

# Admission Arrangements

## Admissions 2025-2026

The following is a summary of the Trustees' policy for admissions. The [full version](#) can be found on the school's website.

### Year 7 entry

The school uses the [West Berkshire Admissions Service](#) which will publicise the school to prospective parents in the same literature as for other West Berkshire schools.

The Denefield Trust Board is the admissions authority for the school. Since 2010, Local Authorities have been required to produce a scheme for co-ordinating admission arrangements for all maintained schools in their area and to exchange information on applications with their neighbours. Admissions to Denefield in Year 7 are administered by West Berkshire according to the co-ordinated scheme. All applications are considered on an equal preference basis against the over-subscription criteria for each of up to three preferred schools, NOT considered on the basis of first preference before other preferences. The admissions timetable is detailed overleaf.

If applications from students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), which specifically name Denefield, are received prior to the closing date for the receipt of admissions, then offers will be made to



such applicants in preference to normal admission categories.

These offers will be taken into account in the calculation of the number of places available for other applicants. Where the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of students with an EHCP naming the school, places are allocated according to over-subscription criteria as outlined below:

### A. Looked After Children and all previously looked after children

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Also, children who were previously in state care outside of England, and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Please see the policy for the extended definition.

### B. Catchment area students

These are children whose permanent home address is in the school's designated catchment. Where necessary, priority will be given to siblings in catchment. The home address is taken to be the address at the closing date for applications in the normal admissions round.

Where parental responsibilities are equally shared, the home address will normally be considered to be with the parent with whom the child spends the majority of time and nights Monday to Friday; this will normally be expected to be with the parent/carer that receives the student's child benefit, where this benefit is still available. Where there is any doubt about the split of the

residence then the relevant address used will be that at which the school and Local Authority are satisfied that the child spends the majority of the school week.

Criteria C to E apply to children whose permanent home address is not within the school's catchment area. Priority is not given to children attending local primary partnership schools.

### C. Siblings

These are students with a brother or sister including step-foster sibling and children of the parents/carers partner living in the same family unit. Children living at the same address in a family unit are therefore deemed to be siblings even if there is no actual relationship between them. Children who are siblings but living at different addresses to each other will not be treated as sibling for the admissions criteria. A sibling is considered to be one who is already on the roll of Denefield School, and in relation to admissions at Denefield School's first point of entry, will continue to attend compulsory education at school during the following academic year.



**D. The children of a member of staff who has been employed at Denefield for a minimum of two years, or who has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.**

**E. All other applicants**

### Tie breaker

Priority will be given within any of the above over-subscription criteria to the applicant whose permanent home address is nearest to Denefield. Distances will be measured using the West Berkshire Admissions Geographical Information System taking a straight line between the home address and the school using the unique property identification points within the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG).<sup>4</sup>

### Admission appeals

Any parent not offered a school place at their preferred school has the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel. This can be for a place at one or more of their preferred schools and against an alternative school place that has been allocated by West Berkshire Council. Information on how to appeal will be provided with the result of the application. Appeals must be lodged by the dates set out in the co-ordinated and in-year scheme for the normal admissions round, or within 21 days from the date of the offer or refusal letter.

## Admissions timetable 2025/2026

01 September 2025	Applications open online
31 October 2025	Closing date for applications
02 March 2026	Offers and refusals made to parents/carers by West Berkshire Council on behalf of the Denefield Trust Board
15 March 2026 15 March 2026	Closing date for parents/carers to accept offer ( <a href="#">Reading Borough Council</a> ) Closing date for parents/carers to accept offer ( <a href="#">West Berkshire Council</a> )
30 March 2026 31 March 2026	Closing date for appeals (Reading Borough Council) Closing date for appeals (West Berkshire Council)

## School Examination Data 2024-2025

Denefield is delighted to share its examination results at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, which compare favorably with local and national examination results.

### Key Stage 4

Measure	Denefield 2025	Notes
Progress 8 score (unvalidated)	Denefield 0.25  National average 0	This compares the GCSE results of Denefield students with similar students nationally – i.e. those who gained similar Key Stage 2 SATs results. This shows that Denefield students gained on average nearly a quarter of a grade higher in every GCSE subject than students at an average, and comfortably puts Denefield in the top 40% of schools nationally.
Attainment 8 score	Denefield 47  National average 46	This means that the average Denefield GCSE grade was 5.
% of students achieving a grade 4 or above in GCSE English and Maths	Denefield 70%  National average 65%	A Grade 4 is a 'standard pass'.
% of students achieving a grade 5 or above in GCSE English and Maths	Denefield 50%  National average 45%	A Grade 5 is a 'good pass'.
% of students entering the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)	Denefield 38%  National average 39%	The English Baccalaureate consists of English, Maths, at least two Sciences, at least one Foreign Language, and at least one out of History and Geography.
% of students staying in education or employment after KS4	Denefield 96% 2022 *  National average 95% 2022	* This figure is from school leavers in 2022 – the last time data was published.

## Key Stage 5

Measure	Denefield 2025	Notes
Average Point Score per entry – A Level	Denefield 36	This means the average A Level grade was B-.
Average Point Score per entry – BTEC and vocational qualifications	Denefield 26	This means the average BTEC and vocational grade was Merit+.
% of students progressing to a sustained education, training or employment destination	Denefield 88% 2022*  National average 85% 2022	* This figure is from 2022 – the last time data was published.