

Walsall Academy



Rules of Admission Year 7 September 2016

**Approved By The Governing Board
- March 2015**

RULES OF ADMISSION TO YEAR 7 FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

The Rules of Admission for September 2016 have been amended as required by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator determination 19 December 2014. Please take this into account when reading these rules.

Admissions to the Academy will be made in accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code.

This Academy was established to provide education to students within the Bloxwich and wider Walsall community.

Places Available

Applications are welcomed from children of all abilities and with physical disabilities. Please inform the Academy of any specific disability which may result in a prospective student requiring individual help during the Admissions procedure.

The published pupil admission number (PAN) is 168 and with the additional 12 agreed provides a total of 180 for September 2016. These places will be filled by allocating places from the full range of ability of applicants, in accordance with the criteria embodied in the Funding Agreement between the Academy and the Secretary of State for Education

Admission: Fair Banding

All children who apply for a place at the Academy will be invited to attend an assessment, namely the NFER (National Foundation of Education Research) Non-Verbal Reasoning Test. The assessment will last one hour and will be held at The Walsall Academy. Children cannot "fail" the NFER assessment and therefore any request to re-sit the assessment will be refused.

Following the assessment, your child will be placed in one of five ability bands. The assessment results will be used to ensure that the Academy admits the full range of ability of applicants for the school. Parents will be advised of the results of the NFER test and the Academy will take all reasonable steps to advise parents of the outcome in accordance with the Statutory Code.

Admission of Students

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan will be admitted where the Academy is named as the appropriate placement. The admission of children in this category is dealt with by a separate procedure in collaboration with the Local Authority.

Admissions Oversubscription Criteria

If the Academy does not receive 180 applications every applicant will be offered a place. When the number of applications for admission is greater than the published number (168 pupils plus 12 additional places approved by Governors = 180 total), the Academy will be oversubscribed and all applications will be considered against the criteria set out below and places will be allocated in the following order:

Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

Children in Public Care (Looked after Children) will be given highest priority for admission within each band. Looked after Children are children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority. This also includes previously looked after children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.

Banding of Applicants

If the Academy is oversubscribed, applicants will be placed in one of 5 ability Bands based upon their score in the NFER Non-Verbal Reasoning Test.

The total number of applicants will be divided by 5 placing 20% of the applicants in each Band. As an illustration, if the Academy receives 500 applications and makes offers to 180 students, then this is how the Academy would allocate places in to the 5 Bands:-

Band	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Applicants in each Band based on ranking in test	100	100	100	100	100	500
Percentage of children allocated to each Band	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	100%
Number of places allocated	36	36	36	36	36	180
Class sizes do not exceed 26 in Year 7						

Band 1 is the highest ability Band and Band 5 the lowest ability Band. If a situation occurred where the applicants in a Band fell below 36 because students decided to accept places at other schools, then these places would be filled from the next Band below. For illustration purposes and using the Banding/Proximity rules, if only 30 applicants accepted places in Band 1 and there were no other applicants in this Band then these places would be filled

from applicants in Band 2. If there were no more applicants in Band 2 they would be filled from Band 3 and so on.

Applicants Living Closest to the school

Proximity to the Academy will be used combined with Banding to decide who will be offered places at the Academy when we are oversubscribed. From within each of the 5 Bands the 36 applicants that live closest to the Academy will be given priority for admission. Measurement is calculated from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the Academy. This measurement is taken using a PC software application. Home address is classified as the permanent residence which the applicant is living in at the time of the offer and there must be evidence it is not temporary or for the purposes of gaining advantage to seek admission. The Academy may ask for proof in such cases where it may be suspected that unfair advantage is being sought by applicants on the issue of residence. Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the week, the main residence will be determined as the address where the child spends the majority of the week. Documentary evidence may be required in such cases.

Should more than one application, in the same NFER ability band be received from the same address, (i.e. a tie), the place will be offered on the basis of random allocation.

Eligibility and Disability

Eligible applicants are those children who were born between the 1st September 2004 and 31st August 2005.

The Walsall Academy is committed to a fair and equal treatment of all individuals. The Academy will welcome applications from children with disabilities.

Please refer to our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) [here](#) where you may be able to find answers to common issues raised.

Procedures for Admission

To apply, parents or guardians of prospective students will be required to complete a Registration Form for their eligible child. Parents/guardians must be aware that this form must be returned directly to The Walsall Academy. The properly completed form should be received by the Academy before **Friday 2nd October 2015** to ensure all testing is completed by the National Applications deadline of 31st October 2015 and the Academy can make parents aware of the results in accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code.

This Registration Form has two purposes:

1. For all parents to notify the Academy that they are applying for a place and that they wish for their child to sit the banding assessment.
2. For parents who would like their child to be considered for any concessions in the Assessment, to make the Academy aware of this. The Admissions Team will make the decision as to the appropriate concession (e.g. wheelchair access, scribes, larger print etc).

As part of the National Co-ordinated Admissions Arrangements across all Admissions Authorities parents/guardians are also required to complete a Preference Form provided by their Local Authority. This form must be completed and returned to the Local Authority before **31st October 2015**.

Please note: Parents/guardians should fill in both the Walsall Academy Form and the Local Authority Preference Form for the application to be considered within the nationally agreed time-scale.

Parents/guardians should read the Walsall Children's Services – Education Walsall publication "Information for Parents/Guardians about admission to Secondary School for September 2016" which will be provided with the Local Authority Application Form. This is available on the Walsall Council website at www.walsall.gov.uk/education.

The Academy will liaise with Walsall Children's Services and other neighbouring Local Authorities in keeping with the National Co-ordinated Admissions Procedure during the process of selection. Parents/guardians need to be aware that preferences relating to the ranking and the naming of The Walsall Academy on the Local Authorities Preference Forms are taken into consideration by the Local Authorities.

A date will be set for the prospective student to attend for assessment. Applicants who do not attend for assessment will not be further considered for a place in the Academy.

The application will only be valid if all the information required is supplied and all the forms are completed, signed and returned by the specified date.

All prospective students will be tested and added to the Waiting List in order of distance measurement.

180 applicants will be offered a place for admission in September 2016 and unsuccessful applicants will be placed on the Waiting List.

Those who are offered a place at the Academy will be informed by a letter posted on **1st March 2016** and will be asked to complete and return an acceptance form by **16th March 2016**. Offers of admission to those on the Waiting List will be made if a suitable place becomes available.

Those not offered admission or a place on the Waiting List will be informed by a letter posted on **1st March 2016** and will have been offered a place at an alternative school by the Local Authority.

Waiting List for Admission to Year 7

If the Academy is oversubscribed, unsuccessful applicants will be placed on the Waiting List. If vacancies arise, those on the Waiting List will be offered a place using the Academy's Admissions Criteria outlined previously.

The Waiting List will be maintained until 31 December 2016.

The school will then write to parents remaining on the Year 7 Waiting List to determine if they wish to remain on the list if a place becomes available. In January 2017, the Waiting List is then reconstituted following parental responses. The reconstituted list will then be maintained and places will be offered as they come available in accordance with the Academy's Admission Criteria.

The Appeals Procedure

Parents/guardians who do not obtain a place for their child may appeal against the decision. There will be an Independent Appeals Panel appointed in accordance with the provisions of the statutory School Admission Appeals Code (2012) as it applies to voluntary aided schools.

Appeals should be presented in written form to the Clerk of the Independent Appeals Panel no later than **30th March 2016**.

Mid-Year Admission Policy

Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the normal admission round.

Walsall Academy will show due regard for mid-year admission schemes formulated by the relevant local authorities.

Walsall Academy will communicate with the relevant local authorities to ensure that they are advised of any pupil mobility in the interests of safeguarding.

Any vacancies will be offered on the basis of the admission criteria for the Academy. Assessment sessions for Mid-Year Admissions will be held as required.

Parents have the right to appeal against the refusal of a place.

Late Applications

The policy on late applications for Walsall Academy is in line with Walsall Children's Services arrangements.

Preference Forms and, where appropriate, schools' own Registration Forms, received after the closing date, are classed as late applications. Any request to change the name or ranking of a school made after the closing date will be classed as a late application.

Late applications will normally be considered for places after all the applications that were received by the closing date. Therefore, late applicants may be less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools.

If a Walsall Preference Form is received after the closing date the application will be passed to the appropriate admission authority for consideration under its Late Application Policy. Each admission authority is required to publish its own Late Application Policy which explains how late applications will be dealt with. The Late Application Policy for all Walsall community and voluntary controlled schools is shown below.

Late Applications received up to 4 weeks after the closing date

Late applications received up to four weeks after the closing date may be considered as being on time but only where there are exceptional circumstances.

- Where the family were unable to complete the Walsall Preference Form by the Closing Date because they moved into the Borough of Walsall after the issue of the Walsall Preference Form.
- The family were unable to comply with the admission timetable because of exceptional circumstances which prevented the Walsall Preference Form arriving on time.
- When a single parent has been ill for some time. Evidence from an appropriate professional may be required to support this criterion.

In these cases the circumstances must be given in writing at the time of application and attached to the Walsall Preference Form: they will be subject to verification by the Managing Director, Walsall Children's Services.

This applies to applications for secondary schools received between 1st November 2015 and 28th November 2015.

Late Applications received more than 4 weeks after closing date

Applications for schools received more than 4 weeks after the closing date but before the Notification Date will be considered only after all other applications. Unless there are exceptional social, medical or domestic circumstances. Evidence from a professional will be required and any cases will be decided at a meeting convened by Governors to determine if any such application should be considered with those that were on time.

This applies to applications for secondary schools received between 29th November 2015 and 28th February 2016.

Applications Received After the Notification Date (once places have been offered)

Applications received after the notification date: a place will be offered at the highest ranked school if places are available. For Walsall residents, if a place is not available at any of the ranked schools a place will be offered by Walsall Children's Services in accordance with their published policy and the child's name will be added to the Waiting List for schools listed as preferences in admission criteria order.

TIMETABLE FOR 2016 ADMISSIONS

AUGUST 2015

Application Forms, Rules of Admission, Academy Prospectus

2 OCTOBER 2015

Closing date for Registration for Banding Test to ensure test results are available

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SESSION DATES

October / November 2015

First Assessment Session – 3 October 2015

Additional assessment sessions will be arranged for applications received after the Academy's closing date above, as necessary

Test scores will be made available to parents within 15 working days of taking the test

31 OCTOBER 2015

Agreed deadline for return of Preference Form to Local Authority

1 MARCH 2016

Parents/guardians and Primary Schools notified of the result of applications

16 MARCH 2016

Agreed deadline for return of Acceptance Form

30 MARCH 2016

Agreed final deadline for submission of appeals against decisions

APRIL/MAY 2016

Appeals considered

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

The Induction Programme for the new intake will take place. Further details will follow in due course

JULY 2016

Year 7 Induction Day