

Information for Parents

about admissions to Secondary Schools
in September 2017



To complete your application on-line visit:

www.walsall.gov.uk and follow the link to Education – Secondary School Admissions



Walsall Council



Dear Parent/Carer

Transfers to Secondary schools in September 2017

I am pleased to endorse Walsall's Information for parents about Admission to Secondary Schools for September 2017. This provides advice and guidance on the process for applying for a secondary school place for September 2017, much of which is governed by statutory legislation. As your child was born between 1 September 2005 and 31 August 2006 they are due to transfer to a secondary school in September 2017.

This year, Walsall Council will again take part in an Inter Authority Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme with a number of Local Authorities in the Midlands, including Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Staffordshire and Wolverhampton. An explanation of how the inter-LA scheme works is given on page 46.

Please do contact and visit the schools you are interested in, look round and ask questions so you can feel positive and confident about making the right decision for your child. Walsall schools welcome visits; please find a list of Open Morning and Evening events on pages 14-15 of this booklet.

Every Walsall school is committed to giving your child the best possible start to their secondary school life and to help them be the very best learner, who aspires, believes in themselves and achieves.

The Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team are available to help and support you and talk through any queries that you may have. They can be contacted on 01922 652585 or email to secondary.admissions@walsall.gov.uk. Alternatively you can contact the Parent Support Adviser on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Every best wish to you and your child for a successful application and transition to secondary school.

Yours Sincerely

David Haley

Executive Director: Children's Services
Walsall Council

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Advice on the Secondary School Admission Process

If you have any questions or require advice on the secondary admissions process and procedure you can contact our Parent Support Adviser for admissions.

A key function of this role is to provide advice and support to parents and carers during the secondary school transfer process.

The Parent Support Adviser will be able to assist parents in a variety of ways, including:

- assistance with the completion of on-line applications and advice on how to list preferences in the best order
- advice on the admission criteria for secondary schools
- providing information on how school places have been offered in previous years
- giving general advice on transferring your child from primary to secondary school

Over the coming weeks the Parent Support Adviser will be arranging drop in sessions at primary schools and secondary school Open Evenings. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to ask any questions concerning the secondary transfer procedure and, where necessary, arrange to attend further advisory sessions.

Parents and carers can also arrange individual appointments with the Parent Support Adviser if more in-depth assistance is required.

Please contact the Parent Support Adviser to discuss any aspects of the secondary school transfer process:

Parent Support Adviser
Walsall Council
Zone 2E, Civic Centre,
Darwall Street,
Walsall
WS1 1TP

Phone: 01922 652578

Email: schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Submitting an application

If you live in Walsall and your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2017, you will apply through Walsall Council for his or her school place.

You should complete your application on-line. The on-line application process is quick and easy and the benefits are:

- **The system is safe and secure so that your information is protected**
- **You will receive email confirmation that your application has been received**
- **By logging back into your on-line application, you can make changes to your preferences up until the closing date (31 October 2016)**
- **Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**
- **You can opt to receive the outcome of your application by email on 1 March 2017**

To complete your application on-line visit:

www.walsall.gov.uk

where you can follow the link to Education – Secondary School Admissions and you will find step by step guidance to filling in the on-line form.

If you require further assistance with the on-line school admissions process, please contact the Parent Support Adviser (Admissions) on 01922 652578 or the School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team by email on: secondary.admissions@walsall.gov.uk, or telephone 01922 652578.

Follow the link at www.walsall.gov.uk/education

Important dates for parents

Now:

- Read this Booklet – it is important to understand how the Inter-LA Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme works.
- If you intend to apply for a school that is not in Walsall, you must obtain a copy of the relevant LA's Information Booklet, or visit the LA's website, to see the admission criteria for that school and to ascertain whether or not you would need to provide additional information to the school.
- Contact individual schools for copies of their prospectuses.
- Use the Internet – most schools have websites. Details are given in the school information pages in this booklet – or go to the Walsall Council website (www.walsall.gov.uk) and follow the link to Education. Ofsted reports are also available at www.ofsted.gov.uk.
- Check the tables – read the recent GCSE Performance Tables. They are available at www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance
- Although the closing date for applications is 31 October 2016, we recommend that parents and carers submit their application by 21 October 2016. This is because this year deadline day falls immediately after Autumn half-term and parents may find that support is limited if they require assistance from their child's primary school to submit an application during the half - term period.
- Parents and carers will still be able to contact the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team, and the Parent Support Adviser, during the half - term period for advice and support. (Contact details at the bottom of the page)

- **During September/October:**

- We strongly recommend that you visit schools before completing your application. Open evenings and open days are held for parents and pupils – see the school information pages (14-15) for details.
- You can name up to 5 preferences – you must submit your on-line application by 31 October 2016. Please provide proof of your address with your on-line application by including your Council Tax reference number where indicated.
- Return the school's own Registration Form (if appropriate) directly to Queen Mary's Grammar School, Queen Mary's High School, Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy and Walsall Academy. An additional school form is also required for Specialist Music places at Aldridge School and Specialist Sports places at Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy. These forms are available from the schools.
- If you are applying for a place at a Walsall Faith School, Aldridge School - An Academy, or Shire Oak Academy, please complete the required Supplementary Information Form and return it directly to the school, together with any relevant attachments, by the due date.
- Schools outside Walsall may require additional information or registration forms to be completed - you may want to check this with the LA in question.
- Additional forms are also available on individual schools' websites.

March 2017:

- The National Notification Date is 1 March 2017 (or, if 1 March is not a working day, the next working day). A letter, offering your child a place at ONE school, will be sent on Wednesday 1 March 2017.
- If you opted to receive the outcome of your on-line application by email, the email will be sent on Wednesday 1 March 2017.

Your child's transfer to secondary school: Frequently asked questions

How do I apply for a place at a secondary school?

You should apply **on-line** by logging on to **www.walsall.gov.uk/education** and following the link provided, and then following the instructions given.

When making an application, you must name all of the schools where you wish your child to be considered for a place. These should be listed in order of preference, including Walsall schools or schools in other authorities.

If you wish to apply for a Specialist Music Place at Aldridge School or a Specialist Sports Place at Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy, you must name these as separate preferences. If you wish to also apply for a place at the schools, please name the schools separately. If you are expressing preferences for both options at the same school, you must name the specialist place higher than the school place, as your preferences are considered in the order that they are listed on your application.

Secondary Schools in Walsall

There are 18 secondary schools in Walsall, offering 20 options for preference. These are the **only** Walsall schools that can be entered on your application. There are other schools in Walsall for which applications **must** be made directly to the school. Examples include Palfrey Girls' School, Abu Bakr Girls' School, Abu Bakr Boys' School and Hydesville Tower School.

There are 18 secondary schools in Walsall where places are offered to boys and girls of all levels of ability:

- 2 Catholic voluntary aided schools
- 1 Foundation school
- 15 Academies

At the following four schools, all or some of the places are offered based upon the performance of children in an entrance examination, a musical audition or an aptitude test for sports, set by the schools:

- 2 Grammar (or selective) single-sex schools (both Academies)
- Aldridge School offers Specialist Music Places
- Ormiston Sheffield Academy offers Specialist Sports Places

How do I apply for a school outside Walsall?

If you live in Walsall you can also apply for places at schools outside the Walsall borough by naming your preferences for those schools in your on-line application. For information about admission criteria for schools outside Walsall you are advised to obtain a copy of the maintaining LA's information booklet or look at the Authority's website. Contact details for the West Midlands Authorities are given below.

Birmingham LA - Tel: 0121 303 1888 (choose Option 4)

School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service, PO Box 16513, Birmingham, B2 2FF
(www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Dudley LA - Tel: 01384 814223 (choose Option 2)

People Services Directorate School Admissions Service, Westox House, 1 Trinity Road, Dudley, DY1 1JQ
(www.dudley.gov.uk) Email: admissions.cs@dudley.gov.uk

Sandwell LA - Tel: 0121 569 6765

School Admissions, Sandwell Council House, PO BOX 16230, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3EX
(www.sandwell.gov.uk/schooladmissions) Email: annual_schooladmissions@sandwell.gov.uk

Staffordshire LA - Tel: 01785 278593 (choose Option 4)

School Admissions and Transport Service, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH
(www.staffordshire.gov.uk) Email: admissions@staffordshire.gov.uk

Wolverhampton LA - Tel: 01902 554176

School Admissions and Transfers Section, Wolverhampton City Council, Education and Enterprise, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1RR
(www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/schooladmissions) E Mail: school admissions@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Will I need to provide any additional information?

If you name any of the following schools in your application, you must also complete the school's own Registration Form, available to download from the Walsall Council website (www.walsall.gov.uk). If you are intending to name any of the following schools, please contact the school to request a Registration Form:

- **Aldridge School - An Academy**
- **Aldridge School - An Academy, Specialist Music Place (separate preference from Aldridge School)**
- **Queen Mary's High School (for Girls) complete the on-line registration form on the school website**
- **Queen Mary's Grammar School (for Boys) complete the on-line registration form on the school website**
- **Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy**
- **Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy – Specialist Sports Place (separate preference from Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy)**
- **Shire Oak Academy**
- **The Walsall Academy**

The school's own Registration Form must be returned direct to the secondary school concerned, by **31 October 2016**. (or in the case of Queen Mary's Grammar School and Queen Mary's High School by 1 July 2016). You **must** also name the school or Specialist Place on your on-line application.

Your application **WILL NOT** be considered unless **BOTH** are completed and returned on time. Other schools outside Walsall may also require you to complete a registration form or to provide additional information, so please remember to check with the relevant Local Authority.

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College, St Thomas More Catholic School, Aldridge School - An Academy or Shire Oak Academy

If you wish to express a preference for either or both of Walsall's Catholic Secondary Schools, Aldridge School - An Academy, or Shire Oak Academy, you will need to send any required supporting information, eg baptismal certificates and letters from a minister of religion, direct to the school, together with a completed **Supplementary Information Form** – available to download and print from the school admission pages of the Walsall Council website or the website of the school. Supplementary forms are also available on request from the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team or the school.

Walsall Church of England School

If you wish to express a preference for Blue Coat Church of England Academy, you will need to complete a **Supplementary Information Form** or a **Foundation Place Form** – available to download and print from the school admission pages of the Walsall Council website or the website of the school. Supplementary forms are also available on request from the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team or the school.

When should I apply?

See also important dates on page 5. The closing date for receipt of applications is **31 October 2016**. Applications received after this date, unless there are exceptional reasons, will be considered after those applications received on time and this may result in your child not being offered a place at to your preferred school.

Although the closing date for applications is 31 October 2016, we recommend that parents and carers submit their application by **21 October 2016**. This year deadline day falls immediately after Autumn half-term and parents may find that support is limited if they require assistance from their child's primary school to submit an application during the half-term period.

For information about schools in neighbouring local authorities, please contact the relevant local authority or other local authorities. Contact details can be found on page 6 to 7.

What happens if I do not submit my application by 31 October 2016?

On-line applications cannot be made after the closing date, and Late Preference Forms received after **31 October 2016**, without good reason, will only be processed after all other applications have been finalised. Such applicants are less likely to be offered their preferred schools. If you have good reason for returning your form after the closing date, please attach a letter to your form, explaining the reasons for the late return. Any letters received will be considered, but there is no guarantee that your application will be processed with those received before the deadline date.

Late Applications for Walsall secondary schools received up to 4 weeks after the Closing Date (between 1 November 2016 and 29 November 2016):

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 was unable to complete the online application form by the closing date because they moved into the Borough of Walsall after the closing date.
- The family was unable to comply with the admission timetable because of exceptional circumstances that prevented the submission of all on-time applications.
- When a lone parent has been ill for some time.

In these cases the circumstances must be given in writing and they will be subject to verification by the Director of Children's Services, Walsall Council.

What happens if I would like to change my school preference after I have submitted my application?

During the admission process, your school preferences may be changed, either in writing, by email, or on-line, up to the closing date of **31 October 2016**.

Preferences **cannot** be changed after the closing date without a significant change in circumstances. When notifying a significant change of circumstances the applicant must supply documentary evidence to confirm the changes. An example of this is a house move that necessitates a change of preference(s). This would need to be validated by documentary evidence such as a solicitor's letter confirming exchange of contracts or a copy of the tenancy agreement.

Won't my child automatically transfer to secondary school from his/her present school?

Children do not automatically transfer from primary to secondary school, other than at Bloxwich Academy see page 19 for further details. Every parent must complete an on-line application to ensure that their child is considered for a place at their preferred school. Where a parent does not make an application for any school, a place at the nearest Walsall school with places available will be offered. This may not be your local school and transport assistance may not necessarily be provided.

If my child has an older sibling already in attendance at my preferred school, do I still have to apply?

You must submit an application for your preferred school by the closing date regardless of whether or not your child has an older sibling at the school at the time of admission. Older siblings will include those attending the Sixth Form of the school named, or who are due to enter Sixth Form at the school at the proposed time of admission. Shire Oak former pupils are included - remember to include details on your on-line application.

When will I know the outcome of my application?

If you have made your application online, you can opt to receive the outcome of your application by email (please see page 4 for details).

If you reside in Walsall, Walsall Council will post your offer letter on Wednesday 1 **March 2017** (the National Offer day is 1 March or if that date is a non-working day, the next working day), making one offer of a school place. You should not receive more than one offer of a place within the co-ordinated scheme. **You will only be informed of this offer over the telephone if you have not received your offer letter by Friday 3 March 2017.**

In the case of offers to Walsall resident children for places in schools outside Walsall, Walsall Council will make offers on behalf of the relevant local authority.

How many places are available at each school?

Each school has a Published Admission Number which is the maximum number of pupils that the school can admit, taking into account the accommodation and resources available. The published admission number for each school is shown on the school information pages. You will also find information about how places were allocated in previous years on these pages.

What is the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme?

The scheme indicates the way in which Walsall Council will co-ordinate admission arrangements. The purpose of the scheme is to ensure that each pupil living in Walsall receives only one offer of a school place on the same date, whether that is at a school in Walsall or at one maintained by a neighbouring authority.

The neighbouring authorities co-ordinating in this scheme are: Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Staffordshire and Wolverhampton.

Details of how the scheme operates are given on pages 46 to 47.

What can I do if I am unhappy with the school offer made?

Along with your offer letter, you will receive information on how to proceed if you are not satisfied with the school place you have been allocated.

You can call the Parent Support Adviser by telephone on 01922 652578, who will be able to advise you which other schools have places and explain the options available to you.

If it is not possible to offer a place at your preferred Walsall school, parents have the opportunity to appeal against the decision to an Independent Appeals Panel. Information on how to make an appeal for the different types of Walsall schools will be sent to parents with the offer letter. Details about how to appeal are given in the school information pages later in this booklet.

Where appeal forms are received after the deadline date, this may result in the appeal not being heard in the summer term, therefore, if you are not happy with the offer of the place you have received, you are strongly advised to request and return the appeal form by the specified date.

What if my appeal is unsuccessful?

The decision of an Independent Appeal Panel is final and binding on all parties.

Repeat appeals cannot be considered in the same academic year unless there have been significant and material changes in the circumstances of the parent or the school.

In the event of your appeal being unsuccessful, you may wish to contact the Parent Support Adviser or the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team who will be able to advise you which schools have places available if you do not want to accept the school place that you have been offered.

How do I put my child's name on a waiting list if my application is unsuccessful?

If your child has not been offered a place at your most preferred school and a place has been offered at a lower preference school, your child's name will automatically be placed on the waiting list/s of the Walsall school/s you named as higher preferences on your original application.

Waiting Lists for all Walsall schools except for Omiston Sheffield Academy and Walsall Academy, will be maintained by the Local Authority until the last day of Summer Term 2017. Parents may enquire about their child's position on any waiting list by telephoning the School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team after 8 March 2017. From September 2017 waiting lists will be maintained by individual schools.

Parents may enquire about their child's position on the waiting lists for Omiston Sheffield Academy and Walsall Academy by contacting the schools

Parents wishing their child to be included on these lists should contact the School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team on 01922 652585. Waiting lists will be held for one term only, and new lists will be started at the beginning of each term.

Children who are the subject of a direction by a local authority to admit to a school or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol must take precedence over those children on the Waiting List.

Please see further information about the Waiting List Policy on page 49.

Who should I contact if I have any queries about the admissions process?

You can contact the Parent Support Adviser who can give impartial advice and support to parents and carers. Parents can arrange appointments with the Parent Support Adviser if more in-depth assistance is required. Please contact the Parent Support Adviser on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Contact details for the School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team are given on page 1 of this booklet.

Information on the Walsall Council website may answer your queries: www.walsall.gov.uk/education.

Changing schools during the school year

Moving your child to another secondary school is a very serious step to take. It can affect your child in many ways. It is important that you consider whether a transfer is really the best option. Before deciding to move your child to another school, please read this information carefully.

Moving to a new school may not mean that a problem is solved – it can happen again and could be worse because your child will not know new teachers and pupils and your child and her/his needs will not be known by school staff.

Many things that worry parents and pupils can be resolved without the need to move schools. Talking to your child and staff at your child's present school should make a transfer to another school unnecessary in almost all circumstances.

While all schools follow the National Curriculum, schools will teach different topics at different times of the year. If your child moves schools, he or she may miss work which will affect his or her ability to be entered for, or succeed in, examinations and national tests. This is especially important once pupils reach Years 10 and 11, when it is possible that their preferred options may not be available at a new school.

There may be some circumstances when a change of school is unavoidable, for example:

- where a child in public care has moved carers and direct travel to the existing school is not possible;
- where a child receives a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school;
- a house move into Walsall;
- a house move within Walsall where direct travel to the current school is not possible;
- where a court order makes it impossible for the child to continue attending his or her current school.

If none of the above circumstances apply, we strongly advise you to take the steps outlined below before seeking a change of school.

If your child is unhappy at school or you feel he or she is being bullied: speak to the child's class teacher, or make an appointment to see the headteacher.

If you have a complaint about the school, the teachers or the work your child is doing: if it cannot be resolved by the teaching staff or the headteacher, put your complaint in writing to the school's Governing Body.

If your child is not attending school: talk to your child about why he or she does not want to attend and speak to the teachers. You can also talk to an Education Welfare Officer

If your child has special educational needs: speak to the teacher in charge of special needs (SENCo) or contact the Special Educational Needs Team on telephone 01922 652871

General information:

If you decide to continue with your application to transfer your child to another school, do not remove your child from the current school until he/she has been offered a place at a new school.

Applications for midyear admission to a Walsall school should be made direct to the school. Application forms are available from individual schools and from Walsall Council (telephone 01922 652585).

The Midyear Admissions Preference Form must be returned to the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team, Walsall Council or to the school for which you are applying.

If you wish to apply for midyear admission to a school which is outside of Walsall please contact the Local authority for the area in which the school is located.

If you have any questions or require advice on the midyear admissions process you can contact the Parent Support Adviser on **01922 652578** or by email at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admissions and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995/SEN and Disability Act 2001

The principle behind the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 is that disabled people should not be discriminated against. The Act affects virtually everyone who provides goods, facilities and services, including access to education.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines a disabled person as someone with ‘a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’.

Since 2002 it has been unlawful to discriminate against children and young people who have a disability. This part of the law also applies to admissions to schools.

The Acts ensure that children and young people with disabilities cannot be treated less favourably than all other children and young people, other than in exceptional circumstances. It also sets out that schools and local authorities must take reasonable steps to ensure that children and young people with disabilities are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to other pupils in the school.

The Act identifies specific duties in relation to school admissions. The Act states that Local Authorities and schools must not discriminate against a disabled child:

- in the arrangements that they make for determining the admission of pupils to the school, this includes the schools’ admission criteria and the operation of those criteria;
- in the conditions on which they offer to admit a disabled pupil to a school;
- by refusing or deliberately omitting to accept an application for admission to the school from someone who is disabled

If you have any concerns about the admission arrangements you should contact the responsible body and try to resolve the issues. The responsible body for community schools is the Local Authority, for foundation and voluntary aided schools and academies it is the governing body.

Claims of unlawful discrimination in respect of a refusal to admit to a school are heard by admission appeals panels. A claim of unlawful discrimination is made and heard in the same way as for other admission appeals. Please see page 9 and the school information pages in this booklet for details of admission appeals.

You must let us know as soon as possible if you consider that your or your child’s disability under the terms of the Act could affect your application for a place at a particular school. The first page of this Booklet provides details of how to contact us. For example, for schools that require pupils to take an examination, assessment tasks or a musical audition, it may be appropriate for the school to make available test material in an adapted format, provide an amanuensis (scribe) or to allow additional time, depending on the needs of the child – please contact the school concerned.

The Disability Rights Commission help line can provide advice and information. The help line can be contacted as follows:

Telephone: 0808 800 0082

Text phone: 0808 800 0084

Website: www.drc-gb.org

What happens if your child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan?

The admission of a child with a statement of Special Educational Needs to a school is the responsibility of the Local Authority (LA) which maintains the child's statement or Education, Health and Care Plan, this is the Authority to which you pay your Council Tax.

The transfer to Year 7 for those children is dealt with under the SEN Code of Practice and a different process is involved.

Where a parent of a child with a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan expresses a preference for a school and the Local Authority (LA) is satisfied that the school is suitable for the child's needs, a place must be offered to the child. The LA and the school must comply with the parent's preference, unless:

- the school is unsuitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude or special educational needs, or
- the placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom the child would be educated, or
- the placement is an inefficient use of public resources.

All schools in Walsall are able to meet a wide range of special educational needs. However, there will be occasions when the Local Authority judges that a parental preference is not suitable for their child for one or more of the reasons above. For example, if the school that parents have expressed a preference for is a significant distance away from the home address and transport is provided by the Local Authority, the Local Authority could refuse as this would be an inefficient use of resources.

The Government has set a different timescale for the admission process for children with statements. This means that places will be given to children with a statement or Education, Health and Care Plan before places are allocated to other pupils. By 15 February 2017 the statement EHCP will be amended to name the secondary school that the child will attend in September 2017. The exceptions are the grammar schools where admission is by ability and is decided through the schools' own entrance examinations. The statement EHCP for any pupil obtaining a grammar school place will be amended after those places are allocated.

Parents or carers of children who live in Walsall should apply on-line on the Walsall Council website. They should make sure that they show on the application that their child has a statement of EHCP. The Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team will forward details of all relevant applications to the SEN Team, who will complete the process.

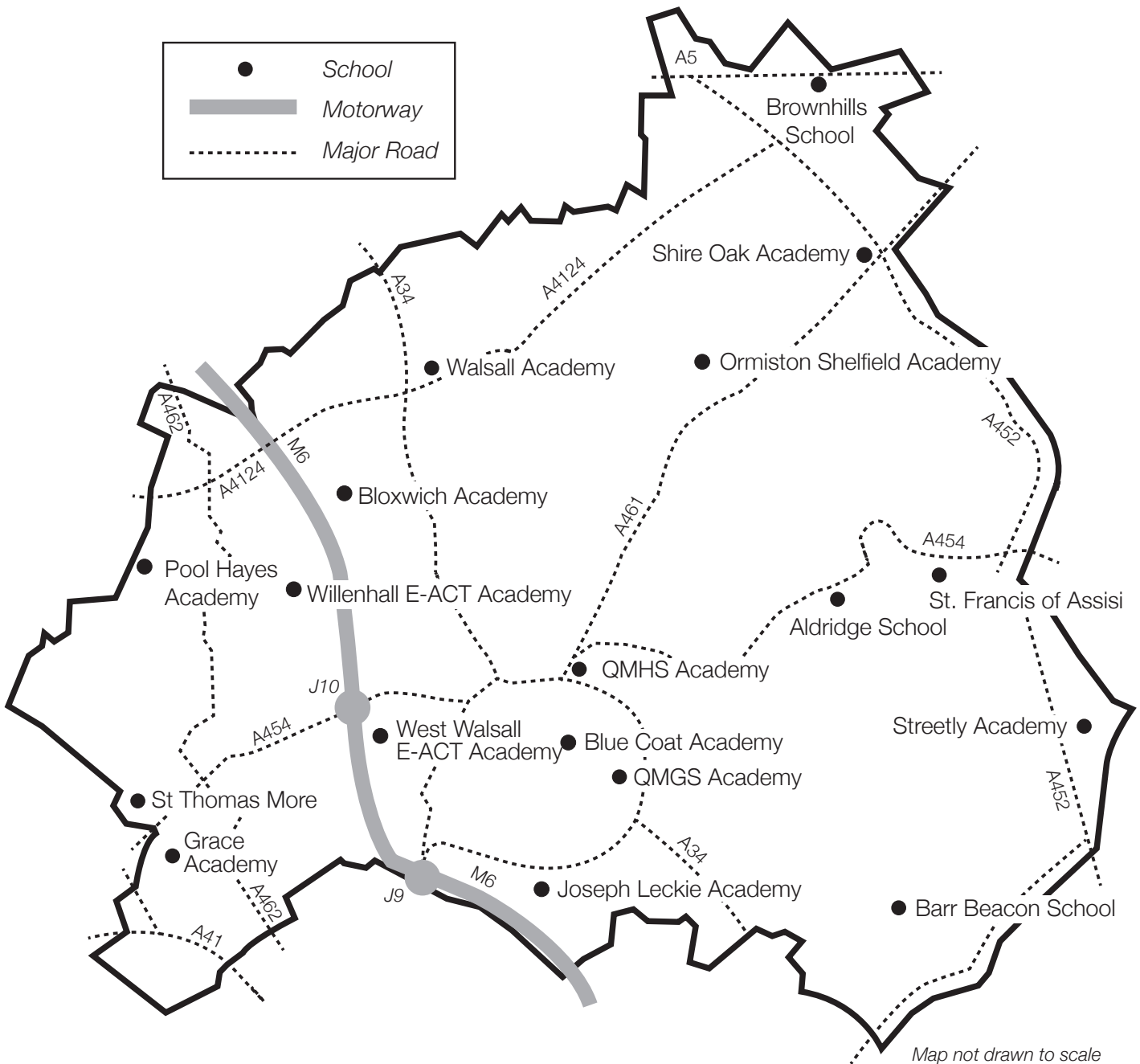
What are the chances of getting my child into the school I want?

It is not possible to give guidance that will guarantee a place at a particular school. However, if you take time to consider the following, it may increase the chances of one of your preferences being offered:

- Read the 'Information for Parents' booklet thoroughly.
- Only submit an on-line application to Walsall Council if you live in Walsall. If you live outside Walsall you must apply to the local authority where you live (your home local Authority).
- Do any of your preferred schools require another form to be sent in? For Walsall Schools check 'How to Apply' in the school information pages. For schools outside Walsall, check the information booklet or the website for the relevant local authority.
- Give the name and date of birth of any sibling who is already at a school you are applying for, and who will still be in attendance in September 2017, remembering Shire Oak accept former siblings as a connection.
- Check carefully the admission criteria for your preferred school. Does your child meet the criteria for the school(s) you prefer?
- Be realistic. Would your child have met the admission criteria last year, or the year before? If in doubt, please contact either the Parent Support Adviser or the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team for guidance.
- Make sure you include as a preference at least one school where your child meets the admission criteria. This is likely to be a nearby school where one of the main admission criteria is distance. Requesting a local school may give your child the option to walk there.
- Do not include as preferences too many schools where you live further away than the cut-off distance in the past two years as this could prevent any of your preferences being offered.
- When you are naming your preferred schools, do not put down the same preference more than once. If you do, we will treat this as one application unless you are applying for a specialist Sports or Music place (please see School Information pages).
- You can name up to five schools that you would like your child to go to and rank them in order of preference. The school you name first should be the one you would most like your child to go to.
- **You must submit your application (see page 4 for details) before 31 October 2016.**

Information about Walsall Secondary Schools

Map of Walsall Secondary Schools



Walsall Secondary Schools - Contact Detail

SCHOOL	ADMISSION NUMBER	TYPE OF SCHOOL	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Aldridge School – An Academy	259 (including up to 25 Music places)	Academy	01922 743988
Aldridge School – An Academy Specialist Music Places	25	Academy	01922 743988
Barr Beacon School	252	Academy	0121 366 6600
Bloxwich Academy	120	Academy	01922 710257
Blue Coat CE Academy	150	Academy	01922 720558
Brownhills School	125	Foundation	01543 452886
Grace Academy Darlaston	240	Academy	0121 568 3300
Joseph Leckie Academy	240	Academy	01922 721071
Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy	240 (including 24 Sports Places)	Academy	01922 685777
Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy - Sports Places	24	Academy	01922 685777
Pool Hayes Academy	213	Academy	01902 368147
Queen Mary's Grammar School (for boys)	150	Academy	01922 720696
Queen Mary's High School (for girls)	120	Academy	01922 721013
Shire Oak Academy	240 (including 2 specialist places)	Academy	01543 452518
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College	180	Voluntary Aided	01922 740300
St Thomas More Catholic School Business & Enterprise College	243	Voluntary Aided	01902 368798
Streetly Academy	243	Academy	0121 353 2709
Walsall Academy	208	Academy	01922 493910
West Walsall E-ACT Academy	180	Academy	01922 720741
Willenhall E-ACT Academy	270	Academy	01902 368221

s and Open Evening/s Information

EMAIL AND WEBSITE	OPEN EVENING/S AND DAYS
Email: info@aldrigedgeschool.org Web: www.aldrigedgeschool.org	Wednesday 21 September and Thursday 22 September 2016 from 7.00 to 9.00pm Music scholars information evening Wednesday 21 September at 6.15pm
Email: postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk Web: www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk	Open Evening: Thursday 22 September 2016 from 6.30 to 9.00pm Open Morning: Friday 23 September 2016 from 10.00 until 11.00am
Email: postbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk Web: www.bloxwichacademy.co.uk	Open Evening: Thursday 22 September 2016 at 6.00pm to 8:30pm Open Mornings: Friday 23 September 2016 10.00pm to 11:00pm
Email: postbox@bluecoatacademy.org Web: www.bluecoatacademy.org	Thursday 6 October 2016 from 5.00 to 8.00pm Open Days: Week commencing Monday 3 October 2016 from 9.15am -2.45pm
Email: postbox@brownhills.walsall.sch.uk Web: www.brownhills.walsall.sch.uk	Open Evening: Tuesday 20 September 2016 from 6.00 to 9.00pm Open Mornings: Thursday 22 September 2015 from 9.15 to 10.30am Tuesday 22 September 2016 and Tuesday 4 October 2016 from 9.15 to 10.30am
Email: darlaston@graceacademy.org.uk Web: www.graceacademy.org.uk	Thursday 29 September 2016 from 5.00 to 7.00pm
Email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk Web: www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk	Wednesday 28 September 2016. Contact school for details of times
Email: postbox@scacademy.co.uk Web: www.scacademy.co.uk	Open Evenings: Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 September 2016 from 6.00 to 8.00pm. Open week – week commencing Monday 26 September 2016, tours leave Visitor Reception at 9.30am each morning.
Email: postbox@poolhayesarts.com Web: www.poolhayesarts.com	Tuesday 27 September 2016 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Email: postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk Web: www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk	The Entrance Test is on 19 September 2016 See school website for details of events.
Email: qmarys@qmhs.org.uk Web: www.qmhs.org.uk	The Entrance Test will take place on 19 September 2016 registration closed on 1 July 2016. Open mornings will take place on Monday 10 October, Wednesday 12 October, Tuesday 18 October 2016 from 11.00am to 12.15pm.
Email: postbox@shireoakacademy.co.uk Web: www.shireoakacademy.co.uk	Open Days: Thursday 29 September and Friday 30 September 2016 (tours commence at 9.15am) Open Evening – Wednesday 28 September 2016 from 6.30 to 9:00pm
Email: postbox@stfrancis.cc Web: www.stfrancis.cc	Thursday 29 September 2016 from 7.00 to 9.00pm
Email: postbox@st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk Web: www.st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk	Thursday 22 September 2016. Contact school for details of times.
Email: postbox@thestreetlyacademy.co.uk Web: www.thestreetlyacademy.co.uk	Open Evening: Wednesday 21 September 2016 from 6.30pm Open Mornings: Friday 23 and Monday 26 September 2016 from 9.30 to 11.00am
Email: enquiries@walsallacademy.com Web: www.walsallacademy.com	Applicants will receive an invitation to the Academy upon receipt of a completed Registration Form.
Email: info@wwea.org.uk Web: www.wwea.org.uk	Contact school for details
Email: postbox@willenhalle-actacademy.org.uk Website: www.willenhalle-actacademy.org.uk	Contact school for details

Aldridge School – An Academy

Tynings Lane, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0BG (DfE No. 335 5405)

Headteacher: Mr D Mountney

Chair of Governors: Mr W Hodson

Admission Number: 259 (including up to 25 specialist music places)

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 1,473

How to apply for a place:

To apply for a place you must

Submit an application to your home local authority; Walsall residents must submit an online application to Walsall Council by the closing date of **31 October 2016**.

And

Complete the Aldridge School- An Academy supplementary information form:

Return of Forms

Aldridge School- An academy supplementary information form must arrive at Aldridge School by 3.30pm on **31 October 2016**. If you are returning this form via your child's primary school please allow sufficient time for it to be forwarded to Aldridge School- An Academy.

Walsall Residents must submit an online application to Walsall Council by **31 October 2016**. Where the child attends a primary school outside Walsall the online application must be submitted to Walsall Council.

Parents living outside Walsall must submit an application to their home Authority.

An application for a place at the school is separate from an application for a Specialist Music Place. If you apply for a Specialist Music Place and your child is not successful, your child will be considered for a place at the school only if you have expressed a separate preference for the school in your secondary application and the Aldridge School - An Academy supplementary information form.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children) and previously looked after children.
2. Pupils who have a sibling attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Relevant exceptional medical or social factors independently verified in writing by a doctor or other relevant professional which show that a place at the school is essential.
4. Where the child is attending one of the following named Community feeder primary schools: Cooper and Jordan CE Primary, Whetstone Field Primary, Leighswood Primary, St Michael's Church of England Primary School, Rushall Primary.
5. Priority is given to the children of members of staff who have been employed by Aldridge School - An Academy for at least 2 academic years.
6. Distance will be measured in a straight line, from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the school with priority given to those living closest.

A maximum of 25 of these places have been reserved as specialist music places. If you want to apply for a specialist music place, please express a separate preference, as Walsall Council and Aldridge School - An Academy treat preferences for Music Places and a place at the school as separate applications.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016:

A total of 726 preferences were expressed for places in 2016. Places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and for pupils assessed on distance, places were offered to pupils who lived up to 2.345 miles from the school.

A total of 731 preferences were expressed for places in 2015. Places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1, 2, 3, 4 and for pupils assessed on distance, places were offered to pupils who lived up to 2.923 miles from the school.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place:

Appeal forms and information can be obtained from the school website (www.aldrigedsschool.org) or by contacting the Headteachers PA..

Information provided by the school:

Aldridge School is proud of its history and proud of our community. We aim to develop the positive potential of every student in our care. We want all our students to do as well as they can, not just some or even most of them. We all work hard to teach, support and encourage them to do this. Those with special talents and abilities are stretched and achieve very highly and we celebrate this success.

We know that all students are individuals. We know that they will have many different interests, talents and ways of learning. We aim to provide for all in a way that maximises their potential. In this way we achieve our mission of 'Achieving excellence together'.

We want every young person to be proud of their school and their contribution to it. We seek for every student to achieve the highest possible level in examinations, but we know that preparing young people for life involves much, much more.

Apply on-line at www.walsall.gov.uk and follow the link to Education - Secondary School Admissions
For advice contact the Parent Support Advisor or telephone the Admissions and Pupil Planning Team on 01922 652585 or email: schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Aldridge School – An Academy- Specialist Music Places

Tynings Lane, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0BG (DfE No: 335 5405)

Headteacher: Mr D Mountney

Chair of Governors: Mr W Hodson

Admission Number: Up to 25 Specialist Music Places

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

How to apply for a place:

To apply for a place you must complete 2 forms:

1. Walsall Residents (where a child/children attends a Walsall Primary School) they should complete an online application by **31 October 2016**.
Parents living outside Walsall must submit an application to their home authority.
2. The Aldridge School - An Academy registration form (Music) available from the school or via the school website and the Walsall Council website. To be returned to Aldridge School- An Academy by the stated deadline.

An application for a music place at the school is separate from an application for an ordinary place. If you apply for a Specialist Music Place and your child is not successful, your child will be considered for a place at the school only if you have expressed a separate preference for the school in your LA application.

To be considered the application does require all 2 forms to be completed..

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team 01922 652585 or the Parent support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or e mail schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Parents who consider that their child has a disability under the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) should contact the Headteacher as soon as possible to discuss any special arrangements to allow their child to undertake the audition process for a specialist music place.

Admission criteria:

Applicants who wish to be considered for a Music place must attend a Saturday audition. Candidates will be informed of the date and time of their audition once the application form is returned.

1. Audition

- a) Performance of two contrasting pieces with accompaniment where applicable
- b) A short sight-reading test and
- c) Aural test – pitch, rhythm, melody and musicianship

2. Written theory paper (a copy of the past theory paper is available on request)

Marks will be allocated as follows:

Audition (performance) 60 marks (2 x 30)

Sight reading 10 marks

Aural 20 marks (4 x 5)

Written 10 marks

100 marks in total.

Allocation of places: A rank order will be formulated and places offered in accordance with the rank order to ensure that each category of instrument is represented in the intake. Where there are a number of candidates with the same mark then the performance mark will be used to distinguish between candidates.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Appeal forms and information can be obtained from the school website (www.aldrigehschool.org) or by contacting the Headteachers PA.

Barr Beacon School

Old Hall Lane, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0RF (DfE No: 335 5406)

Headteacher: Dame Maureen Brennan

Chair of Governors: Mr Jeremy Bench

Admission Number: 252

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 1518

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. If your child attends a primary school outside the borough of Walsall or an independent school in Walsall, please apply on-line. Parents living outside Walsall must submit an application to their home Local Authority and return it as stated.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children)
2. Where the child has an older sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school at the proposed admission date
3. Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child (relevant social or medical grounds that show that attendance at the school is essential and supported in writing by a medical practitioner or social worker. These would be subject to verification by the school's Admission Committee)
4. Staff Pupils
5. Pupils from the following feeder primary schools: Meadow View JMI, Park Hall Junior Academy, Pheasey Park Farm Primary. Living within 2.25 miles of Barr Beacon School as measured in a straight line.
6. Proximity of a child's home to Barr Beacon School, with those living nearest being accorded the higher priority, the distance being measured in a straight line. The home address of the child is considered to be the permanent residence of a child in a residential property when the place is offered. The address must be the child's only or main residence and be either owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian or be leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement of not less than six months.

Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016:

A total of 1048 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. Places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and offers assessed on distance from the home address to the school were made to children living up to 1.312 miles from the school.

A total of 929 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. Places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and offers assessed on distance from the home address to the school were made to children living up to 1.756 miles from the school.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Parents whose children are refused admission to the school have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel. The necessary forms and information should be obtained from the Clerk to the Governing Body, Barr Beacon School, Old Hall Lane, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0RF. Please mark the envelope **ADMISSION – APPEAL**.

Appeals in respect of Year 7 intake for September 2017 should be lodged by 10 April 2017.

Please contact school to confirm the date by which appeals must be returned by.

Information provided by the school:

At Barr Beacon School we expect:

- Outstanding behaviour
- Excellent Attendance
- High standards of uniform
- Respect for each other
- Traditional values
- High aspirations

Please only express a preference for Barr Beacon if you support our traditional values and high expectations for your child.

Bloxwich Academy

Leamore Lane, Leamore, Walsall, WS2 7NR (DfE No: 335 4001)

Executive Head Teacher Dame Maureen Brennan

Chair of Governors: Mr Keith Hoey

Admission Number: 120

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 581

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must complete an on-line application no later than **31 October 2016**. If your child attends a primary school outside the borough of Walsall or an independent school in Walsall, please apply on-line. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority.

Please note that the current year 6 pupils attending Bloxwich Academy will transfer straight into year 7, and therefore the number of available places for external applicants will be reduced.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children)
2. Pupils who have an older sibling already in attendance at the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school at the proposed time of admission.
3. Pupils for whom a place at the school is essential on medical grounds as supported in writing by a medical practitioner (applications will be subject to verification by the Admissions Committee).
4. Children of Staff employed at The Academy. Where a member of staff(**) has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
** All full time teaching staff, All full time support staff - (defined as those on a 37 hour week and above contract) The definition does not include contract staff. If service has been 'in house' and is subsequently 'contracted out' children of staff will no longer be eligible for priority admission under this criterion.
5. Distance between the home address and the school as measured in a straight line, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016: A total of 136 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. After applying the published admission criteria, 118 places were offered.

A total of 206 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. After applying the published admission criteria, 152 places were offered.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the Chair of Governors at the academy address. Please mark the envelope **ADMISSION APPEAL**.

Blue Coat Church of England Academy

Birmingham Street, Walsall, WS1 2ND (DfE No: 335 4004)

Headteacher: Mr D Smith

Chair of Governors: Mr David Tonks

Admission Number: 150

Type: Academy Trust

Denominational Affiliation: Church of England

Total N° of Pupils (Jan 2016): 747

How to apply for a place:

There are two parts to this application.

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. If your child attends a primary school outside the borough of Walsall or an independent school in Walsall, please apply on-line. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority.

Parents applying for a place on Christian faith grounds must complete the Supplementary Information Form (which can be

obtained from The Academy Admissions Officer, Blue Coat CE Academy, Birmingham Street, Walsall, WS1 2ND, Tel: 01922 720588, Email postbox@bluecoatacademy.org or from the Local Authority) and return this form **direct to the Academy Admissions Officer at Blue Coat CE Academy**, signed by an appropriate faith leader.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Admission criteria:

150 places are offered by the Governors for entry into each academic year. Out of the 150 places, the Governing Body intends to allocate up to **50 "Foundation Places"** (for practising Christians) and at least **100 "Open Places"** for the whole community.

Children with a Statement of Educational Needs that names the Blue Coat CE Academy will have absolute priority in admission for both Foundation and Open Places in Year 7 and for admissions to Year 12.

Parents/guardians must submit a **separate application for each child**, including for multiple-birth applications. When considering twins, triplets or larger number of siblings, which are the product of a multiple birth, where there are insufficient spaces for all siblings, the Academy will exceed its admission number so that same family twins, triplets etc do not have to attend separate schools.

If there are more than 50 applicants for Foundation places, the places will be allocated according to the following criteria. These are stated in order of priority:

- (i) Looked after children (including previously looked after children) whose families are faithful and regular worshippers;
- (ii) Children with known medical, social or pastoral needs who have an exceptional need for a place at Blue Coat CE Academy Walsall, and whose families are faithful and regular worshippers;
- (iii) Children whose families are faithful and regular worshippers in a Church of England Parish Church or other Anglican place of worship and who have attended one of the designated 'partner' Church of England primary schools, as set out in Appendix A;
- (iv) Children whose families are faithful and regular worshippers in (a) a Church of England Parish Church or other Anglican place of worship; **or** in (b) another accredited Christian Church (e.g. Baptist; Methodist; Roman Catholic; Orthodox; United Reformed Church, Salvation Army; or in another Christian Church affiliated to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and/or the Evangelical Alliance).
- (v) Children who will have a sibling in the Academy at the time of application and at the time of admission, and whose families are faithful and regular worshippers;

In the event that two or more applicants have equal right to a place under criteria (ii) – (v) above, the Governing Body will apply the subsequent criteria, in order of priority, to the applicants.

If there are more than 100 applicants for Open places, places will be allocated according to the following criteria. These are stated in order of priority:

- (i) Looked after children (including previously looked after children);
- (ii) Children with known medical, social or pastoral needs who have an exceptional need for a place at Blue Coat CE Academy;
- (iii) Children who have a sibling in the Academy at the time of application and at the time of admission;
- (iv) Children who have attended one of the following designated 'partner' primary schools:
 - Birchills CE Primary Community
 - Blue Coat CE (A) Junior School
- (v) All other children

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016:

There were 276 preferences expressed for places in September 2015 and after applying the admission criteria, places were offered to 150 pupils

There were 276 preferences expressed for places in September 2015. After applying the admission criteria, places were offered to 114 pupils.

For further details about the school please contact Mrs Shelia Perry, Administration Manager, at st-perry-s@bluecoatacademy.org

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the Clerk to the Governors at the school address.

Appendix A

Designated 'partner' Church of England Primary Schools relevant for 'Foundation' Places

- All Saints National Academy
- Birchills CE (C) Academy Community
- Blue Coat CE (A) Junior School
- Christ Church CE (C) Primary School, Leamore
- Cooper and Jordan CE (A) Primary School
- Holy Trinity CE (C) Primary School- Clayhanger
- Little Bloxwich CE (C) Primary School
- Old Church CE (C) Primary School, Darlaston
- St Giles CE (C) Primary School
- St John's CE (C) Primary School
- St Michael's CE (C) Primary School

Brownhills School

Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, Walsall, WS8 7QG (DfE No: 335 4057)

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Keenan

Chair of Governors: Mr Keith Parr

Admission Number: 125

Type: Foundation

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 663

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. If your child attends a primary school outside the borough of Walsall or an independent school in Walsall, please apply on-line. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children)
2. Pupils who have an older sibling already in attendance at the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school at the proposed time of admission.
3. Pupils for whom a place at the school is essential on medical or social grounds as supported in writing by a medical practitioner or a social worker.
4. Distance between the home address and the school as measured in a straight line, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016: A total of 368 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to 125 pupils, with the furthest distance being 4.83 miles.

A total of 313 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to 125 pupils. Furthest distance 5.308 miles.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to Karen Shaw, Headteacher's Secretary, at the school address to request an Appeal Form.

Information provided by the school:

Brownhills School is a small, traditional and ambitious school. We offer a disciplined and positive approach that allows children to thrive in a safe, happy and academic environment. We set high expectations for all pupils in terms of behaviour, attendance, uniform and achievement. We demand and expect respect for staff and fellow students and these core values are at the heart of everything we do.

It is essential that parents who choose the school support these expectations and values in order to help their child be successful in school. Good attendance, punctuality, behaviour and hard work are non-negotiable expectations and we insist that parents support the school in ensuring we achieve this with every child. We also expect parents to play an active part in their child's education. Our care and guidance for pupils is excellent with strong transition links to primary schools ensuring that year 6 pupils make a confident and enjoyable start to their secondary education.

Ofsted (June 2013) praised the school for its **OUTSTANDING** Leadership and Management which is driving continued rapid improvement and achievement for all pupils. They commented on our positive community where students behave well and feel safe and the very positive relationships between teachers and students. The report states that students are polite and friendly to each other and visitors. Students' attitudes to learning are good and they are very proud of the changes that have taken place over recent years that, they say have led to it becoming even better. Teaching was recognised as good with outstanding practice in a range of subjects. Parents and carers have confidence in the school and its work. They recognised that the Headteacher, supported by a highly effective senior team,

has worked successfully to ensure that leadership at all levels is rigorous and focused on continued improvement.

The school is recognised as a centre of excellence for music and the performing arts with the school choir VIP (Voices in Partnership) winning national competitions and having the largest school choir in the West Midlands. Musical productions take place each year with several students going on to professional careers in the performing arts and music. As a Sports College, teams are organised in all sports and competitions and we have a Leadership Academy to promote leadership skills in sport. The school currently runs a Football Development Center in conjunction with The Albion Foundation (West Bromwich Albion FC).

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum which includes; additional courses for gifted and talented students and individual support and specialised tuition for students with special educational needs. There is an extensive extra-curricular programme with activities to suit all abilities and interests, particularly in music, drama and sport. We have an annual ski week in Switzerland, a trip to France and a range of educational visits to local and national places of interest.

Our geographical position makes Brownhills School accessible for Walsall and Staffordshire children and due to the low birth rate locally, we are able to recruit students from a wider area. Subsidised bus routes are available to support parents who wish to seek the best secondary school place for their child, regardless of the distance to be travelled. The school is now oversubscribed as a result of its good reputation and high standards.

Apply on-line at www.walsall.gov.uk and follow the link to Education - Secondary School Admissions

For advice contact the Parent Support Advisor or telephone the Admissions and Pupil Planning Team on 01922 652585 or email: schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Open Evening for 2016/2017 is Tuesday 20 September at 6pm and Open mornings are Thursday 22, Tuesday 27 September and Tuesday 4 October 9.15-10.30am

Visits are welcome at other times by prior arrangement. Please contact Karen Shaw on 01543 452886 ext 204.

Grace Academy Darlaston

Herberts Park Road, Darlaston, West Midlands, WS10 8QJ (DfE No: 335 6907)

Principal: Mr Carl Salt

Chair of Governors: Lord Edmiston

Admission Number: 240

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 669

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children)
2. Pupils who have a sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school at the proposed time of admission.
3. Pupils for whom a place at the school is essential on medical or social grounds and supported in writing by a medical practitioner or a social worker.
4. Distance between the home address and the school as measured in a straight line, with priority given to those living closest.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016: A total of 181 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to 152 pupils.

A total of 130 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to 128 pupils.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to Chair of Governors, Admissions Appeals, Grace Academy Darlaston, Herbert's Park Road, Darlaston, West Midlands, WS10 8QJ

Information provided by the school:

Grace Academy Darlaston is an exciting place to learn; a lively and happy learning community with high expectations, where talents are nurtured. The pursuit of excellence and the raising of standards is our mission, with a real emphasis on creativity and innovation at the forefront of educational thinking and achievement.

Grace Academy a unique blend of traditional values and modern approaches Grace Academy has a distinctive ethos based on Christian principles and values such as honesty, tolerance, responsibility and respect. The Academy is a specialist Business and Enterprise college, with a focus on links with local business, commerce and universities. Enterprise is a strong theme throughout the Academy developing confidence in our students and preparing them for the world of work and lifelong learning.

Grace Academy high quality teaching and learning relevant to the world of work Grace Academy has a broad curriculum where students of all abilities are guided via Individual Learning Plans through appropriate pathways to provide the very best curriculum opportunities for all. With an emphasis on Core Skills the needs of the individual learners are met. At Grace Academy Years 9-11 study academic, vocational and industry standard qualifications and the Sixth Form will stretch, develop and challenge our students and prepare them for employment, training or further study.

Grace Academy superb accommodation and facilities

Our state of the art building boasts superb educational ICT systems and equipment, fantastic sports facilities, Learn Centre and community hub.

Grace Academy in partnership with parents The Academy provides educational trips, clubs, sports and leisure facilities for students and operates as an extended school. Grace Academy serves the needs of the local community and a partnership with parents creates a 'new deal' for students with clear communication and direct parental involvement in the support of learning.

Grace Academy where individuals are important

Grace Academy takes an individualised approach to care and guidance through a personal tutor in our vertical tutor groups who understands and cares for each student's academic, personal and social progress. Students entering Year 7 who are transferring to Grace Academy from their primary school will have the support of an extensive induction programme.

For further information or a prospectus please contact Grace Academy or visit our website at www.graceacademy.org.uk

Grace Academy – A great place to learn, to work and to achieve

Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, WS5 4PG (DfE No: 335 4007)

Headteacher: Mr Keith Whittlestone

Chair of Governors: Vacancy

Admission Number: 240

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 1,104

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children)
2. Pupils who have an older sibling already in attendance at the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school at the proposed time of admission.
3. Pupils for whom a place at the school is essential on medical or social grounds as supported in writing by a medical practitioner or a social worker.
4. Distance between the home address and the school as measured in a straight line, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016: A total of 317 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to 207 pupils.

A total of 285 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to 184 pupils.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Parents will need to contact the Academy for details on how to appeal.

Information provided by the school:

Curriculum: Joseph Leckie Academy was placed in the top 10% of schools in the country for value added in 2011 according to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. The Academy was inspected by Ofsted in April 2013 and was judged to be Good in all 5 areas of the inspection framework.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum comprises all subjects of the National Curriculum plus Religious Education and lasts for two years. All students begin work towards their GCSE examinations in Year 9. There are distinct pathways which enable all students to make maximum progress according to their abilities. The more academic students are able to achieve the English Baccalaureate qualification whilst vocational alternatives are also available for whom this pathway is more suitable. There is additional provision for students to follow a more personalised curriculum. All courses have progression routes to Post 16 opportunities which include a wide range of traditional A Levels alongside vocational courses at Levels 1 – 3 inclusive.

A caring and supportive Academy: Our pastoral system is organised into vertical tutor groups which means that older students offer peer mentoring and support to younger students. Siblings are usually in the same tutor group, which enables parents to have a consistent point of contact. We take great care in making sure that all of our students get the most out of the many opportunities we offer. Heads of House, along with form tutors, support students' learning.

Excellent facilities: There are state of the art English and maths facilities as well as a new drama studio. In addition we have a large number of networked computer rooms, a video conferencing suite, new humanities rooms, refurbished science laboratories and a well stocked library. Our sports facilities include a sports hall, gymnasium, weights area, swimming pool and grass pitches.

Specialism: Joseph Leckie Academy was awarded technology status in 1999 by the Specialist Schools' Trust. Our curriculum has a technology bias which means all students must take a technology based subject as part of their Key Stage 4 choices.

Community /Extended Services: An extensive programme of educational, vocational, recreational, social, sports and leisure opportunities are available during the day, evenings, weekends and holiday periods. Joseph Leckie Academy is an Extended School with many agencies collaborating in the delivery of the curriculum as well as supporting the students, their families, the community and staff in a variety of ways. We have a breakfast club which meets every day before the day before the academic work begins as well as homework clubs, revision and booster classes.

In 2009 Joseph Leckie was judged to be the best Extended School in the country.

Pool Hayes Academy

Castle Drive, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV12 4QZ (DfE No: 335 4106)

Headteacher: Mr L Baker

Chair of Governors: Mrs J Thompson

Admission Number: 213

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 927 + 6th Form

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children).
2. Pupils who have an older sibling already in attendance at the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school at the proposed time of admission.
3. Pupils for whom a place at the school is essential on medical or social grounds as supported in writing by a medical practitioner or a social worker (applications will be subject to verification by the Admissions Committee).
4. Distance between the home address and the school as measured in a straight line, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Please note that up to two of the 213 places may be offered to pupils who experience communication difficulties. These places will be allocated by Walsall Council.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016: A total of 357 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. After applying the published admission criteria, 211 places were offered.

A total of 388 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. After applying the published admission criteria, 204 places were offered.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the Clerk to the Governors, Pool Hayes Academy, at the school address to request an Appeal Form.

Information provided by the school:

When looking to choose a secondary school for your child there are a number of key factors that every parent looks for as they make their choice.

Will my child be pushed to achieve their best? Will my child be supported and cared for? Will my child work in a firm but fair disciplined environment? Will my child benefit from opportunities to thrive and explore outside the classroom?

The answer to these questions is simple at Pool Hayes: it is 'Yes', 'Yes', 'Yes', and 'Yes'.

Converting to an Academy in April 2016 has helped the school maintain its momentum towards outstanding. Summer 2015 saw the schools results improve by 10% in the headline A*-C including English and MATHs and the schools 6th Form results were Outstanding..

Nonetheless, the past results only paint part of the picture and for any prospective Year 7 parent it is the future that matters more than the past. Thankfully, the future is an area where our school genuinely shines.

Certainly, the site is enjoying significant renovation and new facilities are playing a major role in making our provision outstanding and making our school stand out in the local community.

The school is already making waves through our superb provision and focus on helping student achieve their best possible grades. Our weekly Saturday School (10.00am-1.00pm) regular has 80+ students voluntarily attending as they work in a more informal way to maximise coursework and receive tuition in specific subjects. This extended hours provision is echoed through a multitude of sport, dance, drama and music clubs, as well as academic provision including homework club and subject clubs. Equally, we run extensive field trips, with destinations ranging from Birmingham to London, and from Iceland to New York.

The extended Sixth Form area has large study facilities and a superb communal area to make sure that our students combine the maturity of a university and the nurture and support of a school. Meanwhile, the new KS4 Learning Hub has a dedicated team to support every ability of student in fulfilling their potential - whether it be 'straight A scientists' having a career talk with a local vet, or a group of students having withdrawal support to help with a tricky assignment.

Elsewhere, the recently renovated sports area has a state of the art dance studio, multi gym and boxing studio, all alongside the current sports hall, gymnasium and swimming pool. The new pastoral area has a customer-service style support desk to help students, as well as a suite of mentoring rooms to offer 1-to-1 guidance for all those in need of support.

Even so, the school is not all about 'new-this-and-that'. The basic provision that every parent wants is well set up and is making sure that standards are getting higher all of the time.

Our Positive Discipline system sets out clear rewards and guarantees daily feedback on your child's achievements and behaviour, as well as offering rewards and incentives through reward trips and presentations. Meanwhile, our excellent 'Class Support' package ensures that every child has personalised support in every lesson - meaning that your child will be taught as an individual even though they are in a class.

We are also moving towards a House system which will see students of all ages working together and mixing across the year groups - though rest assured there is still a comprehensive induction and support plan in place to make sure our new Year 7s settle in well and set the foundations for a successful 7 years at the school.

The key message for parents thinking of Pool Hayes comes from our Headteacher: "I want a school that is exceptional enough for my own children. If it is not good enough for them, then it isn't good enough for anyone else's. Pool Hayes is already a school I am extremely proud of and one that will make every parent of every student proud of their achievements as well".

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy

Broad Way, Pelsall, Walsall WS4 1BW (DfE No: 335 6906)

Principal: Mr S Turnbull

Chair of Board of Governors: Mr T Lee

Admission Number: 240 (including up to 24 Specialist Sports Places)

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (May 2016): 1,308

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**.

AND

Complete the Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy [Registration Form](#) – available direct from the Academy – and return it either direct to the Academy or on-line by **31 October 2016**

Following Registration, your child will be invited to take the NFER non-verbal reasoning test on **Saturday 19 November 2016**.

Your application will not be considered unless **BOTH** forms are returned by **31 October 2016**.

If your child attends a primary school outside the borough of Walsall or an independent school in Walsall, please apply on-line **AND** return the Sheffield Academy Registration form direct to the Academy. Parents living outside Walsall must obtain a form from their home LA and return it as stated.

Up to 10% of places in Year 7 are available for students on the basis of sports ability. **An application for a school place is separate from an application for a Specialist Sport Place and must be expressed as a separate preference on-line or on the Preference Form.**

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number in each band (see below), places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs – where the Academy is named on the child's statement
2. Children in Public Care (Looked After Children)
3. Children of current members of staff and Board of Directors of Ormiston Sheffield Academy
4. Children who have an older sibling residing at the same address who is already in attendance in Year 7 – 10 at the Academy when the application is made and who will be still attending the Academy at the proposed time of admission
5. Thereafter, on the basis of distance between the centre point of the Academy postcode to the centre point of the applicant's postcode using a PC software application, with those living closer to the Academy receiving the higher priority.

If places are not filled in some bands and no applicants in those bands remain without a place, the band will be evenly filled by children falling into the next nearest bands (i.e. the bands on either side, or below or above. If the first child is from the band above, then the next will be from the one below).

Banding Places:

ABILITY BAND (NFER non-verbal reasoning test)	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Number of places allocated using Oversubscription criteria	48	48	48	48	48	240

How places were offered in September 2014 and 2015: A total of 495 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. Places were offered to pupils in accordance with the Academy's admission criteria.

A total of 570 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. Places were offered to pupils in accordance with the Academy's admission criteria.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to The Clerk to the Admission Appeals Panel, c/o Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy to request an Appeal Form

Information provided by the school:

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy

Our academy values are: Aspiration; Positivity; Responsibility; Achievement. These values permeate throughout academy life and are key to our culture of success. Students have high aspirations, adopt a positive attitude, behave responsibly and celebrate outstanding achievements." There is a positive and supportive climate for learning across the academy" Ofsted 2015

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy can offer:

A Curriculum which Engages and Inspires

Our personalised traditional curriculum ensures that students are stretched, challenged and engaged. The academy's Curriculum Enrichment and Cultural Entitlement programme ensures that students develop crucial personal, social, health and economic skills, as well as ensuring access to a wide range of educational visits and broader learning experiences outside of the classroom to develop a genuine passion for learning.

Excellent Pastoral Care

The high quality of our pastoral care has been recognised by Ofsted. A caring and supportive atmosphere is provided through our well established pastoral systems and our dedicated Children's Services academy team. A range of effective support systems are in place to ensure that students are safe, happy and successful within the academy.

High Aspirations and High Expectations

As our academy values suggest, there is an emphasis here at Sheffield on high aspirations and an expectation that students are responsible and positive. We have high expectations in terms of standards of uniform, attendance behaviour and learning and parents are supportive in enabling us to uphold these high standards." Students are well behaved, punctual and attentive in lessons. They show courtesy and respect for other students and staff" Ofsted 2015

Specialist Status

Our specialist status in Sports enable us to give students access to a huge range of enrichment activities. Students are trained as sports leaders, experience successes in a range of sporting teams and at KS5 have the opportunity to take coaching qualifications. "Students have very good opportunities to achieve well in sports " Ofsted 2015.

A Sense of Community

Parents, students and staff work in partnership to ensure that students experience enjoyment and achievement at the academy. We work closely with primary schools ensuring students have a smooth academic transition a range of partnership projects take place. Parents' evenings give parents the opportunity to discuss academic and pastoral progress and half termly progress reports are also shared. Our parent voice group meets termly and a range of community events take place here. We are particularly proud of the support students have offered to local community charities.

Outstanding Facilities and Outstanding access to Future Technologies

A major rebuild here at Sheffield means that students are educated in a stunning environment with world class facilities and resources. Students have access to technology which is second to none.

Purpose Built Sixth Form:

We also have a flourishing sixth form. Large numbers of students now opt to continue their studies into Sixth Form and are successful in gaining university places or pursuing employment or further training. In 2015 the Academy achieved its best ever sixth form results and has been recognised by Ofsted as ' good'.

Students at our academy are safe, supported and successful. You can be confident that your son or daughter will be too.

Rated Good by Ofsted in May 2015 for all areas Leadership; Learning and Teaching Behaviour and Safety; Achievement; Sixth Form.

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy – Specialist Sports Places

Broad Way, Pelsall, Walsall WS4 1BW (DfE No: 335 6906)

Principal: Mr S Turnbull

Chair of Board of Governors: Mr T Lee

Admission Number: Up to 24 Specialist Sports Places

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Up to 10% of the places in Year 7 are available for students on the basis of aptitude for sports.

How to apply for a place:

To apply for a place you **must** complete **three** forms:

- 1) Apply on-line or complete your home Authority's Preference Form and return by the date stated. For Walsall resident parents apply on-line and return it by **31 October 2016**

AND

- 2) Complete the Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy's Registration Form - available direct from the Academy – and return it either direct to the Academy or on-line by **31 October 2016**.

AND

- 3) Complete the Aptitude for Sport Admission – available direct from the Academy – and return it to Sheffield Academy by **31 October 2016**

Your application will not be considered unless all **THREE** forms are returned by the dates stated.

An application for a Specialist Sports Place at Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy **must** be expressed as an additional preference on-line. If your child is not successful in the application for a Specialist Sports Place, he or she will **not** be considered for a place in the school unless you have also named the school in your application.

It is recommended that you name the Specialist Sports Place higher on your application than the school place, as all preferences are considered in order of preference.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

Prospective students will be invited to attend a practical testing session at the Academy during the autumn term, **date to be confirmed**. (In addition, prospective students must take the NFER non-verbal reasoning test on **Saturday 19 November 2016**).

A series of tests and assessments will be used which will include holistic observation, activity specific measurement and ability specific strategies. This will enable the Academy to identify talented students. The process will include assessments of:

- a. Balance
- b. Co-ordination
- c. Dynamic skills
- d. Aerobic capacity
- e. Speed

A copy of the full requirements will be lodged with the Local Authority.

Administration of the tasks will take place in a session of approximately 90 minutes duration.

Students will be placed in rank order as a result of their performances in each of the assessments. In the unlikely event that two pupils achieve identical scores for the last available place, the pupil with the best dynamic skills scores will be allocated the place.

Children with disabilities who display an aptitude for sport will follow a separate programme of assessment owing to the wide range of disabilities that exist. The British Federation of Disability Sport in partnership with individual disabled sports associations will carry out an assessment on a needs basis of any disabled child wishing to pursue admission by aptitude.

A parents' information session will be held during the Academy Open Evenings in September which will outline the programme more fully including what to expect at the testing session.

Queen Mary's Grammar School (for Boys)

Sutton Road, Walsall, WS1 2PG (DfE No: 335 5404)

Headteacher: Mr T J Swain, M.A.

Chair of Governors: Mr P J Sturrock

Admission Number: 150

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 858

How to apply for a place:

Parents who wish to apply to Queen Mary's Grammar School will need to apply on-line to both the Local Authority and also to the school to register for the entrance tests at the school. Registering for the entrance test is not a legal requirement, but if parents do not complete the school forms, the school will not be able to make appropriate arrangements for their son to take the entrance tests.

1, **Application to the Local Authority**

Complete your on-line application or your home Authority's Preference Form and return by the date stated, including Queen Mary's Grammar School as one of your preferences

2, **Application to the school**

Complete the Queen Mary's Grammar School online Application by **4pm on Friday 1 July 2016**. Please call the school if you have not done this.

Your application will not be considered unless **both** sets of forms are returned by the due dates. For Walsall parents, apply on-line

by **31 October 2016**.

The Entrance Test for the School takes place in September 2016 so you will know the results before the closing date for the return of your Local Authority's on-line Form. You will receive a letter from Queen Mary's Grammar School giving you information that will allow you to make a judgment about the likelihood of your son being offered a place. This information will assist your decision when completing your local authority on-line application. If your son has not taken the Entrance Test please contact the school.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Parents who consider that their son has a disability under the terms of the Equality Act (2010) which would disadvantage him during the application of the school's admission procedures should indicate this on the test registration form and provide evidence to support the request for special arrangements to be made when asked to do so.

Admission criteria:

Places are awarded by the Governors based upon the performance of children in the school's Entrance Test.

The Entrance Test for entry to the school in September 2017 takes place on 19 September 2016

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016: By reference to the child's performance in the selective examination.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the Clerk to the Governors: Mr C Underwood, Whitehouse Ridsdale, 26 Birmingham Road, Walsall WS1 2LZ

Information provided by the school:

Queen Mary's Grammar School was founded in 1554 by Mary Tudor. We have been shaped by our past and are proud of our traditions, but we are also confident of an exciting future as we help to shape the new educational landscape.

Queen Mary's is an academically selective school. It is our aim to support pupils to achieve their full academic potential. We value the life of the mind and want to pass on a love of learning.

Outside the classroom, we offer a range of life-enriching opportunities: time at our Field Centre in Wales; membership of our thriving Combined Cadet Force; individual and team sports; foreign exchanges and travel; participation in music, drama and many other activities. We believe that achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand.

We equip our pupils to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Most choose to go on to Higher Education. Through partnership between School, pupil and parents, we aim for the examination success that will open doors to the very best HE institutions and international employers. We were rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted and it is our mission to attain excellence in all that we do.

Our House system celebrates the four pillars of school life at Queen Mary's: an academic focus, an international ethos, an enterprising spirit and a generous approach to life. We enjoy our social, cultural and ethnic diversity and recognise our many privileges. We are keen to *share* what we have – experience, enthusiasm – both with those who live on our doorstep and those from further afield.

To do so is very much in the spirit of our motto ***quas dederis solas semper habebis opes***: it is what you *give* that you will keep as eternal riches.

Queen Mary's High School (for Girls)

Upper Forster Street, Walsall, WS4 2AE (DfE No: 335 5403)

Headteacher: Dr A Bruton

Chair of Governors: Miss Rebecca Hearsey

Admission Number: 120

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 720

How to apply for a place:

The Entrance Test take place on **Monday 19 September 2016**. Registration closed on 1 July 2016 so **any further applications will be considered as 'late'**. Please see the admissions policy on our website www.qmhs.org.uk for further details.

Parents who wish to apply to Queen Mary's High School need to register on-line via the link on the school's web site. They must also complete their home Local Authority's online application and return it by **31 October 2016**, including Queen Mary's High School as one of the preferences.

Before the closing date for the return of your Local Authority's online application parents will receive a letter from Queen Mary's High School indicating their daughter's performance in the test.

This information will assist in decision making when completing the application.

Parents who consider that their daughter has a disability under the terms of the Equality Act (2010) which would disadvantage her during the application of the school's admission procedures, should indicate this when registering for the test and provide evidence to support the request for special arrangements as required.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

Places are awarded by the Governors based upon the performance of children in an examination set by the school.

An examination for entry to the school in September 2017 takes place on **Monday 19 September 2016**.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016: By reference to the child's performance in the selective test. No other information is taken into account.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the Clerk to the Governors: Mr C Underwood, Whitehouse Ridsdale, 26 Birmingham Road, Walsall WS1 2LZ

Information provided by the school:

Please see our web site www.qmhs.org.uk for further information about the school.

We envisage Queen Mary's High School as an outstanding girls' grammar school with a reputation for the highest academic standards, as a school where the individual needs the highly able students are met and the development of the 'whole person' together with the enjoyment of learning lie at the heart of its ethos and culture. We also see Queen Mary's high School as having a commitment and responsibility to its own community and communities locally, nationally and internationally.

We see Queen Mary's as a school where students' needs are met through the quality of teaching and learning, pastoral care and guidance and the breadth and richness of the curriculum, both formal and informal, which supports students with individual learning needs or particular talents. The achievements of everyone in the school community are celebrated. The quality of the school will be obvious through outside scrutiny, external awards and data comparison.

The high expectations for teaching and learning and positive relationships between staff, students and parents will be clear in all induction procedures, and in staff development and performance management. Students can expect consistently high-quality teaching and in return commit to the responsibilities of their school work and membership of the school community. Staff can expect the best possible working and employment conditions and career opportunities. Parents are supportive of the school's ethos, systems and procedures and can expect to be fully informed about their child's progress, feel comfortable to come in to school to meet with staff and be confident that the

school is providing high quality learning experiences for their child. Governors can expect clarity and transparency about school matters and sufficient training and links with the school to ensure they are able to play their part in its strategic development. The school will demonstrate its commitment to charity fund raising.

Finally, the school's reputation, culture and family atmosphere will be such that all who are connected with it are happy to continue an association with Queen Mary's High School long after they have ceased to be connected with it on a daily basis.

Shire Oak Academy

Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, Walsall, WS9 9PA (DfE No: 335 5402)

Acting Principal : Mr Ray Beech

Chair of Governors: Mr Kevin Hubery

Admission Number: 238

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 1,462

How to apply for a place:

To apply for a place you must complete **two forms**.

- 1) Apply on-line or complete your home authority's Preference Form and return by the date stated. For Walsall resident parents apply on-line by **31 October 2016**.

AND

- 2) Complete the Shire Oak Academy Supplementary Form - available direct from the Academy - and return it to the Academy by **31 October 2016**.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children)
2. Siblings – pupils who have a sibling at the academy or are a sibling of a former pupil of the academy (former pupils subject to verification by the academy).
3. Medical factors – pupils for whom a place at the academy is essential on medical grounds and supported in writing by a medical practitioner (applications will be subject to verification by the academy's Admissions Committee)
4. Children of staff at the academy – priority given to children of members of staff who have been employed for at least 2 years (subject to verification by the academy).
5. Distance between the home address and the academy as measured in a straight line, priority given to those living closest.

In line with Walsall Council's development proposals for special educational needs, the governors at the academy agreed to an additionally resourced provision being maintained within the academy. The additional resources are deployed so that the needs of up to ten children in total who have specialised learning needs (including dyslexia) can be met. The children would be of compulsory school age.

It may be considered appropriate to offer a place in our enhanced learning facility for specialised learning needs to those students who, despite sustained intervention at School Action Plus, have made little or no progress, taking into consideration the points above. However, in the event of there being restricted places then children and young people with a Statement of SEN giving specialised learning needs as their primary special need would have first priority in accessing the resource. It follows that these children could be placed into the school to benefit from the developed expertise and additional resources available to meet their needs. These children could be placed over and above the admission number published for the academy.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016: A total of 580 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. Places were offered to pupils who met the criteria 1,2,3,4 and for pupils assessed on distance, places were offered to pupils who live up to 2.08 miles from the school.

A total of 522 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. Places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1,2,3,4 and for pupils assessed on distance, places were offered to pupils who lived up to 2.414 miles from the school.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the Clerk to the Governors at the academy address, or telephone the academy office to request Appeal Forms and further information.

Information provided by the school:

Mission Statement - *“Turning potential into excellence”.*

Vision Statement

- To provide a safe, secure, caring and supportive environment in which all students may take advantage of the opportunities we provide to develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to prepare them for taking up an adult place in 21st Century society as responsible, responsive and enterprising citizens who become effective lifelong learners and make a positive contribution to society.
- To enable our students to develop their intellectual, social, moral and spiritual potential to the full and, in so doing, value their role as healthy and proactive citizens.
- To ensure that all members of the academy’s community are able to contribute to and benefit from the academy’s focus on the national Every Child Matters agenda.
- To ensure that our students develop a moral, spiritual and aesthetic awareness that makes them receptive to the world around them, bringing with it a sense of wonder and openness to the most important ideas in our own and other cultures.
- Our academy recognises the crucial importance of its staff in pursuing the aims above and, as a good employer, undertakes to provide them with appropriate support such as continuing professional training, review and development.

Our aims and aspirations

Academic

- To ensure that every student fulfils his or her academic potential.
- To ensure that all members of staff and all students pursue excellence in teaching and learning.
- To provide appropriate personalised learning and personal development opportunities for all our students.
- To ensure that our students appreciate the value of learning and achieving to their highest levels by consistent effort, enthusiasm, creativity and excellence.
- To ensure that our students develop a love of learning, both individually and with others, and acquire a wide range of learning skills.
- To maintain a vital and relevant curriculum which has a sound balance between the development of skills and the acquisition of knowledge and understanding.
- To create an environment in which students are confident in their ability and increasingly ready to take responsibility for their own learning.

Pastoral

- To ensure that every student receives excellent pastoral care within an ethos of tolerance and mutual respect.
- To ensure that students develop relationships with peers and adults in a way that prepares them for life beyond the academy.
- To ensure that our students acquire a sense of responsibility and self-discipline and that they understand that self-discipline is based on an underlying concern for others.
- To ensure that our students benefit from a wide range of opportunities for enterprise, leadership and the management of others.

Personal and Social Development

- To recognise the individuality of all students, to encourage that success is to be shared and to celebrate it in a wide variety of ways.
- To ensure that our students gain an understanding of themselves and develop self esteem.
- To encourage our students to participate in a variety of physical activities and experience a sense of well-being and self-confidence that arises from good health and fitness.
- To ensure that our students have respect for themselves, others and for their environment.
- To ensure that our students benefit from a comprehensive personal and social education that helps them to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Extra-curricular

- To provide a varied range of activities beyond the curriculum.
- To assist our students to discover and develop their own skills and interests at our academy in preparation for adult life.
- To encourage our students to be adventurous and participate in a range of activities, appreciating the rewards of teamwork.
- To ensure that our students have as many opportunities as possible for personal achievement and fulfilment in a way befitting their own aspirations.

Aims as a Science College

- To raise standards of achievement in each specialist subject through the increased quality of teaching and learning.
- To extend curricular opportunities in the specialist subjects, including subject enrichment areas, out of hours learning, industry/business links and the relationship between specialist subjects.
- To increase take-up and interest in specialist subject courses, particularly post 16.

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College

Erdington Road, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0RN (DfE No: 335 4606)

Acting Headteacher: Mr S Godber

Chair of Governors: Fr David Mellor

Admission Number: 180

Type: Voluntary Aided

Denominational Affiliation: Catholic

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2013): 1,092

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority.

A copy of your child's Baptismal certificate should be sent directly to the school together with the Supplementary Evidence Form, in line with the deadline for returning your home Authority application form. In special circumstances where this is

unobtainable (eg applicants from abroad) a letter from your current parish priest or minister of religion must be sent directly to the school to support the application.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, the governors will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria listed, provided that the governors are made aware of that application before decisions on admissions are made.

In all categories, priority will be given to those who have a sibling attending St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College at the proposed time of admission

Category A - Baptised Catholic children who are in the care of a Local Authority (looked after children) or provided with accommodation by them (eg children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order)

Category B – Baptised Catholic children attending the original Roman Catholic Primary Schools in the parishes which St Francis was designed to serve. These are:

St Mary of the Angels, Aldridge	St Gabriel's, Tamworth
St Francis RC Primary, Shelfield	St Elizabeth's, Tamworth
St Anne's, Streetly	St Joseph's, Lichfield
St Bernadette's, Brownhills	St Peter and Paul, Lichfield
St Mary's the Mount, Walsall	

Category C – Baptised Catholic children who currently live in the Parish area of a designated catholic feeder school who are not currently attending the designated Catholic feeder school.

Category D – Other Baptised Catholic children

Category E – Non-Catholic children who are in the care of a Local Authority (looked after children) or provided with accommodation by them (eg children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order)

Category F – Non-Catholic children who attended the feeder schools listed in Category B.

Category G – Non-Catholic children, including those who have a brother or sister in the Dyslexia Unit.

Note 1: Children with a statement of special educational need will be given priority. This will reduce the number of places available to applicants

Note 2: Evidence of Catholic Baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who face difficulties in producing written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest.

Note 3: In all categories, priority will be given to those who have a sibling or brothers or sisters who are legally adopted and attending St Francis of Assisi at the proposed time of admission. The definition of a sibling is:

- A sibling sharing the same parents;
- Half brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent;
- Step-brother or step-sister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage;
- Adopted or fostered children
- A sibling must be living at the same address

Note 4: If there is oversubscription within a category, the Governors will give priority first to siblings, then to children living closest to the school. The distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the school address, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016: A total of 368 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. Places were offered only to pupils who met admission criteria A, B, C, D and some in Category E.

A total of 408 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. Places were offered only to pupils who met admission criteria A, B, C and some in Category D, E and F.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: In the first instance write to the Chairman of Governors at the school address shown above. If this does not resolve the matter write to the Secretary of the Appeals Committee for Admissions at the above school address.

Information provided by the school:

Expectations at St. Francis of Assisi are high. We expect excellent attendance, attitude to work and behaviour, which reflects our Catholic ethos. We continue to be one of the top performing schools in Walsall.

“This is a vibrant spiritual and learning community in communion with Christ and the Catholic church. All its members are known and cared for.”

Diocesan Inspection- May 2013

“Students have outstanding attitudes to learning.”

“Students say they feel safe and are proud of a caring community.”

“Attendance is above average and the levels of exclusions are low.”

“The Headteacher and her senior leadership team are uncompromising in their drive for improvement.”

“The governors are dedicated to improving standards and provide appropriate high levels of support and challenge.”

Ofsted Inspection- May 2013

Our aim is to empower each individual to achieve their potential and to develop the whole person, spiritually, academically and socially.

Each member of our community is called to give witness to the Gospel values of love, truth, peace, justice and forgiveness and respect the uniqueness and dignity of every human being.

St Thomas More Catholic School - Business & Enterprise College

Darlaston Lane, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV14 7BL (DfE Number 335 5401)

Headteacher: Dr S Hatfield
Chair of Governors: Mr R Dalton
Admission Number: 243

Type: Voluntary Aided
Denominational Affiliation: Catholic
Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 1,482

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. Parents living outside Walsall must apply online to their home Local Authority and return it, as stated. Any supporting evidence/letters of support should be sent direct to

the school together with the supplementary information form.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the governors will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria below, provided that the governors are made aware of that application before decisions on admissions are made (see Note 1 below).

In all criteria, priority will be given to those who have a sibling (see Note 3 below) attending St Thomas More Catholic School at the time of admission.

1. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who are in the care of a Local Authority (looked after children) or provided with accommodation by them (eg children with foster parents – Section 22 of the Children Act 1989)
2. Baptised Catholic children who currently attend one of the Catholic primary schools as stated below:
 - St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Darlaston
 - Corpus Christi Catholic, Wednesfield
 - St Patrick's Catholic Primary, Walsall
 - Holy Rosary Catholic, Wolverhampton
 - St Mary's The Mount Catholic Primary, Walsall
 - Holy Trinity Catholic, Bilston
 - St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary, Walsall
 - St Teresa's Catholic, Wolverhampton
 - St Peter's Catholic Primary, Bloxwich
3. Baptised Catholic children who currently attend a Catholic primary school
4. Other Baptised Catholic children
5. Non-Catholic children who are in the care of a Local Authority (looked after children) or provided with accommodation by them (eg children with foster parents – Section 22 of the Children Act 1989)
6. Non-Catholic children who have a sibling who is attending St Thomas More school at the time of admission
7. Non-Catholic children who currently attend one of the Catholic primary schools named in Category 2
8. All other non-Catholic children.

NB. All parents should complete a Supporting Evidence Form and return it to St Thomas More School. If your child is a baptised Roman Catholic, please attach a copy of his or her baptismal certificate. This evidence should be returned to the school. Failure to complete and return the Supporting Evidence Form may affect the criterion in which the child's name is placed.

Over-subscription: if there is over-subscription within a criterion, the Governors will give priority first to brothers and sisters and then to children living closest to the school determined by shortest distance. Distances are measured as a straight line from the centre point of the applicant's home address to the center point of the school using the local authority's computerised measuring system. Ordnance Survey supply the co-ordinates that are used to plot an applicant's home address within this system.

The home address of a pupil is considered to be the permanent residence of a child. The address must be the child's only or main residence. Documentary evidence may be required. Where care is split equally between mother and father, parents must name which address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place.

In a very small number of cases it may not be possible to distinguish between applicants when applying the admission criteria. For example, this may occur when children in the same year group live at the same address, or if the distance between the home and school is exactly the same, for example, blocks of flats. If there is no other way of separating the application according to the admissions criteria and to admit both or all of the children would cause the legal limit to be exceeded, the local authority will use random allocation to select the child to be offered the final place. As an exception, the governing body will give careful consideration to offering places above the Admission Number to applications from children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted even when there are no other vacant places.

Governors may request extra supporting evidence when the written documents that are produced do not clarify the fact that a person was baptised or received into the Catholic Church (ie where the name and address of the Church is not on the certificate or where the name of the Church does not state whether it is a Catholic Church or not).

Note: In the event of oversubscription within each category, priority will be given to:

- a. children who have a sibling attending St Thomas More at the time of admission
- b. distance between the home address and the school as measured in a straight line, with priority being given to those living closest.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016:

A total of 527 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. 243 places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1 to 7 and some in category 8.

A total of 515 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. 243 places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1 to 7 and some in category 8.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the Secretary of the Independent Appeals Committee at the school address shown above.

Information provided by the school:

The Mission Statement of St Thomas More Catholic School is “to guide and encourage students to be responsible, caring and confident in a climate of Gospel values where they can realise their full potential and celebrate each other’s success”. In order to realise the school’s Mission Statement and bring out the best in each young person, we set out to accomplish the following aims in all aspects of school life:

- To foster understanding and practice of the Catholic faith;
- To encourage intellectual, creative and moral growth and the physical welfare of each pupil;
- To develop all the talents and gifts of each pupil;
- To encourage respect for, and understanding of, other people and society;
- To develop a mature and responsible attitude to life.

Theory into Practice

The pastoral care system and relationships between people encourage care and concern for others and foster values of honesty, integrity, justice and compassion. We value each individual and strive to support every member of the community.

The taught curriculum offers the highest possible standards of expertise in teaching in order to promote learning. All pupils are encouraged to reach their full potential, regardless of ability or background. The structures of the school are designed to foster a strong sense of teamwork and mutual responsibility so that everyone has a stake in the development of the institution. The high staying-on rate of students into the sixth form reflects the trust and confidence which students and parents have in the school.

The school has had three successful Ofsted reports. We are committed to maintaining and developing our standards of achievement even further.

The Streetly Academy

Queslett Road East, Sutton Coldfield, B74 2EX (DfE No: 335 5400)

Headteacher: Mr William Downie

Chair of Governors: Mr Roland Roberts

Admission Number: 243

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 1,385

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority and return it as stated.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children) (Definition: children who are in the care of a local authority or who are provided with accommodation by a local authority)
2. Where a child has a sibling attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending at the proposed time of admission
3. Up to a total of 5 children across all age groups with exceptional physical disabilities as defined by Walsall Council who require a mainstream education in a school with specialist modifications and facilities to support physical disabilities and for whom Streetly School is considered to be the nearest, appropriate school.
4. Children of staff employed at The Academy. Where a member of staff has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
5. Where the child is attending one of the following named primary schools: Blackwood School, Lindens Primary School or Manor Primary School, with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority.
6. Proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority, the distance being measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the school address, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016:

A total of 884 preferences were expressed for places in September 2016. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and children who lived 1.22 miles or less from the school.

A total of 713 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 children who lived 1.268 miles or less from the school.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Complete and submit your application online using the online appeal application form which can be found on the school website www.thestreetlyacademy.co.uk

Information provided by the school:

The Streetly Academy is an 11-18 comprehensive school. We believe in our 'Partnership for Success' in which staff, students and parents work together to ensure that all students achieve their full potential, develop pride in personal achievement and respect the achievement of others.

The school has creative, enthusiastic and hard-working staff who strive to make seven years here happy and fulfilling for all students. We have students who respect the school and its environment, are well-behaved, well-motivated and willing to learn. We strongly uphold certain traditional values, which we believe are essential to a harmonious society. These values have been enhanced by our designation as a Sports College, enabling us to develop a very positive ethos in PE and sport, which supports quality learning across the whole school.

Walsall Academy

Lichfield Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, WS3 3LX (DfE No: 335 6905)

Headteacher: Mr S Rogers

Chair of Governors: Mr C Whittington

Admission Number: 208

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 1,157

Information Evenings

All parents are invited to an Information Evening where they can find out more about the Academy. All applicants will receive an invitation upon receipt of a completed Registration Form. (available to download from www.walsallacademy.com)

How to apply for a place:

To apply for a place you must complete **two** forms.

1) Apply on-line to your home Authority or complete your home Authority's Preference Form and return by the date stated. For Walsall resident parents, apply on-line. Your application must be submitted, as stated, by **31 October 2016**.

AND

2) Complete the Walsall Academy Registration Form - available direct from the school - and return it to the school by 4pm, 6 **October 2016**

Please note: Parents/Guardians should fill in **both** the Walsall Academy form and submit all applications to their home Local

Authority for the application to be considered within the nationally agreed timescale.

Parents who consider that their child has a disability under the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) which would disadvantage him/her during the application of the school's admission procedures should contact the Head at the earliest opportunity to discuss possible special arrangements for Admission Testing. Please advise the Academy if you have a disability or special needs which would affect your ability to attend the Information Evening or access any information, also it would be helpful for you to have an interpreter present at the Information Evening.

Admission criteria:

Places Available

Applications are welcomed from children of all abilities and with physical disabilities. All applications will be considered and processed in the same way by the Walsall Academy. Please inform the Academy of any specific disability which may result in a prospective student requiring individual help during the Admissions procedure.

The Governors have approved an Additional 40 places for September 2017.

The published pupil admission number (PAN) is 168 and with the additional 40 agreed provides a total of 208 for September 2017. 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.

Banding Tests

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 resit 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 children of all abilities. 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.

The Academy can decide how many bands and what proportion of children to place in each band, as long as no level of ability is substantially under or over represented (as set out in Section 101 of the 1998 Act of the School Standards and Framework Act and amended by Section 54 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006).

Admission of Students

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) will be admitted where the Academy is named in the Statement.

Admissions Oversubscription Criteria

When the number of applications for admission is greater than the published number (168 pupils plus 40 additional places approved by Governors = 208 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 or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.

Banding of Children

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

If in any band there are more applicants than places available,, then pupils living closest to the Academy, as measured in a straight line from their home address, will be offered a place. Distance is measured from the centre point of the Academy site to the centre point of the applicant's postcode.

If in any Band there are less applicants than places available, then all the children will be offered a place and the remaining places offered to children in an adjacent band.

Should more than one application, in the same NFER ability band, be received from the same postcode, a second measurement is taken using the Ordnance Survey map. This will be from the applicant's address to the centre point of the Academy site.

In the event of a tie and same measurement the place will be offered on the basis of random allocation.

Home address is defined as the home address considered to be the permanent residence of a child when the place is offered. The address must be the child's only or main residence. The residence must be owned or leased for at least six months by the child's parent(s)/carer. 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.

The Academy is committed to taking its share of vulnerable children who are hard to place, in accordance with locally agreed protocols.

Parents/carers must read the full Rules of Admission for further details, obtainable from <http://www.walsallacademy.com>.

Walsall Academy no longer operates an Inner and Outer Catchment area.

No preference is given to siblings.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the Clerk to the Independent Appeals Panel at the above school address.

How places were offered for September 2016 and 2015:

There were 675 applications for places in September 2016 and 648 applications for places in September 2015. Places were offered to pupils in accordance with the Academy's admission criteria.

Information provided by the school:

The Walsall Academy is an 11 – 18 comprehensive school specialising in technology. It is an independent state funded school, sponsored by the Mercers' Company of the City of London and Thomas Telford School.

The Academy aims to maximise student performance in all its forms. The Academy will offer a broad curriculum, which includes the National Curriculum with the opportunity of specialising in more science, technology and mathematics.

In the sixth form a wide range of vocational and academic opportunities will be available for students of all abilities.

West Walsall E-ACT Academy

Primley Avenue, Walsall, WS2 9UA (DfE No. 335 4003)

Principal: Miss Sylvia Thomas

Chair of Governors: Mr Ian Boneham

Admission Number: 180

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 660

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority and return it as stated.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

If the number of applications exceeds the Admission Number, places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children)
2. Pupils who have an older sibling already in attendance at the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school at the proposed time of admission.
3. Pupils for whom a place at the school is essential on medical or social grounds as supported in writing by a medical practitioner or a social worker (applications will be subject to verification by the Managing Director, Children's Services – Education).
4. Distance between the home address and the school as measured in a straight line, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016:

There were 229 preferences expressed for places in September 2016 and after applying the published admission criteria, 143 places were offered.

There were 221 preferences expressed for places in September 2015 and after applying the published admission criteria, 148 places were offered.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the Chair of Governors at the school address.

Information provided by the school:

The academy is committed to providing the very best education for all our students through hard work, support and challenge. We value each and every student as an individual, regardless of gender, faith, ethnicity or ability and ensure that they are safe and supported in their studies. We expect all members of the academy to share these beliefs and make a clear commitment to giving of their best at all times, within the academy and in the surrounding community.

We have high expectations of all our students and demand the highest standards of behaviour and attendance at all times. Learners have a right to learn in a calm and supportive environment which stimulates the mind and pushes the boundaries of their understanding. The academy uniform is smart and functional and clearly demonstrates a pride in what we stand for. The use of rewards is central to our positive and our on-line system, Vivo, allows students to take an active role in managing their achievements and selecting their own rewards.

Teaching builds on the foundation learning established at our partner primary schools and promotes an active engagement in the learning process through meaningful dialogue and interactive challenge. Lessons in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) focuses on the development of knowledge and the acquisition of essential skills in a broad range of subjects and in particular in literacy and

numeracy. Our students follow a broad and balanced curriculum, just as at other schools, and have a full range of options in Years 10 and 11, creating flexible pathways that allow all students to personalise their learning journey and follow areas of interest or expertise alongside studying in the essential core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science and other EBACC subjects.

Facilities are good and we consistently strive to update them. Increasing use is made of ICT-based learning technologies to engage and enthuse learners. The Academy site is also the location of the Innovation Centre, a 21st century facility designed to combine the delivery of learning with active business engagement. The centre provides learning space for Post 16 subjects, as well as meeting rooms and training facilities for members of Walsall's wider learning community.

West Walsall E-ACT Academy has staff committed to success and you are welcome to visit the academy at any time. Please contact us on 01922 720741 to arrange your visit.

Willenhall E-ACT Academy

Furzebank Way, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV12 4BD (DfE No: 335 4002)

Headteacher:

Chair of Governors: Mr S Clarke

Admission Number: 270

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (Jan 2016): 1,470

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2016**. Parents living outside Walsall must submit all applications to their home Local Authority and return it as stated.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Parent Support Adviser for Walsall on 01922 652578 or email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk.

Admission criteria:

In the case of over subscription, places will be awarded using the following Admission Criteria in order of priority:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children)
2. Pupils who have an older sibling already in attendance at the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school at the proposed time of admission.
3. Pupils for whom a place at the school is essential on medical grounds as supported in writing by a doctor (applications will be subject to verification by the Admissions Committee).
4. Distance between the home address and the school as measured in a straight line, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

How places were offered for September 2015 and 2016:

There were 313 preferences expressed for places in September 2016. After applying the admission criteria, 174 places were offered.

A total of 325 preferences were expressed for places in September 2015. After applying the admission criteria 218 places were offered.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place: Write to the School Admissions Manager, at the above school address, or telephone the school office to request Appeal Forms and further information.

Information provided by the school:

At Willenhall E-ACT Academy we pride ourselves on delivering a high quality, balanced curriculum, supported by up-to-date teaching practices. We are determined to ensure that every student reaches their potential and is fully prepared to take the next steps in their development. By succeeding in this we produce well-rounded young people who positively contribute to society both within and beyond the Academy.

The Academy's specialisms are Sport and Science and we work through these areas to drive innovation and creativity across the Academy. We work closely with our local Primary and Secondary schools through our Schools Games Organiser in order to further promote PE and Sport, which are so vital for increasing students' well-being, confidence and self-esteem.

The Academy is fully involved in a range of initiatives and programmes, which are designed to stretch and challenge students and broaden their experiences, giving them new skills and developing their sense of ambition and self-esteem. We have partner schools in Tanzania and Zambia, run the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and offer a wide range of extra-curricular provision.

We fully recognise that the well-being of children is vital to their development. We provide support around same age tutor groups, focusing closely on individual need and being able to intervene and support wherever possible. In 2013 OFSTED commented that: "this is a caring Academy; staff provide strong personal support to students."

Whilst our open evening is an ideal opportunity to see all we have to offer your child, you are welcome to visit us on other occasions, simply ring and arrange a time for your visit. We look forward to meeting you.

Transport to Secondary Schools

Free Transport Criteria from September 2017:

To qualify for a free scholars bus pass each pupil must satisfy the following criteria:

1. If 8 years of age or above, the pupils home address must be 3 miles or more from his/her nearest qualifying school.
2. If 7 years of age or younger, the pupils home address must be 2 miles or more from his/her nearest qualifying school.
3. Pupils living at temporary addresses and who meet the distance criteria may qualify for short term assistance provided that their previous permanent address was within the Borough of Walsall.
4. If a pupil moves address during year 10 or year 11 a free scholars pass will only be issued if the distance criterion is met.
5. Children aged between 8 and 11 years from low income families would qualify for a free scholars pass if they live 2 miles or more from their nearest qualifying school.
6. Pupils aged 11 or over from low income families will qualify for a free scholars pass to 1 of their 3 nearest qualifying schools where they live more than 2 miles but not more than 6 miles from that school.

Examples relating to eligibility based on income:

Child A is an 8 year old child entitled to free school meals. Their nearest qualifying school is 2.5 miles from their home. Child A would qualify for a free scholars pass.

Child B is an 8 year old child whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit. Their nearest qualifying school –y- is 2.2 miles from their home, and the second nearest qualifying school –z- is 5.5 miles away. Child B would be entitled to a free scholars bus pass to school ‘y’ but not to school ‘z’.

Child C is an 8 year old child whose parents are not in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit and who is not entitled to free school meals. Their nearest qualifying school is 2.5 miles from their home. Child C would not be entitled to a free scholars pass.

Child D is an 11 year old child entitled to free school meals. Their nearest qualifying school is 2.5 miles from their home, the second nearest qualifying school is 3 miles away, and the third nearest qualifying school is 5 miles away. Child D would qualify for a free scholars pass to each of these three schools.

Child E is an 11 year old child whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit. Their nearest qualifying school –x- is 1.5 miles from their home, the second nearest qualifying school –y- is 2.2 miles away and the third nearest qualifying school –z- is 5.5 miles away. Child E would qualify for a free scholars pass to schools y and Z but not to school x.

Child F is an 11 year old child who is entitled to free school meals. School –x- is their nearest qualifying school, and is 4 miles from their home. School –y- is their second nearest qualifying school which is 4.5 miles away, and the next suitable school is –z- which is 10 miles away. Child C would be entitled to a free scholars pass to schools x and y, but not to school z.

How the Inter-LA Co-ordinated Admission Scheme works

1. The Inter-LA Co-ordinated Secondary Admission Scheme allows parents/carers to express preferences for up to 5 secondary schools, rank them in order of preference and, if appropriate, give reasons for their preferences (e.g. medical or social reasons).
2. Parents/Carers who live in the borough of Walsall must apply on-line at www.walsall.gov.uk/education to apply for a place at any secondary school in Walsall or at a secondary school outside Walsall (**do not** name Palfrey Girls' School, Abu Bakr Girls' School, Abu Bakr Boys' School or Hydesville Tower School on the form). Each school named is regarded as a separate application.
3. The national closing date for secondary applications is **31 October 2016**.
4. **IMPORTANT** - If you name any of the following schools on your on-line application, you must also complete the school's own Registration/Supplementary Information Form, available to download from the Walsall Council website (www.walsall.gov.uk)

- **Aldridge School - An Academy**
- **Aldridge School - An Academy – Specialist Music Place**
- **Blue Coat CE Academy**
- **Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy**
- **Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy – Specialist Sports Place**
- **Queen Mary's High School (for Girls)**
- **Queen Mary's Grammar School (for Boys)**
- **Shire Oak Academy**
- **The Walsall Academy**

Other schools outside Walsall may also require you to complete a registration form so please remember to check with the relevant LA.

5. If you wish to express a preference for either or both of Walsall's Catholic Secondary Schools, you will need to send any supporting information, eg Baptismal Certificates and a Supplementary Information Form, direct to the school.
6. Schools where the Governing Body is the admission authority will be informed of all applications naming their school, but not the rank given by you. However, once places have been offered your rankings may be disclosed to a school if you request an admission appeal.
7. After the Closing Date of **31 October 2016**, the admission criteria for each of the schools that you have expressed a preference for will be applied by the appropriate admission authority to determine whether your child meets the schools' admission criteria and could be offered a place.
8. The admission authorities will inform us whether your child meets their admission criteria and could be offered a place.

If your child meets the admission criteria of only ONE of your named schools, you will be offered a place at that school.

If your child meets the admission criteria of TWO or more of your named schools, you will be offered a place at the highest ranked of those schools.

If you are a Walsall resident and your child does not meet the admission criteria of any of your named schools, we will offer a place at an alternative Walsall school with places available.

If you live outside Walsall and do not meet the admission criteria of any of your named schools, your child will not be offered a place at an alternative Walsall school, but your home Authority is responsible for offering a place at an alternative school in your home authority area.

Parents will not be able to hold places at more than one secondary school. If your application for any preferred Walsall school is unsuccessful, please read the Waiting List Policy on page 49.
9. On the National Notification Date, 1 March 2017 (or next working day), Walsall Council will, on behalf of the relevant admission authority, write to all parents resident in Walsall, informing them of the outcome of their applications.

If appropriate, this letter will also inform you of the reason for the refusal of a place, your right of appeal and will give you contact details for appeal information.
10. Examples – the examples shown on the following two pages will help you to understand how places will be offered using the Inter-Local Authority Co-ordinated Secondary Admission Scheme.

Examples of how the Inter-LA Coordinated Scheme works:

Apply on-line at www.walsall.gov.uk and follow the link to Education - Secondary School Admissions
 For advice contact the Parent Support Advisor or telephone the Admissions and Pupil Planning Team on
 01922 652585 or email: schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

These four examples use the names of fictitious schools.

Hassan lives close to Grangetree School and even closer to Roundhill School. His parents know that they live a long way from High Fields School which is usually oversubscribed but they want to see if he will be offered a place there.

The school they really prefer is Holmetown Boys' Grammar, but they mistakenly think they should rank other schools higher in case Hassan fails the grammar school's examination.

Ranked Order	School	Hassan's Details	School's Admission Criteria Met?	Place Offered?
1	High Fields School	Lives 2½ miles away	No	No
2	Roundhill School	Lives ½ mile away	Yes	Yes
3	Grangetree School	Lives 1 mile away	Yes	No
4	Holmetown Boys' Grammar	Has taken the examination	Yes	No
5	Marsh Hill School	Lives 1 mile away	Yes	No

Hassan lives too far from High Fields to be offered a place. He qualified for places at Roundhill, Grangetree and Marsh Hill. He also qualified for a place at Holmetown Boys' Grammar School because he passed the examination. His parents would have preferred a place at Holmetown Boys' Grammar but the other schools for which Hassan also qualified were ranked higher. **He is offered a place at Roundhill, the highest ranked of the four schools for which he qualified.**

If Hassan's parents had ranked Holmetown Boys' Grammar first they would have been offered a place there.

Louise's nearest school is Marsh Hill. Her parents would like her to go to High Fields, slightly further away, or to Bishop Green, a Catholic school that is a short bus ride away. They also want her to sit the test for Holmetown Girls' Grammar School.

Ranked Order	School	Louise's Details	School's Admission Criteria Met?	Place Offered?
1	Holmetown Girls' Grammar	Has taken the examination	No	No
2	High Fields School	Lives ¾ mile away	Yes	Yes
3	Bishop Green Catholic School	Is a baptised Catholic in a feeder primary school	Yes	No
4	Marsh Hill School	Lives ½ mile away	Yes	No
5	Grangetree School	Lives 3 miles away	Yes	No

Louise did not pass the Holmetown Girls' Grammar School examination. She met the Bishop Green's criteria because she is a Catholic and attends a Catholic feeder primary school. She also meets the admission criteria for Marsh Hill, High Fields and Grangetree because she lives near to all schools.

Louise is offered a place at High Fields because the school was ranked higher than Bishop Green, Marsh Hill or Grangetree.

Further examples of how the Coordinated Scheme works:

Joshua lives ½ a mile from Wellbourne, his local school, but his parents don't want him to go there. They do not want their son to sit a grammar school test and prefer a place for Joshua at a local Church of England school. The other schools they named on the Local Authority (LA) Preference Form are a long distance from their home.

Ranked Order	School	Joshua's Details	School's Admission Criteria Met?	Place Offered?
1	St Paul's Church of England School	Lives 1 mile away	No	No
2	Hall View School	Lives 3½ miles away	No	No
3	Grangetree School	Lives 4 miles away	No	No
4	Marsh Hill School	Lives 3½ miles away	No	No
5	High Fields School	Lives 4 miles away	No	No

Joshua lives close to St Paul's but did not meet the religious criteria of the school and did not qualify for a place. He lives too far from his parents' other four preferences to qualify for places.

None of his parents' five preferences could be met. His closest school, Wellbourne, filled its places with children whose parents had ranked it as one of their preferences. **The LA therefore offers Joshua a place at Hempley Hall School. This school is 3 miles from his home, but is offered by the LA, as it is the nearest school with places still available.**

Jagdeep lives 1½ miles from Hall View School and 2 miles from Grangetree. Jagdeep lives in the catchment area of Kingsmere Academy (which is the only school with a catchment area) and her parents want her to sit the Academy's "assessment tasks". Their closest school is Roundhill.

Ranked Order	School	Jagdeep's Details	School's Admission Criteria Met?	Place Offered?
1	Kingsmere Academy	Has sat the assessment tasks	Yes	Yes
2	Hall View School	Lives 1½ miles away	Yes	No
3	Grangetree School	Lives 2 miles away	Yes	No
4	Roundhill School	Lives ½ mile away	Yes	No
5	Marsh Hill School	Lives 2½ miles away	Yes	No

Jagdeep did the assessment tasks for Kingsmere Academy and her score in the tasks was average. However, pupils cannot fail Kingsmere Academy's assessment tasks. As Jagdeep lived closer to Kingsmere than other children in the catchment area with a similar score she qualified for a place.

Jagdeep qualified for a place at Grangetree, Hall View and Marsh Hill because all schools offered places to everyone who lived within 3 miles. She also qualified for Roundhill because it was able to offer places to all applicants.

Because Jagdeep qualifies for five of her parents' preferences, the school ranked highest by her parents, Kingsmere Academy, is offered.

Late Application Policy

On-line applications can only be made up to **31 October 2016**. Late Preference Forms (and, where appropriate, a school's own Registration/Supplementary Information Form) which are received after the closing date of 31 October 2016 are classed as late applications. Any request to change the name or ranking of your named schools made after the closing date will also be classed as a late application unless there are exceptional reasons for the change.

Late applications will normally be considered for places after applications that were received by the closing date of 31 October 2016. Therefore late applicants may be less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools.

If a Walsall Late 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 that explains how late applications will be dealt with. Walsall Councils late application policy is shown below. This policy is applicable to any Walsall secondary school which does not publish its own late application policy.

Late Applications for Walsall community secondary schools received up to 4 weeks after the Closing Date (between 1 November 2016 and 29 November 2016):

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 was unable to complete an application by the closing date because they moved into the borough of Walsall after the issue of the Walsall application packs;
- The family was unable to comply with the admission timetable because of exceptional circumstances that prevented the application being submitted on time;
- When a lone parent has been ill for some time.

In these cases the circumstances must be given in writing and attached firmly to the Walsall Late Preference Form: they will be subject to verification by the Executive Director of Children's Services, Walsall Council.

Late Applications received more than 4 weeks after the Closing Date (between 30 November 2016 and 28 February 2017):

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.

Late Applications received after Notification Date on 1 March 2017 (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 Council at the nearest alternative Walsall school with vacant places (following consultation with other admission authorities where appropriate) and the child's name will be added to the Waiting List for schools listed as preferences in admission criterion order.

Waiting List Policy for Admission to Year 7

Waiting lists for all Walsall secondary schools, except Ormiston Shelfield Academy and Walsall Academy are maintained by Walsall Council until 31 August 2017. Parents may enquire about their child's waiting list position by contacting the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team (01922 652585). Parents who wish to enquire about their child's position or waiting lists for Ormiston Shelfield Academy or Walsall Academy should contact the schools direct.

Waiting Lists for all Walsall schools are maintained by secondary schools from 1 September 2017 to the end of the Autumn term. Parents may enquire about their child's position on any Waiting List by contacting the school direct.

Waiting Lists are kept for all children who have been refused a place at any school which was ranked higher than the school at which they have been offered a place, for example

- If your child is offered a place at the school that you ranked 2nd on the application then your child's name will only be placed on the Waiting List for the Walsall school that you had ranked 1st
- If your child is offered a place at the school that you ranked 1st on your application then your child's name will not be added to any Waiting List kept for your other ranked schools

We aim to offer parents a place at their highest ranked preferred school.

After 1 March 2017 a parent may contact the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team in writing, or by email, to apply for a place at an oversubscribed Walsall school. Their child's name will be placed on the school's Waiting List in admission criterion order. Any vacancies will be offered on the basis of the admission criteria for the school. Please note that pupils can move up and down on the waiting list throughout the admissions process.

How to appeal if your application is unsuccessful

Parents who do not obtain a place for their child at a preferred school may appeal against the decision not to offer a place. An independent Admission Appeal Panel will hear the appeal. The decision of an Appeal Panel is binding on the school, the parents, the Admission authority and the Local authority.

If you wish to make an appeal against a decision not to give your child a place at a Walsall school, please refer to the information on the individual School Information pages. Please check the date for each school on the Appeals Information sheet that will be sent with your offer letter, as some schools have different return dates (eg Walsall Academy and Walsall Grammar Schools). If the school you wish to appeal for is situated outside Walsall you should contact the relevant LA for information on their process. If an appeal is unsuccessful, the policy in all Walsall schools is not to hold another appeal in the same school year unless there are significant changes in the circumstances of the child or the school.

Offer of a place at a school

If you live in Walsall, Walsall Council will inform you of the result of your application by letter, to be posted to your home address on 1 March 2017.

On-line applicants who opt to receive an email notifying them of the outcome of their application, will receive an email on 1 March 2017.

If your child meets the admission criteria of only **ONE** of your named schools you will be offered a place at that school.

If your child meets the admission criteria of **TWO** or more of your named schools you will be offered a place at the highest ranked of those schools.

If you are a Walsall resident parent but your child does not meet the admission criteria of any of your named schools we will offer your child a place at one of the Walsall schools with places available.

Your child will be offered a place at one school only. Parents will not be able to hold places at more than one school.

Withdrawing the offer of a place at a Walsall school

The offer of a place at an oversubscribed school may be withdrawn if your application contains fraudulent or intentionally misleading information that would prevent a place being given to a child with a higher priority. This may include, for example, where a false home address is given on the application.

Where a place is offered based on the address given on the application but the address is subsequently found to have changed, the place may be withdrawn.

Definition of Admission Criteria

Where a school is 'oversubscribed', ie more applications are received than there are places available, the school's Admission Criteria are used to decide who places are offered to.

Admission Criteria for each Walsall school are shown on the School Information pages. This section gives more information about the admission criteria used by most Walsall schools. However, you should read the information page for each school carefully.

Children with Education Health & Care Plans or Statements of Special Educational Needs:

Education for some children is provided in accordance with their Education Health & Care Plans or Statement of Special Educational Needs. These children are placed in schools before applications are considered on behalf of other pupils.

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children and previously looked after children)

The definition of children in public care is children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority and previously looked after children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order. These children are given priority over other children when applications are considered.

2. Pupils who have a sibling already in attendance at the school at the proposed time of admission:

The definition of a sibling is a child who resides at the same address as the child for whom a place is being requested, and is one of the following:

- a brother or sister sharing the same parents;
- half-brother or sister sharing one common parent
- step-brother or sister (ie related by parent's marriage)
- any other child for whom it can be demonstrated that he or she is residing permanently at the same address (eg under the terms of a residence order).

The Local Authority will try to ensure that as far as possible siblings (including twins, triplets or children from other multiple births) can attend the same school. However, in the event that there is an insufficient number of places to allocate to twins, triplets etc, a decision will be made as to which child(ren) the place(s) will be offered. In this situation a place or places will be offered to the first born (older child(ren)) and in cases where this is not known, the offer will be decided by lot.

3. Relevant medical or social grounds that show that attendance at the school is essential and supported in writing by a medical practitioner or a social worker

If parents believe there are specific medical or social reasons for claiming priority for a child to attend a particular school, the relevant part of the on-line application must be completed and evidence to support the claim must be submitted. This must relate to either the child or the parent/s, for example, where one or both parents or the child has a disability that may make travel to a school further away more difficult.

Requests for such consideration will be subject to verification by the school. This is necessary because parents will be asking the Authority to assess the child as having a stronger case than many other children, some of whom may live closer to the school.

Medical: Medical evidence **must be** submitted in writing from a medical practitioner and should state why the preferred school is the only school that can meet the child's needs.

Social: Social evidence **must be** submitted in writing from an appropriate professional and should state why the preferred school is the **only** school that can meet the child's needs.

Please note that only in exceptional cases are places prioritised in respect of medical or social grounds. Applications will only be considered if supporting evidence from a medical professional or social worker is submitted to the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team.

4. Distance

Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the

school address using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Definition of a home address

The home address of a pupil is considered to be the permanent residence of a child in a residential property when the place is offered. The address must be the child's only or main residence and is either:

- owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian or
- leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under lease or written rental agreement of not less than six months duration.

Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residence at the property concerned. In certain circumstances the child's current school will be asked to verify the address given.

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 lives for the majority of the week. Parents may be requested to supply documentary evidence to support the address used for the application.

The offer of a place is based upon the address of the child when the offer is made. If a child is offered a place at an oversubscribed school the place may be withdrawn if it is found that the child moved (before the place was offered) to a new address that was further away from the school and the child would not have qualified for a place on the distance criterion.

In the event that a family moves between the application and the date of offer, the parent(s), carer(s) or guardian(s) **must** inform the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team as soon as possible of these circumstances.

If the home address is a flat (or apartment) and there is more than one flat at the same address, priority will be given to applicants living at the lowest numbered flat and/or the flat on the lower floor.

General Information

School Hours and Term Dates. Details of Term Dates are published on the Walsall Council Website

Details of school hours are available from each school and are also shown in each school's prospectus or on the school's website.

Annual Governors' Report and Meeting for Parents

Under current legislation, every school Governing Body must produce an annual report for parents on the work of the school. Subject to the Annual Parents' Meetings (Exemptions) (England) Regulations 2003, Governing Bodies may be exempt from the requirement to hold a meeting for parents. Where a meeting is held, this usually takes place in the autumn term and parents are notified of arrangements by the school. This is an opportunity for parents to learn more about the school and to ask questions of the governors. Do try to attend these meetings if you can.

Entry for Examinations

A variety of public examination courses are available in all schools. The responsibility for deciding whether a pupil should, or should not, be entered for a particular level of any public examination in any subjects rests with the Head Teacher of the school.

Parents are advised to discuss subject choices and examination entries fully with their child's teachers before final decisions are made.

Charging and Remission Policy

Copies of the Authority's policy on charging and remission for school activities are available from Walsall Council. Each school can provide a copy of its own policy. These policies explain which school activities parents can or cannot be charged for and the circumstances in which they can be invited to contribute to the cost of such activities.

Private Property

Walsall Council and the governors of all Walsall schools will not accept responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, clothing or other items of private property. Pupils who bring to school mobile telephones, jewellery, calculators and other items of private property do so at their own risk. Responsibility for the insurance of such items rests entirely with the owner. Insurers do not accept liability for the loss of private property on school premises. This disclaimer does not affect your statutory rights.

Provision of Free School Meals

It is the duty of the Local Authority (LA) to provide a meal for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals. Schools and some Colleges also offer this facility to students who are receiving a support payment in their own right, up to the age of 20 years.

Entitlement to Free School Meals

For advice on free school meals entitlement, please telephone 0300 555 2855 or write to First Stop Shop, Benefits Service, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1XU.

Pupils will be able to receive free school meals if their parent or guardian receives:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA (IB))
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related) (ESA (IR))
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), provided you do not also receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, that does not exceed £16,190
- Guarantee Credit element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Free school meals application form

This form can be obtained from:

- your child(ren)'s school
- the Benefits Service at the First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1XU – by calling in person or telephoning us on 0300 555 2855
- or you can download an application form from the Walsall Council website (www.walsall.gov.uk).

Minimum Entry Requirements for Year 12

Each school is required to publish in their school prospectus the minimum entry requirements for entry into Year 12.

Pupils will be considered for entry into Year 12 based upon their academic attainment and/or individual subject grade criteria and the availability and suitability of courses at the school. Entry into Year 12 is not dependent upon attendance or behaviour records.

Parents should contact schools directly to discuss making all applications for admission to year 12.

Pupils refused a place in Year 12 in their own school are entitled to appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Fair Access Protocol

Walsall has an agreed Fair Access Protocol which is available on the Walsall Council website.

Fair Access Protocols exist to ensure that access to education is secured quickly for children who have no school place, and to ensure that all schools in an area admit their fair share of children with challenging behaviour.

Along with devolved funding and responsibility for alternative provision, an agreed protocol encourages schools to work together in partnership to improve behaviour and tackle persistent absence.

The information contained in this booklet is correct at the time of publication in September 2016. It is, however, possible that there may be some changes affecting points of detail

For further information please contact:

School Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team

Walsall Council
2nd Floor, Zone 2E
Civic Centre
Walsall
WS1 1TP

Tel: 01922 652585

Email: secondary.admissions@walsall.gov.uk

Apply on-line at www.walsall.gov.uk and follow the link to **Education - Secondary School Admissions**
Parent Support Adviser on 01922 652578 or email: schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk