Launceston College

Part of Athena Learning Trust

Launceston College

Admissions Policy

2026-27

Review

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Admission arrangements for Launceston College for the 2026 - 2027 school year

Published Admission number (PAN)

The school has an admission number of 292 for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. It will admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. If fewer than 292 applications are received, all applicants will be offered a place.

Application process

All applications for places in reception or during the school year must be made direct to the applicant's home local authority on the appropriate application form.

The application form and supporting information is available on Cornwall Council's website.

Application process for places in the Sixth Form

Launceston College will process applications for the Sixth Form. The application form is online and can be found on the Sixth Form section of our website**.** There is not a published closing date for applications for places in Year 12. However, students should try to apply before the end of the autumn term in Year 11. Applications for Year 12 after the beginning of term in September 2026 will be considered on a case by case basis.

We will make conditional offers of places in Year 12 based on predicted GCSE grades. Conditional offers will be made following interviews held in January 2026. Offers will be confirmed on GCSE results day, once actual grades are known.

Oversubscription criteria

The school will admit any pupil with an Education, Health and Care plan which names the school. Priority will then be given to children who meet the criteria set out below, in order. Applicants for the sixth form will also need to meet the academic entry criteria set out below. In the event of there being more than 292 applications for places in Year 7 for the 2026-2027 academic year or more applications than places for any year group during the school year, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to prioritise applications, after the admission of children whose Health and Care Plan names the school:

1. Children in care or children that were previously in care but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted.

2. Children of all paid employees by Launceston College (or those who work for Athena Learning Trust Shared Service and who carry out the majority of their work on site at Launceston College):

- Where the member of staff has been employed at the academy to which the child is applying, for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made, or
- Where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post within the academy to which the child is applying, for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

3. Children for whom Launceston College is their nearest school or whose parents/carers can provide evidence that they will be living in the area for which Launceston College would be the nearest school by the beginning of the autumn term of the 2026-2027 school year.

4. Children with siblings who will still be attending the school at the time of their admission.

5. Children with an unequivocal professional recommendation from a doctor, school medical officer, educational psychologist or education welfare officer that non-placement at the school would not be in the best interest of the child. Such recommendations must be made in writing and must give full supporting reasons and will be reviewed by the LA.

6. Children on the roll of a primary school (at the time of allocation) whose designated area is contained within or forms part of the designated area of the preferred secondary school. See table under Designated areas section of this policy.

7. All other children.

Tie-break

If in categories 2-5 above a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission. Distance is measured from the child's home to the front gates of the school in a straight line by google maps.

Random allocation undertaken by the local authority will be used as a tie-break in categories 2-5 above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between a child's home and the school is equidistant in any two or more cases.

Arrangements for admission to the sixth form

All applications to the sixth form should be made directly to Launceston College. Pupils may be admitted into Launceston College from another school as well as from Year 11.

For those children admitted to Launceston College for the first time (i.e. those not transferring from Year 11) there is a Published Admission Number for Year 12. The Year 12 admission number for Launceston College is 30. Where the number of eligible external applicants exceeds the places available, the same over-subscription criteria as for all pupils joining Launceston College will be used to prioritise applications, after the admission of children whose EHC Plan names the academy.

Please see the academy's sixth form prospectus for details of the minimum entry requirements for each of the courses offered. The sixth form prospectus and application information is available on the academy's website at: https://www.launcestoncollege.uk/sixth-form

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested and the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place.

When such a request is made, the Trust will decide on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, considering the views of the Principal and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

Guidance can also be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions or on request from the School Admissions Team.

Waiting list

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where the school receives more applications for places than there are places available a waiting list will be in place until the end of the academic year. This will be maintained by the Trust and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful

application. Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list. No priority is given to the length of time that a child has been on the list.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel (arranged by Cornwall Council on behalf of the Trust). Further details and a timeline can be found in Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. Applicants can only appeal again for a place in the same school within the same academic year if the admission authority for that school has accepted a further application because there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent or carer, child or school but has determined that the new application must also be refused.

Home address

Each child can have only one registered address for the purposes of determining priority for admission and transport entitlement. This address should be the place where the child is normally resident at the point of application or evidence of the address from which a child will attend school, in the form of written confirmation of a house purchase or a formal tenancy agreement. Exceptional circumstances in relation to the provision of a home address will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If there is shared residence of the child or a query is raised regarding the validity of an address, the admission authority will consider the home address to

be with the parent with primary day to day care and control of the child. Residency of a child may also be clarified through a Child Arrangement Order where it is shown who has care of the child. Evidence may be requested to demonstrate the child's home address.

It is expected that parents will submit only one application for each child. Any disputes in relation to the child's home address should be settled before applying, the admission authority will not become involved in any parental disputes. If agreement cannot be obtained before an application is made then parents/carers may need to settle the matter through the courts. Where no agreement is reached or order obtained, admission authority will determine the home address.

For information on disputes between persons with parental responsibility in relation to school preferences please see the LA's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for the relevant year.

Applications for children of Service Families will be processed and places allocated based on the proposed address (with supporting evidence) or, if the family are not able to confirm a proposed address and a unit or quartering address is provided, an allocation will be made based on the unit or quartering address. Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address or quartering area address will be used to determine allocation of a school place. For the purposes of measuring distances, the main entrance of the unit will be used.

Siblings

'Siblings' means brothers or sisters. They are defined as children with at least one natural or adoptive parent in common, living at the same or a different address. Children living permanently in the same household at the same address would also be counted as siblings, regardless of their actual relationship to each other. To qualify as a sibling a child must be on the

roll of the school in question at the date of application.

If a child is a sibling of a multiple birth (e.g. twins, triplets, etc.) and has been offered a place at the requested school, every effort will be made to offer places to siblings at the same school, which may mean allocating places above the Published Admission Number (PAN) where this is possible. However, where this is not possible, parents will be invited to decide which of the children should be allocated the available place(s).