

Dear parents and carers

I am writing to let you know that Cambridgeshire County Council has informed us that we are not able to run our admissions for September 2026 on the basis that we had hoped and so we are having to revert to the original policy. This is disappointing news. In practice, it means that in the event that we have more families applying than places available, places will be given to children who meet any of the criteria as follows, in order, until all places are filled:

1. Children in Care, also known as Looked After Children (LAC) to include those who were previously looked-after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence, or care arrangements order or special guardianship order.
2. Children who appear to the Admission Authority to have been in state care (i.e. in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society) outside of England but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted only.
3. Children living in the catchment area, who attend one of the feeder primary schools listed above and who have a sibling at the school at the time of admission. Parents may contact the Local Authority (LA) if they are uncertain whether or not they reside in the catchment area.
4. Children living in the catchment area and who have a sibling at the school at the time of admission.
5. Children living in the catchment area and who attend one of the feeder primary schools listed above.
6. Other children living in the catchment area
7. Children who live outside the catchment area, who attend a feeder primary school within it and who have a sibling at the school at the time of admission.
8. Children who live outside the catchment area who have a sibling at the school at the time of admission.
9. Children who live outside the catchment area who attend the primary schools within the catchment area.
10. Children of staff employed at Comberton Village College at the time of application.
11. Children who live outside the catchment area

A full copy of the admissions policy is enclosed, or can be viewed on the school website.

We appreciate this will be frustrating for many of you, and we share this frustration. We carried out a thorough process to consult on the proposals in 2024 - including with the local authority - and had received formal legal advice that our process was robust.



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From 2027 we are moving to the same admissions oversubscription criteria right across all Cam schools. Whilst we appreciate this will be of little comfort to those disappointed by this decision, for our September 2026 intake, we hope this resolves the issue for the future. We're committed to working positively and collaboratively with the local authority as we move forward.

If you are adversely affected, do please let us know if you would like us to keep your details on record for any in-year admissions once the school year has started. Whilst these are unusual at Comberton, occasionally places are freed up when families move area.

Yours sincerely

Claire Heald
Chief Executive