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# ELSTREE SCREEN ARTS ACADEMY DETERMINED ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2025/26

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<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	
To determine and approve policy and ensure compliance	School Board
To implement, deliver and comply	Principal
<b>APPROVAL DATE</b>	January 2024
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	n/a
<b>DURATION</b>	1 year
<b>REVIEW DATE</b>	Autumn 2024 for 2026/27 entry
<b>SLT LEAD</b>	Head of Governance and Compliance



## ELSTREE SCREEN ARTS ACADEMY ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2025/26

Danes Educational Trust, for Elstree Screen Arts Academy will admit up to the published admissions number for:

Year 10 - 100 students

Year 12 - 150 (50 external places)

### PROCESS OF APPLICATION

#### Year 10 Applications

To apply for a place at the school, please complete the application form on our website:

<https://academy.elstreescreenarts.com/apply-to-join-esa>.

The timeline for applications will be as follows:

- a) **October** - ESA will arrange an open evening to provide opportunities for parents to visit the Academy.
- b) **September to January** - The ESA Application Form (available from the ESA website) to be returned to the Academy. The deadline for submitting an application is 31st January.
- c) **February/March** - ESA conducts its allocation process. Students who are applying for a place based on aptitude will be invited to a practical aptitude workshop.
- d) **April** - Offers will be made to parents.

### CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 10 & OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 requires the governing bodies of all maintained schools to admit a child with an EHCP that names their school. All schools must also admit children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school. ESA will admit children whose EHCP names ESA.

ESA will consider all applications for places in year 10.

ESA will offer places with priority being given to:

**Rule 1 - Children looked after** and children who were previously looked after, including those 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 or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order. In the case of previously looked after children, the Academy may request a copy of the adoption order, residence order or special guardianship order and a letter from the local authority that last looked after the child confirming that he/she/they was looked after immediately prior to that order being made.

**Rule 2 - Siblings:** children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application (up to Year 12). (Proof of the sibling relationship will be required if a place is offered).

**Rule 3 - Children of Staff:** children of permanent teaching and non-teaching staff whose contract of employment (not a casual contract) names the school as their primary place of



work where (a) the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or (b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. To be eligible under this rule children of teaching staff must live at the same address as the member of staff. This includes step-children.

Where fewer applicants than the published admission number for year 10 are received, ESA will offer places to all those who have applied. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number, after priority is given to the rules above, the remaining places will then be allocated randomly within each group as follows:

- a) Up to 50% of the remaining places will be allocated to students living within 5 miles of the school (as the crow flies).
- b) Up to 30% of the remaining places will be allocated to students living between 5.01 and 10 miles of the school (as the crow flies)
- c) Up to 10% of the remaining places will be allocated to students living between 10.01 and 15 miles of the school (as the crow flies)
- d) Up to 10% of the remaining places will be allocated to those who have demonstrated the relevant aptitude

If there are insufficient applications in d) the remaining places will be allocated to those in criterion c) and so on.

ESA will determine each year its arrangements for assessing aptitude. The assessment must be clear, fair and objective, and must only assess the student's aptitude and no other factors. No student will be assessed for academic ability although knowledge of the specialism, as part of the aptitude process, may be sought.

#### **POST 16 ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Elstree Screen Arts Academy has the capacity for 150 students for entry into Year 12, including a published admissions number of 50 for external applicants. If fewer than 100 of Elstree Screen Arts Academy's own Year 11 students' progress to Year 12, ESA will admit additional numbers of eligible external students up the capacity limit of 150.

To apply for a place at the school, please complete the application form on our website:

<https://academy.elstreescreenarts.com/apply-to-join-esa>.

In order to be considered for a place at Elstree Screen Arts Academy we require all students to achieve five 9-4 grade GCSE or equivalent (including English and Maths). We also require students to achieve a grade 6 or higher in the area they wish to study.

In the event that there are more qualified external applicants who satisfy the published minimum entry requirements than places available, the oversubscription criteria above will apply.



### **TIE BREAK**

Where there is a need for a tie-breaker where two different addresses measure the same distance from a school, in the case of a block of flats for example the lower door number will be deemed nearest as logically this will be on the ground floor and therefore closer. If there are two identical addresses of separate applicants, the tie break will be random allocation.

Elstree Screen Arts Academy will use independently verified random allocation as a tie-break.

### **CONTINUING INTEREST**

Where in any year the Academy receives more successful applications for places than there are places available, a continuing interest list will operate until the end of the first term after the start of the school year. ESA will maintain this and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the list.

A child's position on the continuing interest list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria

### **IN YEAR ADMISSIONS**

Parents can make an online application via Hertfordshire County Council website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) or from the Customer Service Centre, 0300 123 4043 for a paper application form. Parents should return the application form directly to the County Council (address on the form). Elstree Screen Arts Academy will make the decision whether to offer a place.

### **FAIR ACCESS**

The school participates in the county council's Fair Access protocol and will admit children under this protocol before children on continuing interest. Under the Fair Access Protocol the school will also admit and over the Published Admission Number (PAN) if required.

### **APPEALS**

Parents who are unsuccessful in their application to the school have the right to appeal to an independent panel. Hertfordshire parents wishing to appeal should contact Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4043 to request registration details to enable you to log your appeal directly with them.

### **APPEALS FOR IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS**

The county council will write to you with the outcome of your application and if you have been unsuccessful, will include registration details to enable you to login and appeal online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals).



## **APPEALS FOR POST 16 PROVISION**

If an application is refused, there is a statutory right of appeal. Further details of the appeal procedure will be provided with the letter explaining why the application has been refused. Appeals against non-admissions may be lodged by the parent or the student.

## **STUDENTS OUT OF YEAR GROUP**

Elstree Screen Arts Academy's policy is for children to be educated within their correct chronological year group, with the curriculum differentiated as necessary to meet the needs of the individual child. This is in line with the DfE guidance which states 'in general, children should be educated in their normal age group'. ('Advice on the admission of summer born children' December 2014).

If parents/carers believe their child(ren) should be educated in a different year group they should, at the time of application, submit supporting evidence from relevant professionals working with the child and family stating why the child must be placed outside their normal age cohort.

The Trust will decide whether the application will be accepted on the basis of the information submitted. The Trust's decision will be based on the circumstances of each case and will include the view of the parents, the Headteacher, the child's social, academic and emotional development and whether the child has previously been educated out of year group. There is no guarantee that an application will be accepted on this basis. If the application is not accepted, this does not constitute a refusal of a place and there is no right to an independent statutory appeal. Similarly, there is no right of appeal for a place in a specific year group at the school.

Summer born applications that are delayed for a year will be processed in exactly the same way as all other Year 10 or 12 applications received at that time.

## **DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES**

The following definitions apply to terms used in the admissions criteria:

Children looked after and children who were previously looked after, including those 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 or became subject to a child arrangements order<sup>1</sup> or a special guardianship order<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Child arrangements order

Under the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amended section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders which settle the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.

<sup>2</sup> Under 14A of The Children Act 1989, an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians.

Places are allocated to children in public care according to Chapter 7, Section 2 of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.

Highest priority will also be given to children who were previously looked after, including those looked after outside England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangement order or a special guardianship order.

A “child looked after” is a child who is:

- a) in the care of a local authority, or
- b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (section 22(1) of The Children Act 1989)

All children adopted from care who are of compulsory school age are eligible for admission under rule 1.

Children in the process of being placed for adoption are classified by law as children looked after providing there is a Placement Order and the application would be prioritised under Rule 1.

Children who were not “looked after” **immediately** before being adopted or made the subject of a child arrangement order or special guardianship order, **will not** be prioritised under rule 1. Applications made for these children, with suitable supporting professional evidence, can be considered under rule 2.

#### **Definition of sibling:**

A sibling is defined as: the sister, brother, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, child of the parent/carer or partner or a child looked after or previously looked after\*. An applicant who is related as a step-sibling to a pupil by the inter-marriage of one of each of their parents prior to application date. In every case living permanently\*\* in a placement within the home as part of the family household from Monday to Friday at the time of this application.

A sibling must be on the roll of the named school at the time the younger child starts. If a place is obtained for an older child using fraudulent information, there will be no sibling connection available to subsequent children from that family.

\*Children previously looked after are those children adopted or with a special guardianship order or child arrangements order. This definition was amended following a determination by the OSA in August 2014.

\*\*A sibling link will not be recognised for children living temporarily in the same house, for example a child who usually lives with one parent but has temporarily moved or a looked after child in a respite placement or very short term or bridging foster placement.

#### **Multiple births:**

The school will admit over the school’s published admission number when a single twin/multiple birth child is allocated a place at a school.

**Home address:**

The address provided must be the child's current permanent address at the time of application.

- 'At the time of application' means the closing date for applications.
- 'Permanent' means that the child has lived at that address for at least a year

Where a family has not lived at an address for a year, they must be able to demonstrate that they own the property or have a tenancy agreement for a minimum of 12 months and the child must be resident in the property at the time of application. If, because of the nature of the agreement, it is not possible to provide a 12-month tenancy agreement, alternative proof of address will be requested and verified as necessary with the Shared Anti-Fraud Service.

The application can only be processed using one address. If a child lives at more than one address (for example due to a separation) the address used will be the one which the child lives at for the majority of the time. If a child lives at two addresses equally, parents/carers should make a single joint application naming one address

If a child's permanent residence is disputed, parents/carers should provide court documentation to evidence the address that should be used for admission allocation purposes. If two applications are received, with different addresses and/or different preferences, neither will be processed until the address issue is reconciled.

It is for a child's home Local Authority to determine the address. If two applications, with different addresses are received from the same Local Authority, it will be for that Local Authority to determine the permanent address. If two applications are received from two different Local Authorities, the above process will be used.

If two different applications are received for the same child from the same address, e.g., containing different preferences, parents/carers will be invited to submit a joint application or provide court documentation to evidence the preferences that should be used for the admission process. Until the preference issue is reconciled neither application will be processed.

**Fraudulent applications:**

The school, in liaison with Hertfordshire County Council, will do as much as possible to prevent applications being made from fraudulent addresses, including referring cases to the Shared Anti-Fraud service for further investigation as necessary.

Address evidence is frequently requested, monitored and checked and school places will be withdrawn when false information is deliberately provided. Action will be taken in the following circumstances:

- When a child's application address does not match the address of that child at their current school;
- When a child lives at a different address to the applicant
- When the applicant does not have parental responsibility



- When a family move shortly after the closing date of applications when one or more of the following applies:
  - The family has moved to a property from which their application was less likely to be successful
  - The family has returned to an existing property
  - The family lived in rented accommodation for a short period of time (anything less than a year) over the application period
  - Official/public records show an alternative address at the time of application.

When a child starts at the allocated school and their address is different from the address used at the time of the application. Parents/carers will need to show that they have relinquished residency ties with the previous property and they, and their child(ren) are permanently residing at the address given on the application form.

**Home to school distance measurement for purposes of admissions:**

A ‘straight line’ distance measurement is used for all home to school distance measurements for admission allocation purposes. Distances are measured using a computerised mapping system to two decimal places. The measurement is taken from the AddressBase Premium address point of your child’s house to the address point of the school. AddressBase Premium data is a nationally recognised method of identifying the location of schools and individual residences.

**Applications from children\* from overseas**

All children of compulsory school age (5 to 16 years) in England have a right of access to education. However, where a child is in England for a short period only, for example less than half a term, it may be reasonable to refuse admission to a school.

\*Children who hold full British Citizen passports (not British Dependent Territories or British Overseas passports), or have a UK passport describing them as a British citizen or British subject with the right of abode or are European Economic Area nationals normally have unrestricted entry to the UK.\*

An application for a school place will only be accepted for such children currently overseas if, for In Year applications, proof is provided that the child will be resident in Hertfordshire within two weeks. In Year allocations are made on the assumption that the child will accept the school place and be on roll within that timescale.