

Admissions Criteria for Sheldon School 2025

The Published Admission Number (PAN) is 240.

Sheldon is a comprehensive school; pupils will be admitted without reference to ability, aptitude or culture.

Over-Subscription Criteria

The following criteria will be applied to all applications, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit in the event of oversubscription:

- a) "Looked After Children" and "previously Looked After Children" as defined by section 22(1) of the Children's Act 1989;
- b) where a child has a brother* or sister* currently in the school;
- c) children of a member of staff employed by Sheldon School for more than two years at the time of which the application is made, living in the same family unit at the same address;
- d) children living in or attending state-funded primary schools in the civil parishes of Acton Turville, Biddestone, Castle Combe, Christian Malford, Colerne, Grittleton, Kington Langley, Kington St Michael, Lacock, Marshfield, Nettleton and Burton, North Wraxall, Seagry, Stanton St Quintin, Sutton Benger, Yatton Keynell, the part of the civil parish of Bremhill which is west of the Old Canal, the part of the civil parish of Calne Without which is west of Bowood House, and the part of the civil parish of Langley Burrell Without excluding Cepen Park North;
- e) children living in, or attending state-funded primary schools, in the civil parishes of Chippenham and Chippenham Without, (this area now includes Cepen Park North);
- f) where there are medical grounds for admitting the child. These must be supported by a doctor's report explaining why Sheldon is the most suitable school for the child;
- g) all other children (i.e. those resident and attending primary school outside the areas specified in criteria d and e)

[A map of the areas defined in d) and e) is available on the school website or from the school.]

** Brother or sister is defined to include adopted siblings, half-siblings, step-siblings, and the child of a parent or carer's partner; but only if the siblings in question are resident in the same household. ** "Attending the school" means due to be in Years 8 to 13 at the time of admission, which will usually mean currently in Years 7 to 12 at the time of application.*

Tiebreak

In the event of a "tie" under any single criterion, allocation of a place will be decided by applying each of the subsequent criteria in turn. If a "tie" still ensues, allocation of a place will be decided by the proximity of the child's home to the school, with those nearer accorded the higher priority. Distances supplied by Wiltshire LA will be used and these will measure the straight line distance using the Ordnance Survey eastings and northings of the home and school address. Those with the least distance will be given priority. In the event of there being equal distances the priority will be decided by casting lots.

Likelihood of gaining a place

In years when the school has been over-subscribed, all applicants meeting the oversubscription criteria b) and d) and the vast majority (and sometimes all) of those in e) have been able to gain a place at Sheldon. In many years applicants from outside the defined areas have also been successful.

Waiting List

In the event of oversubscription, a waiting list will be maintained, ranked according to the criteria set out above. Applicants will join the waiting list according to these criteria regardless of the order in which the applications are received. When a place becomes available, it will be allocated to the child at the top of the waiting list.

Waiting lists for all year groups will close on 19th July 2024 and any remaining names will be removed. Parents are welcome to submit a fresh application in the next academic year, which will be considered in accordance with the admissions criteria.

Applications from twins and other multiple births

Sheldon will admit a twin (or other sibling from a multiple birth) even if this takes the number of admissions over the PAN, if to do otherwise would result in such siblings being separated.

Applications for school places outside the normal admissions round

Sheldon School will follow the agreed Fair Access Protocol for hard-to-place children. Other applications for admission to Years 7-11 beyond the normal transfer age should be made directly to Wiltshire Council. Upon approach from Wiltshire Council, Governors will first consider whether places are available up to the year group's Published Admissions Number and if demand for places remains oversubscribed, applicants will join the waiting list according to the criteria described above. Applications made more than a term in advance will be held on file until the first week of the term before the child wishes to start at the school.

Admission of children of UK Service personnel and other Crown servants (including Diplomats) outside the normal admissions round

Families of UK Service personnel and other Crown servants are subject to frequent movement within the UK and from abroad, often at relatively short notice. Places will be allocated to children and their families in advance of the approaching school year if accompanied by an official MOD, FCO or GCHQ letter declaring a relocation date. Such places will be allocated according to the criteria outlined above. A Unit postal address will be acceptable in the absence of a new home postal address. Wiltshire Council will be willing to notify parents of results of such applications by e-mail or fax, where this is acceptable to the applicant, especially when families are still abroad.

Admission to the Sixth Form

There is no limit on places in the Sixth Form for students completing Year 11 at Sheldon and meeting the entry requirements below. There will be a minimum of 30 places available to students applying from other schools. Where there is capacity to accept additional students on courses, these students may be admitted. If this is not the case and there is over-subscription from students who meet the minimum entry requirements below, the over-subscription criteria above will be applied.

The Sheldon Sixth Form currently offers advanced courses. The minimum entry requirement to the Sixth Form is five or more 9-4 grades at GCSE including English and mathematics. For admission to some A level courses, additional GCSE requirements apply. Such course requirements are published in the Sheldon Sixth Form prospectus. (Applicants to course programmes mainly comprising vocational or applied A levels may be accepted with four suitable 9-4 grades if this is judged to be appropriate by the head of sixth form.)

Right of Appeal

Parents have the right to appeal to an independent admissions panel if their child is not offered a place at Sheldon. Details of this process are available from the Appeals Clerk via the school. The appeals process is straightforward and non-confrontational. Both the clerk and the panel are completely independent of the school and work within a legally-defined appeals procedure.

Deadline

The deadline for applications for places at Sheldon in Year 7 in September 2024 is 31st October 2023 at midnight. Applications are possible after this date, but they will be treated as late admissions under Wiltshire's agreed procedures.

Where to apply

Applications within the normal admissions round for entry into Year 7 are made through the coordinated admission system of the local authority in which a family lives (e.g. Wiltshire, South Gloucestershire). Wiltshire applications should be made online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk.