



The Castle Partnership Trust

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The Castle School
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Admissions Policy

September 2022

CEO: Sarah Watson

Headteacher at The Castle School: James Lamb

Headteacher at Court Fields School: Polly Matthews

Headteacher at Wellesley Park School: Carly Wilkins

Headteacher at Isambard Kingdom Brunel School: Richard Healey

Lead Person: CEO

Due for review: Autumn term 2023

Starting School at 4+ and Transferring School at 11+

A programme of open mornings and/or an open evening are offered in order to provide an opportunity for prospective students and their parents to visit the schools within the Trust.

The Board of Directors is the Admissions Authority for the Trust and all admission decisions are taken by an Admissions Committee consisting of at least three governors/trustees, adhering to each school's published Admissions Arrangements. The Local Authority (LA) is responsible for co-ordinating all school place applications for children starting school or transferring schools at 11+ throughout Somerset via the LA's coordinated admission scheme.

Admissions to the school at other times

Decisions about admissions to each school will be made by the Admissions Committee (as agreed by the Board of Directors) in accordance with the published Admission Arrangements. An in-year application form must be completed. This is available from the school websites or from the school offices. Applicants will receive a response within 10 school days of the Trust receiving the application form. If a place is offered, it will be held open for 10 school days, during which time applicants will need to confirm acceptance of the offer and the student must have started attending the relevant school. Applications submitted during holiday periods will not be considered until the schools are back in session.

When the decision to admit a student has been taken by the Admissions Committee, a member of the relevant School Leadership Team will meet with the student and his/her parent(s) or carer(s) prior to admission. This meeting will be used both to identify information which will guide curriculum design for the student and to offer an opportunity for the parent(s)/carer(s) and student to gain knowledge about the school (including through the issue of literature such as the parent/student handbook.) The parent(s)/carer(s) will complete an admission form and the home/school agreement will be agreed and signed.

Contact will be made with the student's previous school(s) in order to identify key issues relating to educational background. A curriculum will then be planned for the student in the light of this information.

The student will be admitted to the school following completion of the planning of her/his curriculum. The SLT member responsible for the admission will allocate the student to a House/tutor group/class.

On her/his first morning the student will be asked to report to reception where she/he will be met by her/his Head of House, Form Tutor or Class Teacher. The Head of House/Form Tutor/Class Teacher will provide support to the student, including identification of another student who will act as buddy/mentor, during the induction period. Support will then be given on an ongoing basis through the school's normal procedures.

Unsuccessful Applications to the School

If the Governors' Admissions Committee refuses an application to a school, parents/carers will be made aware that their son/daughter can be placed on a "real time" waiting list. If and when a place becomes available in the relevant year group at the relevant school, the over-subscription criteria (appendix 1) will be applied to the waiting list and a place offered to the person at the top of the list. Waiting lists are maintained until the end of the academic year.

Published Admission Number

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the year of entry is:

The Castle School - 240 for Year 7
Court Fields School - 172 for Year 7
Wellesley Park School - 56 for Reception
Isambard Kingdom Brunel School – 30 for Reception.

APPENDIX 1

Oversubscription Criteria 2022/23 Academic Year

Following the admission of any student with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming The Castle School/Court Fields School/Wellesley Park School/Isambard Kingdom Brunel School*, the Governors will consider all other admission applications. If the number of applications exceeds the Published Admission Number (PAN) or admission limit for the year group concerned, the Governors will consider all applications received against the oversubscription criteria. This will enable the Governors to rank children according to priority and identify those children who could be allocated a place.

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children who are now formally adopted. *A Looked After Child is a child who is in the care of a Local Authority. Previously Looked After Children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so when they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Children who appear (to the Admission Authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.*
2. Children living in the designated catchment area with a sibling attending The Castle School/Court Fields School/Wellesley Park School* at the time of application. For Isambard Kingdom Brunel School: Children living within half a mile of the school at the time of application with a sibling attending IKB School.
3. Children of staff employed at The Castle School/Court Fields School/Wellesley Park School/Isambard Kingdom Brunel School*.
4. Children living in the designated catchment area at the time of application. For Isambard Kingdom Brunel School: children living within half a mile of the school.
5. Children living outside the designated catchment area with a sibling attending The Castle School/Court Fields School/Wellesley Park School* at the time of application. For Isambard Kingdom Brunel School: Children living more than half a mile from the school with a sibling attending IKB School at the time of application.
6. Children not satisfying a higher criterion.

*Depending on the school applied for.

APPENDIX 2

The Admissions Timeline

Year 7 September 2023/24 Admissions:

31 October 2022	Closing date for school place applications.
2 December 2022	Closing date for exceptional circumstance applications and all supplementary information.
1 March 2023	Secondary Admission outcome day for on-time applications.
29 March 2023	Closing date for receipt of appeal applications, from parents who were notified of their outcome on 1 March 2023.

Reception September 2023/24 Admissions:

26 September 2022	Online application form goes live
15 January 2023	Closing date for school place applications.
3 February 2023	Closing date for exceptional circumstance applications and all supplementary information.
17 April 2023	Primary Admission outcome day for on-time applications.
16 May 2023	Closing date for receipt of appeal applications from parents who were notified of their outcome on 17 April 2023.