



POLICY: Admission Policy for 2025-2026

STATUTORY: Yes

DATE AGREED: November 2023

REVIEW DATE: November 2024

RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF STAFF: R French

GOVERNOR COMMITTEE: FGB

SIGNED HEADTEACHER: A Evans

SIGNED CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: R Whitehouse



Admissions Policy for 2025-2026 onwards

Eligibility

Children are normally admitted to JMHS at the beginning of the school year following their 11th birthday and students will be offered a place on the basis of the following ranked criteria:

Children with a Statement of Educational Needs or an Educational, Health and Care Plan which names JMHS will be allocated places, after which places are allocated to an agreed strict criteria, in order of priority.

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children who have since been adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order, including those children who appear (to JMHS) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children living within the defined catchment of JMHS
3. Sibling connection – children who have a sibling at JMHS not only at the time of application but also when the child is due to start
4. Exceptional circumstances: children with exceptional medical, social or compassionate grounds for admission and whose parents can show that entry to JMHS is necessary for the wellbeing of their child. Parents are required to produce a medical certificate or other appropriate information, preferably from an independent source.
5. Distance – children who live nearest to the school by the shortest available walking route.
6. Children eligible for pupil premium or service premium; the Pupil Premium is additional funding paid annually to schools under Section 14 of the Education Act 2002 for the purposes of supporting the attainment of disadvantaged children. The Service Premium is additional funding paid annually to schools under section 14 of the Education Act 2002 for the purposes of supporting the pastoral needs of children of Armed Services personnel.
7. Children of staff at school: where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of the admission application being made and / or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
8. Children who are attending one of the feeder primary schools.
9. Any other child.

Parents considering applying for their children to attend JMHS are welcome to telephone for an appointment to visit the school and receive any relevant information.

Notes

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Educational, Health and Care Plan which names JMHS will be allocated places, after which places will be allocated in the order cited above.

1. Looked after children will be allocated a place first because we wish to protect children who were or are in public care from further disadvantage that can arise from possible changes of school when the care placement changes. Looked after children refers to children currently in public care

or those who were looked after but ceased to be because they have been adopted or become subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.

2. This is our second priority because we give high importance to try and ensure that children are able to attend the school within their local community. In order to define the relevant catchment area, the home address of the child is defined as the only or main permanent residential address at the closing date for applications. Where the child resides at two addresses for equal amounts of time, then parents must decide which address to use for admissions purposes. A map of our catchment area is shown below. To find the catchment school for a postcode, please visit <http://herefordshire.gov.uk/schools-education/find-school>
3. This means children who have an older sibling at JMHS, not only at the time of application but also when the younger child is due to start. A sibling connection refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or a child of the parents/carer's partner, and in every case the child should be living in the same family unit at the same address.
4. We will consider any exceptional circumstances that may be relevant.
5. Distance is measured by the shortest available walking route using a road and/or made up footpath using the nearest node on the transport network to the property point. The effect of this is to take you to the front door and not take into consideration other entrances. This is particularly important in rural areas like Herefordshire where rural properties can have multiple access points.
6. Pupil Premium or Service Premium children are the next priority.
7. Children of JMHS staff are the next priority.
8. Our feeder primary schools are: Ashperton Primary School, Bosbury CE Primary School, Colwall CE Primary School, Cradley CE Primary School, Eastnor Parochial Primary School, Ledbury Primary School and Much Marcle CE Primary School.
9. The school's Planned Admission Number (PAN) for Year 7 students is 150.

How to Apply (Year 7)

All applicants are required to complete The Common Application Form (SA1) by the stated deadline. Your Local Authority provides this form; it is not available from JMHS.

Transferring to JMHS after the start of Year 7

If a student wishes to join JMHS after the start of Year 7 or in Years 8 -11, their parents or carers should contact our Admissions Officer who will then arrange to meet with you, show you around the school and help you reach a decision. Applications will be ranked according to our eligibility criteria and students in Years 10 or 11 are admitted on the understanding that GCSE Option choices and academic sets may be limited by availability.

Allocation of Places

Where fewer than 150 applications are received, JMHS will offer places to all those who have applied. We do, however, retain the right to refuse admission to applications who have been excluded from two or more other schools. The ability to refuse admission of the students runs for a period of two years from the date of the last exclusion.

In the event of over subscription, a waiting list will be established and any subsequent available places will be offered following the eligibility criteria listed above.

Arrangements for Appeals

JMHS adheres to The School Admission Appeals Code (2012) and will ensure that an independent Appeals Panel is appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Code, should any parent wish to make an appeal. The determination of the Independent Appeals Panel is binding on all parties.

Sixth Form Admissions

We also welcome students from other schools into our Sixth Form. Admission to the Sixth Form is by a formal recruitment process and attainment of at least 5 GCSEs at Grade 5-9 which would normally

include English and Maths. Certain subjects will require you to have achieved at least a grade 6 or 7 in your GCSEs in order to study at A-level.

The student must also have shown the requisite attitude towards their studies with an average of at least 5.5 for their Care & Concentration and their Homework grades during the summer term of Y10 and all of their Y11.

These are guidelines and each application will be looked at individually and specific circumstances taken into account.

Students from other schools are welcome to apply and will follow the same recruitment process as students from JMHS. Educational references will be obtained before confirmation of a place.

Prospective students are welcome to attend the Sixth Form at any time. Please contact our Head of Sixth Form on 01531 631012 x370 to arrange a mutually convenient time. The Sixth Form has its own webpage on the school website and all pertinent information can be found here, including the prospectus.

Catchment area of John Masefield High School

