

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR BOYS
YEAR 7 ADMISSION APPEALS SEPTEMBER 2026 ENTRY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Admissions Numbers

Intake Year	Applied	Appealed	Successful Appeals	Admitted
2014	585	50	7	218
2015	560	43	9	219
2016	717	81	5	219
2017	660	61	5	217
2018	757	86	13	223
2019	786	83	9	223
2020	722	79	4	225
2021	852	59	6	227
2022	925	63	3	223
2023	894	58	2	223
2024	991	96	2	226
2025	957	60	1	230
2026	1053			

School Numbers

Based on January DfE census data

Year	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Sixth Form	Total
2014-15	218	220	219	214	218	414	1505
2015-16	219	223	221	220	212	440	1535
2016-17	220	223	224	224	217	504	1612
2017-18	223	224	224	221	220	508	1620
2018-19	223	223	224	223	215	523	1631
2019-20	223	225	223	224	218	518	1631
2020-21	223	223	224	222	221	521	1634
2021-22	227	223	224	221	216	495	1606
2022-23	225	228	227	226	213	488	1607
2023-24	231	232	231	228	222	534	1678
2024-25	226	231	231	230	226	569	1713
2025-26	232	233	233	235	227	596	1756

Q: Why was my son unsuccessful in gaining a place at Northampton School for Boys?

Each year we receive more applications than we have places, therefore, in accordance with our Oversubscription Criteria, after places have been allocated to children with an EHC Plan, Looked After or Previously Looked After Children, 10% allocation from the Music and Technology Aptitude Tests, Children of Staff and those with a Sibling Link, places are allocated by way of a computerised random selection process. If boys are unsuccessful in gaining a place at the school this is purely because their allotted number did not come out in the random selection process. Full details in relation to the random selection process can be found in our Admissions Policy.

Q: Could you please give me the band data for this year, so how many boys there were in each band and how many got allocated a place

Having completed the application and testing process there were 207 boys in each band A(1), B(2), C(3) D(4) and E(5) at the time that the random allocation was operated. 46 boys were selected from each band following a request from the Local Authority, which was approved by our trustees, to admit above our PAN. This was only for September 2025 and September 2026 entry.

Q: Please advise how the number of applicants taken from all of the bands is split.

The test scores of all those who took the ability test are placed into order. This list is then split into five, regardless of the amount of ‘high’ or ‘low’ achievers (for example, if 500 boys took the test we would aim to have 100 boys in each band). Each year there may be a small number of boys who were unable to take the test, for authorised reasons, who have a banding advised from their primary schools and these are also taken into account when composing the numbers in each band (where boys have the same score, they are then placed alphabetically). Boys who do not attend the test are then placed randomly into bands in the order C(3), A(1), E(5), B(2), D(4). To complete the admissions process we then allocate places in accordance with the Admissions Policy, taking the same number of boys from each of these bands.

Q: How many Year 7 places were allocated, i.e. how many pupils were placed in each band?

The numbers in each band were allocated as per the description in our Admissions policy. This year, 46 boys were selected from each band following a request from the Local Authority, which was approved by our trustees, to admit above our PAN. This was only for September 2025 and September 2026.

Q: What is the highest score possible in the Ability Test?

The highest score possible is 141.

Q: Please could you tell me the band data for the Ability Test this year?

Band A(1) 117 - 141

Band B(2) 107 - 117

Band C(3) 99 - 107

Band D(4) 89 - 98

Band E(5) 69 – 88

Where band scores are equal, boys are placed in alphabetical order. This is why some bands have the same upper and lower values.

Q: Are you able to articulate what a random computer generated selection actually means – is it an algorithm and what does the independent person actually check?

In each band, boys eligible to be allocated a place under the random selection process were allotted a number. For each band, a computer-based random number generator produced a randomised list of these numbers. Places were then allocated starting from the top of this list until all the places available in the band were filled. This was all witnessed by an independent observer.

Application Analysis by Area – September 2026

Area	Applied (1053)	Successful (232)
Northampton Town (NN1)	104	16
Northampton Town (NN2)	117	20
Northampton Town (NN3)	231	48
Northampton Town NN4)	180	42
Northampton Town (NN5)	141	30
Northampton District (NN6)	80	22
Northampton District (NN7)	60	15
Wellingborough & Rushden (NN8-NN10 + NN29)	32	9
Daventry & South Northants (NN11-NN13)	50	15
Kettering & Corby (NN14-NN18)	13	3
Out of County	27	10

Application Analysis by Area – September 2025

Area	Applied (957)	Successful (223)
Northampton Town (NN1)	107	32
Northampton Town (NN2)	100	18
Northampton Town (NN3)	227	48
Northampton Town NN4)	150	35
Northampton Town (NN5)	130	32
Northampton District (NN6)	61	18
Northampton District (NN7)	57	16
Wellingborough & Rushden (NN8-NN10 + NN29)	42	12
Daventry & South Northants (NN11-NN13)	43	8
Kettering & Corby (NN14-NN18)	10	2
Out of County	24	2

Application Analysis by Area – September 2024

Area	Applied (1007)	Successful (223)
Northampton Town - NN1	118	25
Northampton Town – NN2	99	18
Northampton Town – NN3	272	55
Northampton Town – NN4	137	30
Northampton Town – NN5	147	32
Northampton District (NN6)	45	13
Northampton District (NN7)	65	18
Wellingborough & Rushden (NN8-NN10 + NN29)	43	9
Daventry & South Northants (NN11-NN13)	48	11
Kettering & Corby (NN14-NN18)	19	8
Out of County	14	4

Q: On average how many children decline the offer in any band normally?

2014 – 3 places declined in total (across all bands).

2015 – 3 places declined in total (across all bands).

2016 – 4 places declined in total (across all bands).

2017 – 3 places declined in total (across all bands).

2018 – 3 places declined in total (across all bands).

2019 – 3 places declined in total (across all bands).

2020 – 3 places declined in total (across all bands).

2021 – 3 places declined in total (across all bands).

2022 – 6 places declined in total (across all bands).

2023 – 11 places declined in total (across all bands). Please note that a number of places were declined in favour of Northampton School which sat outside the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme in this year.

2024 – 4 places declined in total (across all bands).

2025 – 10 places declined in total (across all bands)

Q: What has been the appeals success rate in the past?

2014 there were 52 appeals, 7 of which were successful.
2015 there were 46 appeals, 9 of which were successful.
2016 there were 81 appeals, 5 of which were successful.
2017 there were 62 appeals, 5 of which were successful.
2018 there were 86 appeals, 13 of which were successful.
2019 there were 83 appeals, 9 of which were successful.
2020 there were 79 appeals, 4 of which were successful.
2021 there were 55 appeals, 6 of which were successful.
2022 there were 63 appeals, 4 of which were successful.
2023 there were 58 appeals, 2 of which were successful.
2024 there were 96 appeals, 2 of which were successful.
2025 there were 60 appeals, 1 of which was successful.

Q: What is the School's PAN (Published Admission Number)

Schools have one PAN for admissions at Year 7, and ours has been set at 215 for September 2020 entry onwards. It was set at 210 previously and was that for many years. We have more students than this in each year group due a combination of successful admission appeals and instances where the school is instructed by the Local Authority to take certain students, such as those with an EHCP or due to a significant shortfall of student place across Northampton. Trustees can exercise the right to top up certain year groups if they wish. The increased numbers in recent years are to help the Local Authority meet demand due to a shortage of places across the town/county. NSB currently intends to allow these numbers to reduce as soon as possible.

Q: Can you give a breakdown of how many boys were offered places for September 2026 as their first, second and third choice?

Unfortunately, only the Local Authority has information about choice preferences. This is not shared with us.

Q: Please tell me the number of pupils admitted over your planned admission number, per year, for the last 3 years.

In 2026, the school offered 2 additional places in each band following a request from the Local Authority to admit more students.

In 2025, the school offered 1 additional place in each band following a request from the Local Authority to admit more students. Three additional offers were made to twins. There have been late EHCP consultations, following which the school has been directed to take four more students.

In 2024, four additional offers were made to twins. In 2023, three additional offers were made to twins. In 2022, two additional offers were made to twins. In 2021, one additional offer was made to twins as per the admissions policy over the number stated as PAN. In some years the Local Authority has also instructed the school to take one or more boys with an Education, Health and Care Plan after the original offers were made. There have also been successful appeals each year too.

The number of boys admitted in Year 7, once the appeal process was completed, for the last six years has been:

2019 = 223 2020 = 225 2021 = 227 2022 = 223 2023 = 223 2024 = 226 2025 = 232

Q: What are the current numbers in each year group?

As of the January Annual School census date it is as follows:

Year 7: 232, Year 8: 233, Year 9: 233, Year 10: 235, Year 11: 227

Q: How many staff are in each classroom whilst teaching, including support staff?

Unlike many primary and secondary schools we do not routinely have teaching assistants in the classrooms, so in the vast majority of classes there is just the one teacher present in the classroom. However, there are regular occurrences when another adult will need to be in the room.

Q: How many form groups are in each year?

There are 8 form groups in each year.

Q: Are there any additional building plans for the school?

The school does not have any current/planned building expansion planned. The Edward Cripps Human Performance Centre, which houses our swimming pool, gym facilities and dance studio was opened in the summer of 2016 and was the last piece of building work carried out to expand the facilities.

Q: Why does the Admissions Code allow for ex-student sibling links and the school does not?

There are a number of different options that the Code permits, such as the fair banding system we use, or having a 'catchment area', but it is up to each Admissions Authority to decide which would be most appropriate to adopt.

Q: How many appeals are allowed in a year by a parent?

The School Admission Appeals Code 2012 advises the following:

Clause 2.3 Admission authorities must ensure that appeals lodged by the appropriate deadlines are heard within the following timescales: a) for applications made in the normal admissions round, appeals must be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals;

Clause 5.1 Appellants 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 admission authority 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.

Q: What is the likelihood of a space becoming available in Year 7 for those on the waiting list and how would this space be allocated?

It is very difficult to gauge the likelihood of a space becoming available as this is dependent upon someone declining their place or leaving the school during the academic year. Should a place become available, a random selection process is carried out of the boys in the same band in which the space has become available. We would then contact the parents of the boy whose name came out of that random selection process to offer the place.

Q: Is the school fully staffed with teachers?

The school is currently fully staffed with teachers.