Information for Parents about Enrolment at
Model Farms High School

Where do I find information from the Department of Education and Communities about enrolment in state government schools?
A comprehensive coverage of information relating to the process of enrolling in high schools can be found at:


This site also has links to “expression of interest forms” for students applying to enrol into Year 7 from Primary School

How do I know which school is my local High School?
Each high school has a map displayed in its foyer showing the exact location of the boundary between schools. Most boundaries are along roads. In many cases one side of a boundary road will be eligible to attend one school while students who reside on the other side of the road may be local to another school. While this may seem unusual the line needs to be drawn somewhere.

What criteria are used to determine who is successful in gaining a place at Model Farms High School as an “out-of-area” applicant?
There are 5 criteria used to evaluate and prioritise applications for “out-of-area” placements. For the purpose of clarity, examples of things that demonstrate evidence of strength in this area are included in italics beside each criterion, although the examples are by no means all inclusive.

1. A primary school record showing good behaviour and school citizenship: involvement in leadership and citizenship roles like SRC, Environmental groups, mentoring, peer coaching, record of attendance and punctuality, record of outstanding classroom attitude and behaviour

2. Record of academic commitment, special interests and abilities: demonstrated excellence in one or more fields of academic endeavour, high levels of performance in sport or the arts, debating; high levels of application and diligences evidenced on school reports or teacher comments.

3. Recommendation of previous Principal: attendance at one of our four learning community schools (Matthew Pearce, Jasper Road, Winston Heights or Winston Hills Primary School) with strong evidence provided by the Principal outlining the particular special educational circumstances of the student.

4. Compassionate circumstances: siblings already at the school, illness or disability that makes the particular resources of MFHS a more suitable placement than the student’s “local” high school.

5. Availability of subjects or combination of subjects (for students in Years 9-12)

These are in no particular order and no one criterion carries more weight than any other.
**What do I do if I am a Temporary Visa holder?**

(a) Contact **1300 300229**

(b) Complete the "**Application to enrol in a NSW Government School"** form found at:


(c) Return the form to the school with the following documents which are all necessary for an application to be processed:

- Copies of school reports for at least the last 12 months.
- Three documents that confirm your home address (eg. Utilities accounts)
- Evidence of your residential status (birth certificate, visa, etc.)

(d) Following the issue of an Authority to Enrol, a start date will be provided.

http://www.decinternational.nsw.edu.au/study/schools/temporary-residents

**How do I find out more about Model Farms High School?**

For parents of year 6 students anticipating, or exploring the option of sending their child to MFHS, the best place to start is our Open Night. This is held in about week 4 or 5 of Term 1 each year. In 2014 this event will be held on Tuesday the 4th of March. During this event we will outline the opportunities available to students at MFHS and provide detail on how to apply for a place. There will also be an opportunity to spend some time visiting teachers and classrooms to have one-on-one contact with our staff members.

Over the 5 weeks after the Open Night there is an opportunity for parents to contact one of our Deputy Principals to join one of the regular school tours held during Term 1.

Each week the school produces a School (Parent) Newsletter which will help you gain a feeling for our community.

**If I have a student already attending Model Farms will siblings be automatically accepted?**

No. Keeping siblings together is considered part of the ‘compassionate circumstance’ criteria. While we appreciate it is usually desirable to keep siblings at the same school, it is a welfare issue no more or less significant that numerous other compassionate circumstances.

**Why do I need to prove where I live?**

All students have the right to attend their local primary or high school. A school’s primary responsibility is for the education of students residing within the catchment as defined by the DEC. Placements for ‘out-of-area’ students is subject to the availability of permanent accommodation within the school. Unfortunately not everyone who applies for a position provides the correct and current information. The requirement for documentation to evidence an application as an ‘in-area’ student is there to ensure that access to a place is based on the real and verifiable residential address of the applicant. At its core, this requirement is there to ensure equity of access based on proof of entitlement to a position.
If my child goes to Matthew Pearce, Jasper Road, Winston Heights or Winston Hills Primary School will I automatically gain entry into Year 7 at Model Farms High School?

No. Unlike many high schools, MFHS does not have one particular feeder primary school where the majority of its Year 7 students originate. Over many years MFHS has worked most strongly with the four primary schools which traditionally contribute the largest number of students. This partnership has been considered the strongest possible recommendation on behalf of the Principal from the primary school for placement at MFHS. There has never been any guarantee that students from these primary schools will automatically gain entry in MFHS without a strongly supported application. In the past, when demand for placement at MFHS was lower, it is true that the majority of applications were successful. MFHS is still strongly committed to our partnership with these schools, but attendance at one of these four schools is only considered strong support in the ‘Principals recommendation’ criteria and does not guarantee entry.

If I disclose that my student has special circumstances, allergies, health or medical conditions will this impact on my student’s application?

No. This information has no bearing on the selection process what so ever. The information is needed to enable us to plan effectively for the student’s integration into high school. Failure to disclose important information of this nature may adversely impact on our ability to provide the resources and care required for your student’s wellbeing.

Where can I get more information on Model Farms High School’s Enrolment Policy?

Detailed information can be found at: