



## Hailsham Academy Admissions 2026 FAQs

### When do I need to apply?

The closing date for September 2026 applications is 31 October 2025. You must apply through East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Schools Admissions, preferably online.

### What if I miss this date or I move to the area after the closing date?

If you apply after the stated closing date, the request will be dealt with after all on-time applications have been processed. This may affect your chances of securing a place at your preferred school.

If you have moved into the area after the closing date, you should apply for a school place as soon as possible. If you send evidence of your house move at the same time ESCC admissions may be able to consider this application as being on-time, as long they receive your form and evidence by 31 January 2026. If you apply after this date, there is likely to be a delay in a response from ESCC admissions.

### Will I get my first choice?

The law allows a preference, not a choice. It is the admissions criteria that decides which children are offered places at which school, and what happens at individual schools changes year on year. Whichever schools you prefer, you must name them as one of your preferences on the application form as a school can only be considered for your child if it features on your application.

### Do I need to name three schools?

Although many parents name just one school, it is recommended that second and third preferences are also included in case your first preference cannot be offered. This will increase your chances of being allocated a place at a school you will be happy with. Sometimes it is not possible to offer a place at any of the preferred schools.

### Does it matter which preference order I put Hailsham Academy down as on the form?

Yes! List the school you like the most, **first**. Schools do not know what preference they are on your form, but you will be offered a place at the highest listed school, for which you qualify. For each school on your list, ESCC will apply each individual school's admissions criteria to determine whether they can offer your child a place. If they're able to offer your child a place at two or more of the schools you listed, they'll give you the place at the school that you ranked the highest.

### How many places are there at Hailsham in Year 7 for September 2026?

Hailsham Academy's published admission number (PAN) for September 2026 is 240 students. Of this, 60 places are allocated for those children transferring directly from Year 6 in the Hailsham Academy Primary Phase. This means there are 180 places available for other applications from children attending other schools.

### Is there a sibling rule?

Hailsham Academy's published admission criteria states that children who will have a sibling at the school at the time of admission and who live at the same address, **within** the pre-defined community area, would be ranked second in the case of oversubscription. Children who will have a sibling at the school at the time of admission and who live at the same address, **outside** the pre-defined community area will be ranked fifth in the case of oversubscription.

**What happens if my child lives at more than one address?**

If your child regularly stays with another parent or relative and therefore has more than one address, the school place will be allocated based on the address at which your child spends the majority of weekday nights during term time – so this is the address that you should use on your application. If you give two addresses, ESCC admissions will decide which address should be used as the main residence for the purpose of processing your application as they will only accept one current address. They may ask for evidence to confirm the address given.

**What if I live outside of East Sussex?**

If you live outside of East Sussex and are interested in your child attending Hailsham Academy, you must apply through the local authority in which you live. Your authority will then pass the details of your application to ESCC admissions for them consider. Your 'home' authority will be responsible for letting you know the outcome of your application.

**I cannot apply online – can I fill in a paper application form?**

If you cannot apply online, you can print a paper copy of the form from ESCC school admissions website and return it to the address specified. We recommend you obtain a certificate of posting from a Post Office. ESCC do not provide acknowledgement of paper forms received but you can call the Admissions Team to check your application has reached them safely.

**Top tips for applying:**

- Apply by the closing date
- Check the school's admissions criteria eg. with regard to siblings
- Check the school's local community area (catchment area) map
- Check you have supplied all the right documentation and information on the application form.

**When will I know what school my child has been allocated?**

National Offer Day is Monday 2 March 2026. You will receive this decision by email from the East Sussex Admissions Team by logging in to your account and can view the decision online on this date.

If you are successful in receiving an offer of a place at Hailsham Academy, the Admissions Team at Hailsham Academy will then be in contact with you to explain how you can accept the place. There will be a time limit to accept the place, after which the place will be released and allocated back to a student on the waiting list.

**What if I've changed my mind?**

If you no longer wish to send your child to the Hailsham Academy, for example, because you are moving away, please let the Admissions Team at Hailsham Academy and the ESCC school admissions team know as soon as possible. Please be aware if you change your mind then it may not be possible to reinstate your allocation.

**What can I do if I have not been allocated my first preference which was Hailsham?**

If you did not get offered a place at Hailsham, please contact the Admissions Team at the academy to confirm that you would like your child to be placed on the waiting list. The waiting list is ranked according to the oversubscription criteria, which can be viewed on the website. From March through until June, there is often movement on the waiting list. If you wanted to pursue an appeal to the decision, this must be lodged through ESCC admissions and will be heard by an independent panel, usually in May or June. In the meantime, it is recommended that you accept the place allocated to your child as this does not affect your appeal rights.

**Further information:**

Contact Hailsham Academy's Admissions team: [admissions@hccat.net](mailto:admissions@hccat.net) or contact East Sussex School Admissions team on email: [admissions@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@eastsussex.gov.uk)