



WITHAM

A PRIORY ACADEMY

INFORMATION BOOKLET

2026 - 2027



The Witham Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. The Trust's mission is 'To improve the life chances of our students so they become true citizens of the world' through the core values of **WISDOM**, **CURIOSITY**, **GENEROSITY**, **COURAGE** and **PASSION**.

ADMISSIONS

School Places

The Priory Witham Academy will have the following agreed admission numbers for the school year 2026/2027

- a. 60 pupils in the Reception Year (age 5 during the Reception Year);
- b. an additional 30 pupils in Year 7 (the Year 7 group will therefore have 90 pupils, including the pupils entitled to transfer automatically from Year 6).

At Reception Year (age 5)

The Priory Witham Academy will first accept all pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan or a statement of special educational needs that names the Academy.

After the admission of pupils with EHC plans or statements, the criteria below will be applied for the remaining places, in the order in which they are set out:

- a. looked after children, or previously looked after children;
- b. siblings of pupils who are on the roll of the Academy at the time of the application;
- c. children eligible for the early years pupil premium, the pupil premium or the service premium who are in a pre-school class in the Priory Witham Academy;
- d. children of a member of staff of the Academy who has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time of the application or who has been appointed to a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
- e. children who live nearest to the Academy measured by the straight-line distance from the child's home address to the Academy's main entrance.

At Year 7 (age 11)

After the admission of pupils with EHC plans or statements, the criteria below will be applied for the remaining places in the order in which they are set out:

- a. looked after children, or previously looked after children;
- b. siblings of pupils who are on the roll of the Academy at the time of the application;
- c. children of a member of staff of the Academy who has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time of the application, or who has been appointed to a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
- d. children who live nearest to the Academy measured by the straight-line distance from the child's home address to the Academy's main entrance.

The Priory Witham Academy

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Headteachers: Mrs M Garner & Mrs A Tallentire



Pre-School Places- Early Years

Applications for pre-school places are to be made directly to the Academy. This is because admissions to pre-school education are subject to separate admission arrangements from those for the rest of the Academy.

The Academy will provide the following number of pre-school places in the school year 2026/2027 and, subject to any changes approved or required by the Secretary of State, for subsequent years;

- a. 40 pre-nursery places at any time for children who are 2 years old until the beginning of the term before their 3rd birthday.
- b. 32 Nursey places for children turning 3 years old, from the beginning of the term before their 3rd birthday until the end of the school year before their 4th birthday.
- c. 39 pre-reception places for children turning 4 years old , from the beginning of the school year during which they are 4 to the end of the school year.

The Academy admits more children than the number of pre-school places available because many children attend part of the week. it is not possible to state how many part time or full time children are admitted to each stage of the pre-school provision. This is because the number of places available at any time depends on how many children have already been admitted, how long they stay and whether they attend full-time or part-time. The Academy also has to staff within the permitted staff rotios.

The Academy offers free (funded) places (15 or 30 hours per week) for eligible children, and paid-for places. You can find a more detailed document giving the full range of types of places available on the academy's website

The Priory Witham Academy will first accept all pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan or a statement of special educational needs that names the Academy.

After the admission of pupils with EHC plans or statements, the criteria below will be applied for the remaining places, in the order in which they are set out:

- a. looked after children, or previously looked after children;
- b. children where recognised professional opinion, including medical reasons, shows that a child's circumstances present a particularly strong case for taking in a child, and the opinion is accepted by the Academy;
- c. for two-year olds only, children who are entitled to disadvantage funding from Lincolnshire Local Authority because of their personal circumstances.
- d. siblings of pupils who are on the roll of the Academy at the time of the application;
- e. children of a member of staff of the Academy who has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time of the application or who has been appointed to a vacant post for for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- f. children who live nearest to the Academy measured by the straight-line distance from the child's home address to the Academy's main entrance.

Further details are available in the full Admissions Policy on the Academy's website and in the local authority's 'Going to school in Lincolnshire' information guide.

Academy Dates 2026/27

Module	Start	End
Module 1	Monday 7th September 2026	Friday 23rd October 2026
Module 2	Monday 2nd November 2026	Friday 18th December 2026
Module 3	Tuesday 5th January 2027	Friday 12th February 2027
Module 4	Monday 22nd February 2027	Thursday 25th March 2027
Module 5	Monday 12th April 2027	Friday 28th May 2027
Module 6	Monday 7th June 2027	Wednesday 21st July 2027

The Academy Day

KS1 & KS2

Period	Start	End
Early Years	8:50	3:00
Early Years (Wednesday morning session)	8:50	11:45
Early Years (Wednesday afternoon session)	12:00	3:00
Reception - KS2	8:45	3:15

KS3- KS5

Period	Start	End
Form Time	8:40	9:10
Period 1	9:10	10:10
Period 2	10:10	11:10
Break	11:10	11:30
Period 3	11:30	12:30
Lunch	12:30	1:10
Period 4	1:10	2:10
Period 5	2:10	3:10
Extra-Curricular Activities	3:10	4:10

Curriculum September 2026

Year 7

Subject	Periods
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Art	1
Physical Education	2
Performing Arts	1

Year 8

Subject	Periods
English	4
Mathematics	3
Science	4
Art	1
Physical Education	2
Performing Arts	1

Year 9

Subject	Periods
English	3
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Art	1
Physical Education	2
Performing Arts	1

Year 10

Subject	Periods
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Physical Education	1
RE	1
Option 1	5 hours over 2 weeks
Option 2	5 hours over 2 weeks
Option 3	5 hours over 2 weeks
Option 4	5 hours over 2 weeks

Year 11

Subject	Periods
English	4
Mathematics	3
Science	4
Physical Education	1
RE	1
Option 1	5 hours over 2 weeks
Option 2	5 hours over 2 weeks
Option 3	5 hours over 2 weeks
Option 4	5 hours over 2 weeks



UNIFORM

The proper wearing of the Academy's uniform is very important. It provides pupils with an identity, helps promote a purposeful approach to learning and demonstrates a commitment to the values of the Academy.

Our strict and consistent approach is appreciated by both pupils and parents and they have worked hard with us to ensure that the uniform is of a high standard.

There is an expectation that all members of the Academy will strive to look their best. For pupils, this will mean wearing the Academy uniform correctly when travelling to, from and within the Academy and when on trips and visits. Unnatural dyed or coloured hair is unacceptable. The decision as to what is appropriate is one for the Academy to decide.

All items of uniform, including PE kit, must be clearly marked with the pupil's name. In exceptional circumstances, where there is a clear medical need that prevents flat or low heeled shoes from being worn, plain black training shoes can be substituted by prior arrangement with the appropriate Phase Leader/Year Director.

With all aspects of uniform, as with any other matter of Academy policy, if you are uncertain, please ask for our advice. It should be noted that pupils and families will be supported to ensure the correct uniform is available and worn; which is a requirement of the Academy.

Buying Academy Uniform

Uniform is available from a range of suppliers in Lincoln and the surrounding area. We also have an Academy Swap Shop. For further information about the Swap Shop, please email withamswapshop@prioryacademies.co.uk.

PRIMARY UNIFORM

Skirt:	Grey, traditional school style (no tube skirts), knee length
Trousers:	Grey, traditional school style
Shorts:	Grey, traditional school style
Polo Shirt:	Sky Blue
Sweatshirt:	Navy with Academy Logo
Summer Dress:	Blue Check or grey traditional school style
Shoes:	Black, plain, safe and flat
Socks:	Plain grey, white or black
Tights:	Black or grey (80+ denier)
PE Uniform	Navy or black plain shorts, Tracksuit bottoms or leggings , Academy PE top/light blue polo shirt, trainers

SECONDARY UNIFORM (Y6 - Y11)

Skirt:	Grey, pleated school style (no tube skirts), knee length
Trousers:	Grey, traditional school style
Shorts:	Grey, traditional school style
Jumper:	Optional but must be plain, Navy V neck (no visible logos)
Shirt:	Sky blue, worn with Academy clip-on tie
School Tie:	Witham Academy clip on tie
Blazer:	Navy with Academy badge
Shoes:	Black, publishable, plain, safe and flat
Socks:	Grey or black with trousers, white with skirt
Tights:	Black or grey (80+ denier)
PE Uniform:	Navy or black plain shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings (no short, tight-fitting shorts permitted), Academy PE top, trainers

The only jewellery allowed to be worn in the Academy is a single pair of plain gold or silver studs (which should be worn in the lower lobe), and one plain flat ring. This is to ensure that accidents due to jewellery or loss of items do not occur.

Make-up is not allowed. Extreme haircuts (as decided by the Academy), as well as unnatural dyed or coloured hair, are unacceptable.

To prevent the loss of kit, each article of clothing should have name tapes sewn into it and trainers should have a name printed underneath the tongue of both shoes.



GENERAL INFORMATION

This section is designed to give parents/carers details on some of the core policies and expectations within the Academy. Our website (www.priorywitham.co.uk) provides further information about the Academy including a parents' section, curriculum details, news, key dates, student study support and much more. There is also a 'Policies' tab with full details regarding all Academy and Federation policies.

Mobile Phones- Phone Free Academy

The Academies mobile phone guidance is underpinned by the Trusts' SW4 Student Behaviour and Discipline Policy and follows guidance from the Department for Education (DfE, 2026), which supports schools in prohibiting the use of mobile phones during the school day to improve behaviour and learning.

There is a growing body of evidence, backed by research from UK studies, that shows heavy smartphone use is linked with poorer educational outcomes and wellbeing among students.

Research evidence in the UK shows that:

- High mobile phone use is associated with lower academic performance and increased classroom distraction leading to behavioural challenges.
- Excessive use is linked to poor sleep, reduced physical activity, and lower wellbeing.

This guidance therefore aims to foster a positive and supportive partnership between home and school to:

- Minimise disruption to learning
- Support student wellbeing
- Promote responsible and balanced technology use

Please refer to the appropriate guidance for your child's phase;

[Phone Free Academy Primary](#)

[Phone Free Academy Secondary](#)

Cameras

The taking of photographs of any kind, on the Academy site, is done so only with the prior permission of the Head of Academy. Possessing images taken on our site, even if it is of friends, can lead to disciplinary action.

Insurance

Parents are reminded that the Academy does not accept responsibility for personal property. Pupils are strongly advised not to bring expensive items to the Academy. Parents should ensure that their household insurance policy covers their child's personal possessions. The Academy does not accept any liability

Calculators

It is beneficial for pupils to have a simple scientific calculator. They can be purchased from the Academy and are suitable for pupils up to the end of their GCSE courses. Maths and Science teaching staff will be pleased to offer advice on such a purchase.

Detentions

There is an Academy detention sanction which takes place for one hour at the end of formal lesson time. Pupils are placed in this only as a last resort and parents are given the statutory 24 hours' notice before this occurs. This is not a voluntary activity and, although parental agreement is not required, we seek to work together on this.

Behaviour Outside the Academy

Pupils are expected to adhere to the same high standards whilst wearing their uniform going to and from the Academy

Charging for Activities

The Witham Academy does not charge fees for tuition. Charges may be necessary, however, for activities which take place in Academy time, or which form part of the curriculum studies of the Academy. In some cases, the Academy may invite parents to make a voluntary financial contribution to activities which are additional to the basic curriculum. However, apart from music tuition where there may be an occasional need for a charge, there will be no obligation to make such contributions and equality of opportunity for all pupils will be maintained, irrespective of any voluntary contributions

Academy Visits

Visits are a valued part of our educational provision. Their continued success is due to the dedication and commitment of the staff who carry out these voluntary duties. There is no automatic right for pupils to participate in these activities and the Academy reserves the right to decide on the composition of any visit. The inclusion of any pupil is on the understanding that their standard of behaviour, work progress and commitment to the wearing of their uniform is acceptable to the Academy. The Academy reserves the right to exclude pupils from a visit.

All pupils represent The Witham Academy at all times. It is essential, therefore, that their behaviour always reflects our high expectations. Failure to adhere to the requirements of any visit, including the wearing of smart casual dress (as appropriate and as set out in a kit list) and excellent behaviour throughout, could result in pupils being withdrawn from the visit, being sent home from the visit and/or being prevented from involvement in future visits. The Academy's decision is final

Parent Pay

Upon joining the academy each parent/carer will receive login details to access [ParentPay](#). All school payment items can be purchased through your child's online portal. We no longer accept cash payments on site.

Cashless Catering

Primary

School meals can be booked through your child's Parent Pay account. Menu's are available and meals can be booked up to the end of the current Module, we ask that bookings be made 72 hours in advance. If your child receives free school meals, you will still be required to book through Parent Pay. The cost of the meal will be taken from their free school meal allowance.

Secondary

Students will be using the finger scanner to make payment for meals – if they do not have permission for this, they will be given a 4 digit PIN. Any amount of money can be paid into a student's account, and any money spent on food and drink will be deducted on a daily basis. If your child receives free school meals the cost of their meal will be deducted from their free school meal allowance.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Summary of the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

RSE is an integral part of our personal development programme in order to assist pupils to have due regard for moral considerations and the value of family life. In particular, the aims of the Academy's RSE policy are to support the personal, moral and social development of all pupils and to ensure that they have the ability to accept their own and each other's sexuality. They learn to enjoy relationships based on caring, mutual respect and responsibility whilst learning to take responsibility for the health and wellbeing of themselves and those around them.

Arrangements for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Great care is taken to identify and support pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The Academy has a qualified member of staff who takes responsibility for co-ordinating our work with these pupils and we abide by the SEND Code of Practice (2014), embedded through the Children and Families Act 2014. This ensures that we work collaboratively with parents, colleagues in the Support Service and the pupil themselves to ensure the necessary intervention and resources are facilitated. The Academy has produced a SEND Statement, published on our website, detailing the support we are able to offer. SEND does not only refer to children with Physical or Learning Difficulties; support may also be needed for particularly able children or those who find it difficult to meet the Academy's expectations of acceptable behaviours

World Views (RE)

Worldviews is provided for all pupils in accordance with the Priory Federation agreed curriculum. This curriculum includes studying a range of religions and worldviews; as well as contemporary ethical issues.

The Academy has no affiliation with any religious denomination.

Equal Opportunities Policy

The Academy is committed to providing equal opportunities for all. Its policy can be viewed on the website.

Expressing your concerns

We are fully committed to providing the best possible education for your child. However, we realise that sometimes things go wrong and that this can be a concerning time for all. Most concerns can be resolved through contact with your child's Class Teacher or Form Tutor or by contacting the Phase Leader /Year Director.

If you feel, however, that an issue has not been satisfactorily resolved, then a member of the Senior Leadership Team can be contacted in writing or by phoning the Academy Reception. We will try to deal with your concerns within 24 hours, but, at maximum, within five working days. If you are still dissatisfied with the decision, then we will provide you with information about your rights and the different ways in which you can pursue your concerns.



THE
PRIORY
FEDERATION
OF ACADEMIES TRUST

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