

Appeals - Woodlands School

If you were **unsuccessful** in securing a place at Woodlands School which will soon change its name to **Harris Academy Kingswood** in the new academic year starting September 2026. Please read the below;

We understand how important it is for you to secure the right school place for your child, and we are truly sorry that they have not been offered a place at Woodlands school (Harris Academy Kingswood) for September 2026. We know this news will be disappointing for you and your family.

The allocation of places was carried alongside Essex County Council and in strict accordance with admissions policy, which aims to be as fair and transparent as possible. Unfortunately, your child was not placed at Woodlands School (Harris Academy Kingswood.)

What's next if you still want to come to Woodlands School (Harris Academy Kingswood)?

The waiting list

You will have been automatically added to our waiting list for places. Essex County Council will place your child into the waiting list according to our admissions policy.

Appeals

Although there is an appeals procedure, it's only in exceptional circumstances that appeals are successful. 98% of appeals over the past three years were unsuccessful. It is important to note that the grounds for a successful appeal are very limited. **Appeals are only likely to succeed if you can demonstrate that an administrative error was made during the admissions process that directly affected the outcome of your application, or if there are other significant and exceptional factors that meet the criteria set out by the appeals panel.**

Parents have the right to appeal if their child is not allocated a place. Parents should have **genuine** grounds to appeal. We know it's upsetting, but the reality is we cannot accept all pupils who apply, this year we had record numbers of applications to the school. Any appeal needs to be legally based on the admissions policy criteria and not based on emotion or opinion. Please do not register an appeal if your reason fits this second list.

Valid reasons

- A **severe** medical or **severe** social need that **cannot** be accommodated by **any** other school. You would need to prove that only Woodlands School (Harris Academy Kingswood) can provide the support needed.
- There has been some sort of mistake in administration - e.g. Essex County Council had your postcode incorrectly recorded, and they think you live at another address
- You have since moved to the area and live within the distance of the last place offered. (Evidence will be required)
- Your child has since been given an EHCP or should have been identified as a Looked After Child.

Examples of where an appeal will be **unsuccessful**:

- It was your first preference.
- You really want the school, and you believe it to be a better fit than others.
- You really dislike the school your child has been allocated.
- You weren't allocated any schools of your choice.

- Your child is lovely, hardworking and would be a great pupil.
- Your other children came to Woodlands School (Harris Academy Kingswood) but are currently in Year 11.
- Your commute would be much easier.
- Your child loved the school at the Open Evening.
- Your child's friends are coming.
- You think our arrangements are unfair.
- Your child is really upset.
- Your child has anxiety/finds school difficult/SEND issue (but not an EHCP)/needs to build relationships - all schools are required to accommodate and support pupils with these issues.
- You missed the application deadline.
- You believe they'll do better with their friendship group who are due to attend Woodlands School (Harris Academy Kingswood).
- They are likely to refuse another school, or they'd attend better at Woodlands School (Harris Academy Kingswood).
- It is the nearest school to your home. While you strongly wish for them to attend, this alone doesn't create an exceptional reason for admission.
- We are not a specialist school for SEND; therefore, we cannot prioritise pupils with specific needs, such as ADHD, over others.

Moving forward with an Appeal:

Deadline for receipt of completed admission appeal form and supporting documentation (This is the latest date to lodge a written appeal against a refusal of a place if you want an appeal to be heard before the end of the summer term. Appeal documentation received after **28th March 2026** may not be heard before the end of the summer term.

Admission Appeals will be held on the following dates: Week beginning: - Monday 18th May 2026.

Please contact the school to request an Appeals application form.