



NESTON
HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL APPEAL FORM

If you are applying for more than one child, please complete a separate form for each child.

Name of School you wish to appeal for: NESTON HIGH SCHOOL		YEAR GROUP
CHILD DETAILS	Surname:	Forename:
	DOB:	Female/Male (Please delete as appropriate)
School currently attending Date child left (if applicable):		Yes No
Is the child 'Looked After' by a Local Authority (in public care)? If yes, please state which Local Authority and provide a contact number:		
Does your child have a Statement of Special Educational Needs?		
Is your child permanently excluded from school?		
Neston High School understands that some young people may be living with someone with an illness or disability. We have a commitment to provide equal opportunities for all young people and this includes young carers. Is your child a young carer?		

Parent names:		
Relationship to child – (Please specify - parent/guardian/carer/other)		
Current Address: -	Address in Cheshire West and Chester to which you are moving: - (If applicable)	
Post code	Post code	
E-mail address:	E-mail address:	Date of Moving:
Telephone contact numbers: -		

For office use only

Date received	<input type="text"/>	Catchment School	<input type="text"/>
Confirm PAN reached	<input type="text"/>	Presenting Officer	<input type="text"/>
Logged on system	<input type="text"/>	Passed to legal	<input type="text"/>
Acknowledgement letter sent	<input type="text"/>	Processed by	<input type="text"/>

Do you have any other school aged children?

Name	Date of Birth	Name of Child's present school

Please state your reasons for seeking a place at this school (e.g. moving into area/domestic arrangements etc.). If you are stating medical, psychological or social reasons PLEASE ENSURE THAT PROFESSIONAL EVIDENCE IS ATTACHED e.g. a letter from a doctor or professional stating the medical or social reasons which require your child to attend this particular school.
 (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary) See attached

Any other specific needs (give details): see attached

Signed:

Date:

Data Protection Act Neston High School maintains a Register Entry in respect of Education which includes the administration relating to pupils. Personal information provided on this form is treated in confidence and complies with the requirements of the Act. This information may also be shared with other local authorities and Primary Care Trusts.

Verification of Information Neston High School may verify information you have provided on this form which could involve contacting relevant council departments or agencies who maintain appropriate records. In instances where the information provided is different from that held by them they may use the information on this form.

Once completed, please return this form to:

Neston High School
 Appeals
 FAO Admissions Officer
 Raby Park Road,
 Neston,
 Cheshire,
 CH64 9NH
admissions@nestonhigh.com

Admissions Appeals

A Brief Guide for Parents

An appeals form can be obtained by contacting the school.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMISSIONS

Neston High School is an 11-18 school with Academy status. The Governing Body is the admissions authority and the admission limit for September 2024 is 300 places.

The Governor's admission policy on the allocation of places at Neston High School follows the Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority model. Advice on the appeals procedure should the parents not be satisfied with the allocation, appears in the Authority's booklet "Transferring to Secondary School – Applying for Secondary School Places." This booklet is available on request from Cheshire West and Chester Council and can be viewed on the Council's website

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/admissions

Admission appeal forms for the school are available from the school directly on request.

APPEALS PANELS

Appeals Panels have either three or five members. There are strict rules on who may and may not be a member of an Admission Appeals Panel to make sure that the Panel is independent and impartial. A Clerk to the Panel also attends the hearing. The Clerk is a legal officer of the Council who is there to see that the appeal is heard properly and to provide legal advice to the Panel. An administrator also attends to take notes.

APPEALS HEARINGS

As the appeal process is a legal process, appeal hearings are structured hearings. However, Appeal Panels do try to keep appeal hearings as informal as they possibly can within the legal framework in which they have to operate. Appeal hearings are held, so far as possible, fairly local to your hometown or area. First, the representative from the school will explain why it was not possible to meet your request for a place at your preferred school. You can ask questions if you wish. The Panel will also ask questions. You will then have an opportunity to present your case and answer any questions about it from the Panel and the school's representative. No other parents will be present when you present your own case. You do not have to attend although many parents choose to do so. The Panel will allow you to be accompanied by a friend or to be represented although Government advice is that legal representation should not normally be necessary and that children should not generally be allowed to attend appeal hearings. Whilst Appeals can be considered on the basis of your written information alone, the presence of a parent or representative at a hearing will enable the Panel to obtain more information about a child's circumstances than is contained in written information alone. Such information, which a parent may not have considered to be relevant when he or she filled in the Appeal application form or submitted documents in support of the Appeal, could have a bearing on the outcome of the Appeal. If you are unable to attend the Appeal, then it is important that you send in as much information as possible about your reasons for wanting a place at the school concerned.

POWERS OF APPEALS PANELS

Panels can uphold all appeals and instruct the school to allocate a place for your child at your preferred school. They can uphold some of the appeals and reject others and they can also reject all the appeals.

Once all the appeals have been heard Panels must first decide whether further admissions to the preferred school 'would prejudice efficient education or the efficient use of resources. Prejudice cannot normally be proved until the year group your child would enter is full. This means that the year group has not only reached its admission limit but cannot accept any more pupils in that year group without prejudicing the provision of efficient education at the school or the efficient use of

resources. The school will provide a statement giving their reasons why they consider that to accept further pupils would cause prejudice to the school.

If the Panel believes that the school can admit all the pupils whose parents have appealed without causing prejudice your appeal will automatically be upheld. The Panel may decide that places can be allocated to some of the appellants before the point is reached when further admissions will cause prejudice. The Panel will decide how many more places can be offered. Any such places will be allocated by the Panel according to factors in the individual case.

If the school's case that further admissions will cause prejudice is accepted by the Panel (either as presented or after some further places have been allocated) the Panel will then proceed to the second stage.

This requires panel members to balance your own arguments in support of your child's admission against the extent of prejudice to efficient education and the efficient use of resources which it considers would be caused by the admission of further pupils. If the Panel believes that your child's circumstances outweigh the extent of the prejudice to the school your appeal will be upheld, otherwise your appeal will be declined.

TIMESCALES

DEADLINE FOR YEAR 7 FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 – 31st March 2025

Appeals received after this date may not be heard before September

Appeals for Secondary Transfer into Year 7 are held between May to July each Year. Appeals for Reception received by the closing date are heard within 40 school days. Other Appeals are normally heard within 30 school days (excluding school holidays) from the date the completed appeal form is received. You will be given the date and time of the appeal hearing two weeks in advance of the hearing and the school's statement of its case will be sent to you one week in advance. You will normally be notified of the Panel's decision in writing no later than 7 working days of the hearings being completed. **DECISIONS OF APPEALS PANELS ARE FINAL AND BINDING ON THE SCHOOL.**

SOME FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT APPEALS

- **Repeat appeals** – will not be considered within the same school year unless your own or the school's circumstances have changed significantly and materially since your first appeal (e.g. change of address).
- **Appeals for more than one school** – will be considered at separate hearings. You may appeal for each school at which a place has been refused.
- **Further steps** – if your appeal is not upheld and you consider there has been 'maladministration' in the way your appeal was handled you may complain to the local government ombudsman.
- **Information** on the appeal process can be obtained on the website: [Admissions & Appeals - Neston High School](#). Other sources of information can be obtained from:
 - Cheshire West and Chester Council Tel: 0300 123 7039
 - Parents can also seek advice from the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) in London which is a voluntary body providing a helpline advice service to the parents on education matters. The telephone helpline number is 0808 800 5793.

If you decide to appeal, you are strongly advised also to seek a place at an alternative school in case your appeal is unsuccessful. Securing a place at an alternative school will not prejudice your right of appeal for any other school.