



CAISTER ACADEMY
Creative Education Trust
School of Literature
and Performing Arts

Caister Academy

Admissions Policy 2026 / 2027

1. Basic Principles

- 1.1 The Academy will comply with all relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice (the School Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admissions Appeals Code of Practice) as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with the law on admissions as it applies to maintained schools. Reference in the codes to admission authorities shall be deemed to be reference to the Local Governing Body of the Academy (The latter is a sub-committee of the Creative Education Trust (CET) Board and is the local presence of the Board with representatives from the school community, the local community and regional businesses and organisations). In particular, the Academy will take part in any Co-ordinated Admissions System operated by the LA.
- 1.2 The Academy will admit children with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) / Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the Academy is named in the Statement/Plan, without reference to oversubscription criteria outlined below, and this will reduce the number of places available.

2. Admission Arrangements

- 2.1 The Academy has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 150 pupils (reducing to 120 by 2028/29). The Academy will admit the admission number of students in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received.
- 2.2 Caister Academy also admits up to 12 students (10%) of our annual Year 7 intake to students who are able to demonstrate an aptitude in Performing Arts through an aptitude test. Applicants for these places have to complete an online application form, available from the academy (Appendix B - Supplementary Information Form) and will then be invited into school for an assessment process. Where candidates' test scores meet the minimum score, the first 6 offers will be to students who qualify for the "pupil premium". This is a safeguard to ensure the socio-economic background of students coming via the aptitude route will reflect that of the wider school.

For families that apply through this route, proof of "pupil premium" status will be required upon application. Eligibility will be determined if families are in receipt of, or have previously been in receipt of (within the last 6 years), any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income- based Job Seekers allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

The next 6 offers can be for pupil premium or non-pupil premium students – they will be offered on the basis of the score in the aptitude test. Further details can be found on our website.

Where applicants have a tied aptitude test score, the tie will be broken based on distance to the academy within the catchment area, as described below in section 4.

Parents are advised that pupils who attain a placement due to aptitude in Performing Arts, that Norfolk County Council transport will only be provided if Caister Academy is the pupil's nearest or catchment school.

3. Procedures where Caister Academy is over-subscribed

3.1 In the event of over-subscription, where there are more applications than there are places available, the following priorities will be used, in order, to allocate places:

- 3.1.1 Looked after children, or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption order, residence, or special guardianship order. 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.
- 3.1.2 Up to twelve children who successfully pass the Performing Arts aptitude test, ten of which will be students that qualify for the 'pupil premium' if they reach the minimum score required.
- 3.1.3 Siblings of pupils in attendance at the Academy in Year 7 to Year 11. These include brothers and sisters, half brothers and sisters and step-brothers and sisters who share the same home. These also include adopted and foster brothers and sisters who share the same home.
- 3.1.4 Children for whom Caister Academy is the **only** school that is appropriate for the child to attend because of the child's medical needs, or because of a serious and ongoing medical condition of one or both of their parents which would prevent the parents being able to make arrangements to take their child to and from any other school, will be allocated places under this priority.

Applications under this priority must be accompanied by a supplementary information form (i.e. Appendix A - Priority 2 Form), Part A of which must be completed by the parents before being provided to the child or parent's G.P. or hospital consultant who must then complete Part B, sign, stamp and date the form. The G.P. or hospital consultant must expressly confirm not only the nature of the medical condition of the child or parent, but also the reason why it is appropriate for the child to attend the academy, why no other school is suitable, and the medical reasons why this is the case.

The completed, signed and stamped Priority 2 Form must be provided with the common application form. An application under this priority will not be considered in cases where the completed, signed and stamped Priority 2 Form is received after the common application form has been submitted.

A decision on whether to admit a child under this priority will be made by the Admissions Panel of Caister Academy, who will take care to apply a consistent approach to all such applications received.

Where the application is successful under this priority, places under this priority will be allocated according to proximity of the child's main home address to the academy, with those living closest to the academy receiving higher priority.

Where an application is not successful under this priority, the application will be placed into the next highest priority into which it falls below and will be considered along with all of the other applications falling within that priority.

3.1.5 Pupils in the transfer age group at the following schools or their equivalent (should the school change name); Caister Junior School, Filby Primary School, Fleggburgh CofE VC Primary School, Hemsby Primary School, Martham Academy, North Denes Primary School, Northgate Primary School, Ormesby Village Junior School, St. Nicholas Primary School and Winterton Primary School

3.1.6 Pupils living outside of the catchment area.

3.2 If priorities have to be decided within any of these categories, children will be placed in order of priority using distance from their home to the main entrance of the academy as measured by straight line. Any reasons put forward by parents in support of their preference will also be considered. These reasons should be supported with evidence wherever possible. If the reasons concern the child's health or social wellbeing, the evidence should be provided by a medical practitioner or other social care professional. If it is considered that the reasons are sufficiently strong, the child will be placed on the school list above those whose position is based upon the distance criterion.

3.3 For admission purposes, an older brother or sister is defined as a child who lives at the same address and who is the brother/sister, half-brother/sister (i.e. share one common parent), or step-brother/sister (i.e. related by parent's marriage) of the child for whom the place is being requested. It also includes any other child living at the same residence under the terms of a Residence Order.

3.4 The applicant's home address is the child's along with their parent's main and genuine place of residence at the time of the allocation of places. This will usually be the address at which Child Benefit is claimed or if there is no entitlement to Child Benefit, then the address at which the child is registered with their GP will be used. Where a child lives for part of the week with each parent separately, their main home address will be deemed to be the address at which the child lives for 51% or more of their time from Monday to Friday during school term times. Where there is a dispute over which address is the child's main home address, the address at which Child Benefit is claimed or if there is no entitlement to Child Benefit, then the address at which the child is registered with their GP will be deemed to be their main home address.

3.5 There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to the Academy.

3.6 There is no statutory barrier to children being admitted to the Academy outside their normal age group, but parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group.

3.7 Following the offer of a place at the Academy parents/carers will be asked to provide evidence of their child's identification and main residence should it be subsequently found that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application, the place will be withdrawn. The forms of identification may include:

- a. Birth certificate - preferably a full certificate
- b. NHS registration
- c. Council tax bill
- d. Two current (i.e. less than six months old) utility bills
- e. Passport

4. Distance from the Academy

Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre of the child's main home address to Caister Academy's main entrance using an Ordnance Survey Map.

5. Tie Breaker

As stated above, places will be allocated within each priority according to the proximity of the child's main home address to the academy. Where distance from the academy is equal for

two or more applications, such as in the case of children living in the same block of flats, places will be allocated by independently verified random allocation.

6. Twins and Children from Multiple Births

Where a child who is a twin or a child from a multiple birth has achieved a place in the usual way, but there are no places remaining to admit their twin or siblings from a multiple birth, the academy will admit the twin or siblings from a multiple birth over and above the academy's published admission number (PAN). In those cases, those additional children admitted over the PAN will be admitted as "excepted pupils" and will not count towards the statutory maximum class size.

7. Children of UK Service Personnel and other Crown Servants

The academy will treat an application for admission of a child from a UK armed forces family with a confirmed posting to the academy's area, or from a crown servant family returning from overseas to live in the academy's area, as if they live in the area of the academy even if a residential address has not been identified at the date of the application.

The application must be supported by a letter from the relevant government department (for example, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or Government Communications Headquarters) indicating the likely address of the unit or quarters, for the purpose of applying the academy's oversubscription criteria.

8. Waiting lists

In the case of the Academy, after 120 applicants have been offered a place for admission; others will be offered a place on a waiting list ranked in order of over subscription. The list will be maintained until the end of the first term of the Academic year. Places for admission which are declined or otherwise become vacant will be offered to the others on the waiting list. Inclusion on the Academy's waiting list does not mean a place will eventually become available at the school. A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed and is subject to change during the year i.e. they can go up or down the list since each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria listed above.

9. Appeals

Where a child is not successful in achieving an offer of a place, the child's parents will be told the reason why admission was refused and that they are entitled to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel within a specified amount of time under the provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The academy will provide information to parents about the appeals process and provide the parents with a named contact who can answer any enquiries they may have about the appeals process. Parents lodging an appeal must set out the grounds of the appeal in writing.

The admission appeal panel will be independent of the academy. The academy will appoint an independent appeals service to deal with the administrative side of arranging admission appeal hearings for the academy.

Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Academy has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.

The determination of the admission appeal panel will be made in accordance with the Schools Admission Appeals Code 2012 and will be binding on all parties.

Appendix A - PRIORITY 2 FORM

REPORT FROM GP OR HOSPITAL CONSULTANT

Part A of this form must be completed by a parent. The form should then be provided to the G.P. or hospital consultant of the child or parent with a medical condition, who should complete Part B, sign, date and stamp the form, before returning it to the parent.

This form is intended to support an application for admission under Priority 2 of the academy's Admission Policy, which states:

“Priority 2 – Children with Medical Need requiring Admission to This Academy Only:

Children for whom Caister Academy is the only school that is appropriate for the child to attend because of the child's medical needs, or because of a serious and ongoing medical condition of one or both of their parents which would prevent the parents being able to make arrangements to take their child to and from any other school, will be admitted under this priority.

Applications under this priority must be accompanied by Priority 2 Form, Part A of which must be completed by the parents before being provided to the child or parent's G.P. or hospital consultant who must then completed Part B, sign, stamp and date the form. The G.P. or hospital consultant must expressly confirm not only the nature of the medical condition of the child or parent, but also the reason why it is appropriate for the child to attend the academy, why no other school is suitable, and the medical reasons why this is the case.

The completed, signed and stamped Priority 2 Form must be provided with the common application form. An application under this priority will not be considered in cases where the completed, signed and stamped Priority 2 Form is received after the common application form has been submitted.”

PART A – To be completed by Parent					
Child's Surname:					
Child's Forename(s):					
Child's Date of Birth:					
Child's Main Home Address:					
Please confirm who has the relevant medical condition? <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Child</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">Parent</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> </table> If the child has the relevant medical condition, this form should now be handed to the child's G.P. or hospital consultant for completion of Part B. If a parent of the child has the relevant medical condition, please complete the additional questions below.		Child		Parent	
Child		Parent			
Parent's Name					
Parent's Date of Birth:					
Parent's Home Address:					

PART B – To be completed by GP or Hospital Consultant					
Name of person with a medical condition:					
Please confirm the nature of the medical condition:					
In your professional opinion, is Lynn Grove Academy the only school which is appropriate for the child or parent to attend as a result of their medical condition? <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Yes		No	
Yes		No			
Please state your reasons for stating Lynn Grove Academy is the only school which is appropriate for the child or parent to attend:					

Please explain the difficulties the child or parent would experience if the child attended another school within a reasonably distance of the child's main home address:	
Signed:	
Print Name:	
Position:	

Name of Surgery or Hospital:	
Address of Surgery or	
Hospital:	
Date:	
Official Stamp:	

Appendix B – Supplementary Information Form

Performing Arts Admission Form / Supplementary Information Form

Transfer to Secondary Education – September 2026

This form is to be completed if you are applying for your child to be considered for a performing arts place at Caister Academy.

Name of Child	
Date of Birth	
Parent/Guardian Name	Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Parent/Guardian Name	Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Address	
Home Telephone Number	
Mobile Telephone Number	
Email Address	

Please indicate which performing arts specialism you are applying for by ticking the box/boxes below.

Dance	☐	All students who apply will be invited to come to Caister Academy to complete the aptitude tests in either music, this will be an aural test, and/or a practical element in dance and/or drama.
Drama	☐	
Music	☐	

Please return your completed form to:

Mrs Rachel Grant, PA to the Principal
Caister Academy
Windsor Road
Caister on Sea
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk
NR30 5LS

rachel.grant@caisteracademy.org.uk

All those who apply will be given an appointment to come to the Academy in October to complete entrance requirements. Further guidance and information will be sent to you with confirmation of your appointment.