

Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology

Draft Admissions Policy 2025-26

For Consultation

Owner:	Danielle Pacey
Review Cycle:	Annually
Approved by:	
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Next review due by:	

INTRODUCTION

Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology (CAST) is a University Technical College for 13 – 19-year-old students, which offers a specialised STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Technology) based curriculum. CAST welcomes all students who have an interest in the STEM subjects and are keen to pursue a career in that area in the future. Potential students should be aware that the specialised curriculum does not include certain subjects that are usually offered in mainstream schools, for example, languages and the creative arts.

CAST is designed for the benefit of the Cambridge sub-region (Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, North West Essex, West Suffolk and East Hertfordshire), and the catchment area is, therefore, the whole of Cambridgeshire and the area within a 35-mile straight line radius of the main student entrance. CAST is non-selective for entry at Year 9. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no longer routine admission into Year 10 as a standard point of entry. Entry to programmes of study Post 16 include appropriate entry criteria, based on previously achieved national qualifications.

CAST will act in accordance with the School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code. CAST will publish information about the arrangements for admissions, including oversubscription on its website. This will include details of open days, evenings and other opportunities for prospective students to visit CAST and minimum entry requirements for Post-16 applicants.

LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology will comply with the provisions within the Schools Admissions Code and the School Appeals Code, which are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code>

PUBLISHED ADMISSIONS NUMBER

The published admission number for **Year 9 is 104**.

The published admission number for **Year 12 external applicants is a minimum of 30**.

Therefore, the Academy will admit at least the minimum number of external applicants into its Sixth Form – any numbers above that will be at the discretion of the Academy, and additional pupils will be admitted until Year 12 meets its capacity of 100. If fewer than anticipated of the Academy's own Year 11 pupils do not meet entry criteria and/or do not progress into Year 12, additional external pupils will be admitted above the minimum number at the discretion of the Academy until Year 12 meets its capacity of 100.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN YEAR 9

To apply for a place at CAST, please see the information available at the following link:

<https://www.cambridgeast.org.uk/admissions/applying-for-year-9-or-10>

CAST Admissions Team Contact Details:

Email - cast-admissions@CambridgeAST.org.uk

Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology will be offered a place first, assuming the provision is appropriate. This may reduce the number of places available.

If there are more applications than places available, then all applications will be given a priority from the oversubscription criteria and places will be offered in priority order.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where the number of applicants is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below:

1. Looked after children and all 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.¹
2. Children with a sibling at the academy. A sibling refers to children who live together in the same family unit. The sibling must be in the academy at the time of the application and be likely to remain in the academy at the proposed date of admission.
3. Children of staff at the academy. Staff are defined as those having a contract of employment with United Learning and working at the academy for which the admission application is being considered for at least 50% of their employed time. The staff member must have been employed to work at this academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made, or has been recruited to fill a vacant post at the academy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
4. If there are more applicants than remaining places available, places will be allocated according to home location and the proximity of a student's home to the Academy. The distance, if required, is measured using an online distance measuring tool. When considering a child's application, the permanent home address at the closing date of applications will be used. If parent(s)/carer(s) are separated and the child spends time at each parent(s)/carer(s) address, the address of the main carer (where the child lives for the majority of the week) will be used for admission to the Academy. Parent(s)/carer(s) may be asked to provide documentary evidence to verify the student's address. This could be defined and verified as that registered with his/her doctor.

Tie-break scenario: In the event of a tie break, a random allocation will be used. This will be carried out by an independent panel. Eligible names will be placed in a hat, one name will be drawn from the hat and the place will be offered to that person.

¹ 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). All references to previously looked after children in the Code mean such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and 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.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Applications received after the closing date are late and will be processed after the published offer day (as outlined on the school's website).

Where in any year Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology receives more eligible applications than there are places available within the application deadline, the student's name will be held on a reserve list until the end of the first term after the start of the school year, or in the case of an in-year application, a period of two terms which will include the term the application is made. The place on the reserve list is determined by the ranking of the application against the published oversubscription criteria. Please note names held on the reserve list will not be carried over to a new academic year.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN THE SIXTH FORM

Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology will operate a Sixth Form for 100 students in each of Year 12 and Year 13 when at full capacity.

Places will be available in Year 12 for internal students who meet the minimum academic entry requirements for their chosen programme of study.

For entry in 2025, the PAN for admitting external students will be a minimum of 30. Details about the minimum entry requirements and how to apply is available on the Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology website.

Any remaining places will be offered to additional external candidates, on condition that they meet the Academy's minimum entry requirements.

Any students with a statement an Education, Health and Care Plan, where the Academy is named in the plan and who meet the minimum admission criteria, will be offered a place. (NB: However, the academy is not suitable if admission is prejudicial to the efficient education of other young people).

IN YEAR APPLICATIONS

Families moving into the area or wishing to change schools during the school year will need to make an application for an in-year place.

An application form should be completed and returned to the Admissions Team. This can be done by downloading the application form from the Academy's website:

<https://www.cambridgeast.org.uk/admissions/in-year-admissions>

APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN TO BE ADMITTED INTO A CLASS OUTSIDE OF 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.

Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group. Admission in these circumstances will be based on the individual aspects of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parents' views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; and, where relevant, their medical history.

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.

APPEALS – IF YOUR CHILD IS REFUSED A PLACE AT THE ACADEMY

Unsuccessful applicants have a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. For more information about the process please visit the County Council's web page

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/admission-appeals>

The panel consists of three people who are independent to the academy, the academy's Governing Body and the Local Authority.

Appeals will be independently managed in accordance with statutory regulations and will be heard within 40 school days of the appeal being lodged.