (9)
 Sutton St Edmund (14)
 Sutton St James (13)
 Tydd St Mary (11)
 Weston (19)
 Whaplode (17)
 Wigtoft (2)



A LEVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (for September 2024)

Subject	Minimum Requirements (if studied at GCSE)	Alternative Minimum Requirements (if not studied at GCSE)†
Art and Design	GCSE Art & Design, grade 6	A portfolio of artwork to be assessed by the Head of Art & Design, in line with GCSE grade 6 criteria
Biology	GCSE Biology, grade 6 or GCSE Combined Science, grade 7,6 And GCSE Mathematics, grade 5	
Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies, grade 6	GCSE English*, grade 5
Chemistry	GCSE Chemistry, grade 6 or GCSE Combined Science, grade 7,7 And GCSE Mathematics, grade 6	
Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science, grade 6	GCSE Maths, grade 6
Design and Technology	GCSE Product Design, GCSE Resistant Materials or GCSE Engineering (GCSE Textiles or GCSE Graphic Design, only after discussion with Head of Design Technology), grade 6	GCSE Maths, grade 6
Economics	GCSE Economics, grade 6	GCSE Maths, grade 6 GCSE English*, grade 5
English Language	GCSE English Language, grade 6	
English Literature	GCSE English Literature, grade 6	GCSE English Language, grade 6
Geography	GCSE Geography, grade 6	GCSE English*, grade 5
History	GCSE History, grade 6	GCSE English *, grade 5
Latin	GCSE Latin, grade 6	
Law	GCSE Law, grade 6	GCSE English*, grade 5
Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics, grade 7	
Further Mathematics	GCSE Further Mathematics, grade 7 And GCSE Mathematics, grade 7	GCSE Mathematics, grade 8
Modern Foreign Languages (German, French, Spanish)	GCSE in the relevant language, grade 6	
Music	GCSE Music, grade 6 And grade 4 (instrumental exam) on your chosen instrument.	Grade 4 (instrumental exam) on your chosen instrument
Physical Education	GCSE Physical Education, grade 6 And GCSE in any science, grade 5	GCSE Biology, grade 5; or Combined Science, grades 55
Physics	GCSE Physics, grade 6 or GCSE Combined Science, grade 7,7 And GCSE Mathematics, grade 6	
Psychology	GCSE Psychology, grade 6	GCSE in any science, grade 5 And GCSE English*, grade 5
Religious Studies	GCSE Religious Studies, grade 6	GCSE English*, grade 5
Sociology	GCSE Sociology, grade 6	GCSE English*, grade 5

† where a subject has not been studied at GCSE, a conversation should be had with the Head of Subject before applying

* where 'GCSE English' is given, either English Language **or** English Literature will be accepted; in exceptional circumstances, a humanity (History or Geography) may be accepted

Enrichment Subject	Minimum Requirements
AS Classical Civilisation	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
Core Mathematics	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
AS Criminology	Grade 5 in English*
AS Engineering	GCSE Product Design, GCSE Resistant Materials or GCSE Engineering (GCSE Textiles or GCSE Graphic Design, only after discussion with Head of Design Technology), grade 6 And GCSE Mathematics, grade 7 If not studied at GCSE, GCSE Maths, grade 7 and GCSE Physics, grade 6; or Dual Science, grades 77
EPQ	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language
AS Politics	GCSE English*, grade 5
Sports Leaders	There are no special entry requirements for this subject; however, an enthusiasm for sport would be advantageous
Young Enterprise	There are no special entry requirements for this subject; however, an interest in business would be advantageous