

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS BOOKLET

**ADMISSION INTO SECONDARY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2024**

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE



Welcome

Admission to Secondary School in September 2024

I am delighted to welcome you to Walsall's guide for parents about admission to secondary school in September 2024. This provides advice and guidance on the process for applying for a secondary school place for September 2024. If your child was born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 they are due to transfer to a secondary school in September 2024.

I am pleased to say that last year approximately eight out of ten children in Walsall secured their first preference school, with 95% securing one of their preferred schools. To increase your chance of securing a place at one of your preferred schools it is advisable to express a preference for five schools, the maximum number that you can apply for. Failure to do this may result in disappointment with the school place that is allocated to your child.

Before making your online application, it is recommended that you do the following:

- Explore school websites, read school admissions policies and entry criteria to help you understand how places are allocated.
- Try to attend school open evenings and speak to school staff. Ask under what criteria the school filled last year. This will give you an idea under which criterion your application is likely to be considered and increase your likelihood of making a successful application. Please refer to each individual school website for more information.
- Consider how your child will travel to and from school.
- Remember to apply by the national closing date of **31st October 2023**, as submitting a late application will impact on your chance of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.
- **National Offer Day** – all on-time applications will be made an offer on 1 March 2024.

Every Walsall school is committed to giving your child the best possible start to secondary school, helping them to enjoy their secondary school experience and achieve their full potential.

The Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team are available to support you through the application process and can be contacted via email at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

If you would like advice about submitting your online application, then please contact the team who will be pleased to assist you on 01922 652585.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sharon Kelly".

Sharon Kelly
Director Access and Inclusion

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Advice on the Secondary School Admission Process

The Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team will be pleased to assist you if you have any questions or require advice about the Secondary School Admissions Process.

The Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team are able to support parents in a variety of ways, including:

- assistance with the completion of on-line application
- 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

Please contact The Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team to discuss any aspects of the secondary school transfer process: Tel: 01922 652585

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 2024, you must apply to Walsall Council for his or her school place.

You must 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 2023)
- You will receive the outcome of your on-time application by email on National Offer Day, 1 March 2024.

To complete your application on-line visit:

[Walsall Council website](#)

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

If you would like help to complete your online application contact the Admissions & Education Sufficiency Team.
schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Follow the link at [Walsall Council education webpages](#)

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](https://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

- During September/October:

- We strongly recommend that you visit schools before completing your application. Open evenings are held for parents and pupils.
- You can name up to five preferences – you must submit your on-line application by **31 October 2023**. Please provide proof of your address with your on-line application by including your Council Tax reference number where indicated, if possible.
- Return the school's own Registration Form (if appropriate) directly to Queen Mary's Grammar School, Queen Mary's High School, and Walsall Academy. An additional school form is also required for Specialist Music places at Aldridge School. This form is available from the school.
- If you are applying for a place at a Walsall Faith School, Aldridge School, Brownhills Ormiston 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.
- If you need help with completing your application, please contact The Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk, a member of the team will be happy to assist you.

March 2024:

- The National Notification Date is 1 March 2024. All on-time applicants will receive an email, offering your child a place at ONE school, which will be sent on Friday 1 March 2024.

Date	Secondary 2024 Application Key Dates
04 September 2023	Information for Parent booklet available online - Secondary 2024
04 September 2023	Portal for Secondary 2024 applications opens
31 October 2023	CLOSING DATE FOR ON-TIME SECONDARY 2024 APPLICATIONS
1 November 2023 - 29 November 2023	Late application received within this period may be considered as on time but only in exceptional circumstances (see Information for Parents booklet for more information).
30 November 2024	All applications received from this date forward will be considered late regardless of the circumstances
01 March 2024	National Offer Day - all on-time applicants will be offered a secondary school place for September 2024
18 March 2024	Late Offers - Phase 1 - Offers made for late applications received between 1/11/23 & 28/02/24
20 March 2024	Waiting list positions available for Secondary 2024 applications
07 May 2024	Late Offers - Phase 2 - Offers made for late applications received between 01/03/24 & 30/04/24
24 June 2024	Late Offers - Phase 3 - Offers made for late applications received between 01/05/24 & 21/06/24
As Required	Further offers for late applications will be made as required
June/July 2024	Appeal Hearings - dates to be confirmed to applicants as appropriate
June/July 2024	Inset Dates - to be confirmed by the school of offer

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 [Walsall Council Education webpages](#) 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 and any schools in other local authorities.

If you wish to apply for a Specialist Music Place at Aldridge School you must name this as a separate preference. If you wish to also apply for a place at the school, please name the school separately. If you are expressing preferences for both options at the same school, you must rank the preference for the specialist place higher than the preference for the school place, this is because 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 19 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 Abu Bakr Girls' School, Abu Bakr Boys' School and Hydesville Tower School.

There are 16 secondary schools in Walsall where places are offered to boys and girls of all levels of ability:

- 2 Catholic voluntary aided schools
- 14 Academies

At the following three schools, all or some of the places are offered based upon the performance of children in an entrance examination or a musical audition, set by the school:

- Queen Mary's Grammar School and Queen Mary's High School are selective, single-sex schools (both Academies)
- Aldridge School offers Specialist Music 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 Local Authorities are given below.

Birmingham LA - Tel: 0121 303 1888

School Admissions and Fair Access Service, PO Box 16513, Birmingham, B2 2FF [Birmingham school admissions webpages](#)
Email: admict@birmingham.gov.uk

Dudley LA - Tel: 0300 555 2345 (choose Option 5 then Option 6)

People Services Directorate, School Admissions Service, The Council House, Priory Road, Dudley, DY1 1HF [https: \[Dudley school admissions webpages\]\(#\)](https://www.dudley.gov.uk/school-admissions-webpages) Email: admissions.cs@dudley.gov.uk

Sandwell LA - Tel: 0121 569 6765

School Admissions Service, Sandwell Council House, PO BOX 16230, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3EX [Sandwell school admissions webpages](#) Email: annual_schooladmissions@sandwell.gov.uk

Staffordshire LA - Tel: 0300 111 8007 (Select option for School Admissions & Transport)

School Admissions and Transport Service, Staffordshire County Council, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH [Staffordshire school admissions webpages](#) Email: admissions@staffordshire.gov.uk

Wolverhampton LA - Tel: 01902 551122

City of Wolverhampton Council Education, Directorate Admissions and Appeals, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RR

[Wolverhampton school admissions webpages](#) 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. This is 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 Specialist Music Place (separate preference from Aldridge School)
- Brownhills Ormiston Academy
- 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
- Shire Oak Academy
- Walsall Academy

The school's own registration form must be returned directly to the secondary school concerned by **31 October 2023**. (or in the case of Queen Mary's Grammar School and Queen Mary's High School before 30 June 2023). 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 College, St Thomas More Catholic School, Brownhills Ormiston Academy or Shire Oak Academy

If you wish to express a preference for either or both of Walsall's Catholic Secondary Schools, Brownhills Ormiston Academy or Shire Oak Academy, you will need to send any required supporting information, e.g. baptismal certificates and letters from a minister of religion, directly 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 Education Sufficiency Team or the school.

Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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 Education Sufficiency 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 2023**. Applications received after this date will be considered after the applications received on time unless there are exceptional reasons. This may result in your child not being offered a place at your preferred school.

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

What happens if I do not submit my application by 31 October 2023?

Secondary school applications can only be made through Walsall Council's on-line portal up to 31 October 2023. Late applications received between 1st November 2023 and 29th November 2023 may be considered as being on-time but only where there are exceptional circumstances.

Late Applications received between 30 November 2023 and 28 February 2024 **will only** be processed after all other applications have been finalised and you will not receive your offer until after national offer day. Such applicants are less likely to be offered their preferred schools.

Late Applications for Walsall secondary schools received up to 4 weeks after the Closing Date (between 1 November 2023 and 29 November 2023):

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, for example:

- 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 an on time application.
- When a lone parent has been ill for some time.

In these cases applicants must set out the reasons for the exceptional circumstances and evidence must be provided. This will be subject to verification by the Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team. Please refer to Page 49 for more details about Walsall Council's Late Application Policy.

Please note parents and guardians who submit applications considered as late (applications received between 1 November 2023 and 1 March 2024) will receive their child's offer after the National Offer Day, 1 March 2024. Please refer to page 7 for the key dates needed to determine late offer dates.

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

Up to the closing date of **31 October 2023** parents may change their preferences if they wish to do so. Preferences which are changed or added after the closing date without evidence of a significant change in circumstances will mean that the entire application is processed as late. When notifying a significant change of circumstances the applicant must supply documentary evidence to confirm the change. An example of a significant change of circumstances 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 contract 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. Details of 'siblings' definitions can be found within the school's admission arrangement on their website.

When will I know the outcome of my application?

If you make an 'on time' application, you will receive the outcome of your application by email (please see page 5 for details) on Friday 1 March 2024.

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 will 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 neighboring authority.

The neighboring authorities' coordinating in this scheme are: Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Staffordshire and Wolverhampton.

Details of how the scheme operates are given on pages 47 to 49.

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

When you receive notification of your school place you will receive information on how to proceed if you are not satisfied with the school place you have been allocated.

You can contact the Admissions and Education Sufficiency team via email at secondary.admissions@walsall.gov.uk. They will be able to advise you which other schools have places and explain the options available to you.

You have the opportunity to appeal against the decision to an Independent Appeals Panel. Details about how to appeal are set out at page 51 of this booklet and will also be provided in your offer email.

Where appeals are lodged after the deadline date, this may result in the appeal not being heard in the summer term.

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, child or the school.

In the event of your appeal being unsuccessful, you may wish to contact the Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team who will be able to advise you which schools have places available.

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 any Walsall schools that were named as higher preferences on your original application.

Waiting Lists for all Walsall schools except for Walsall Academy, will be maintained by the Local Authority until the last day of Summer Term 2024. Parents wishing to add or enquire about their child's position on any waiting list by contacting the Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team.

To determine your waiting list position for an out-of-borough school, please get in touch with the appropriate school authority to obtain this information. Contact details can be found on page 8.

Parents with an enquiry about their child's position on the waiting list for Walsall Academy should contact the academy directly. Waiting lists will be held and maintained by Walsall Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team until the end of the Summer Term 2024. Parents who wish their child to be added to any Secondary School waiting lists from September 2024 onwards should complete a midyear application form **directly to the secondary school of preference**.

Please see further information about the Waiting List Policy on page 51.

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

In the first instance please refer to the Walsall Council website for information at [Walsall Council education webpages](https://www.walsall.gov.uk/education)

However, if you require additional support, please contact the Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk and a member of the team will contact you about your enquiry.

Changing schools during the school year - Midyear Admissions

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's needs will not be known by school staff.

Most 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 care has moved carers and direct travel to the existing school is not possible;
- where a child receives an Education, Health and Care Plan 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 head teacher.

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 head teacher, 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 at SEN@walsall.gov.uk

General information:

How to apply for midyear admission to a Walsall secondary school

If you wish to apply for midyear admission to a Walsall secondary school you must apply directly to each school and follow their mid-year admission application process.

Special Educational Needs

Many young people will have Special Educational Needs at some time during their school careers but in the majority of cases these needs can and will be met within the young person's own school. All schools in Walsall are required to follow the guidance as set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice in order to identify young people considered to have Special Educational Needs.

All schools have a policy on Special Educational Needs and a designated Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator, usually referred to as the SENCO. In addition all schools have a designated governor who takes responsibility for ensuring provision to meet the Special Educational Needs of the young people in the school is made. All young people should be supported in their learning through a differentiated curriculum and personalised learning but some young people will be given additional support if required through 'SEN Support' or an Education, Health and Care Plan. More details about the secondary school admissions process for children with an Education, Health and Care plan are set out below.

If you have concerns about the provision being made for your child, you should always discuss these with staff in your child's school who may include the class teacher, form tutor, SENCO and Headteacher. However, if you need further advice or guidance about Special Educational Needs you can contact Walsall SENDIAS service at Walsallsendiass@family-action.org.uk or on 0808 802 6666.

Walsall Local Authority is committed to working in partnership with parents and carers.

What happens if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan?

If your child or a young person has an EHC plan there is a separate process for applying for a school place. You do not need to apply through the normal admissions process for transfer to secondary school. Parents or the young person will need to complete a form expressing their preference of school, the link to the form is [Preference form for children with an EHC Plan](#) or you can scan the QR code below



Alternatively, please contact the EHC team on 01922652871 or email sen@walsall.gov.uk to request a form be emailed or posted out to you.

Your Family Liaison Officer (FLO) and the EHC Team will be your key contacts and can support to you and your child with making the application.

Moving from one phase of education to the next is a significant change and it's important that parents, carers or young people think about what school should be named in their EHC plan. You may choose to attend open days and information sessions for a variety of schools/settings to establish whether the provision is appropriate for your child's needs. Please check the Walsall Council local offer for information about schools/settings that you may be considering.

For a move to secondary school, SEN regulations require that the EHC plan must be reviewed and amended before **15 February 2024** if your child is due to start secondary school in September 2024. This means there should always be an annual review of the EHC plan before a transfer to a new phase of education. The annual review process should begin in the **autumn term of Year 6**.

If you request that your child be allocated a place in a special school the need for this provision must be evidenced in

Apply online at www.walsall.gov.uk – Apply for a secondary school place.
For further guidance please email schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

the EHCP or, the most recent annual review must include evidence that the needs of your child can't be met in a mainstream school environment. Please contact your FLO or the EHC team for more information.

According to the SEND Code of Practice 2014, if a child's parent or a young person makes a request for a particular setting/school the local authority must comply with that preference and name the school or college in the EHC plan unless:

- it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or
- the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources.

Please note, if you apply to a grammar school to ensure the ability/aptitude of your child is taken into account this will be done by the school's own entrance examinations. A grammar school will only be named in the EHCP after the places have been allocated by the school.

Under section 43 Children and Families Act 2014, the school named in an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must admit the child.

School places will be allocated to children with an EHCP before places are allocated to other pupils.

The final decision of the allocated school place rests with the Local Authority where the child or young person lives.

Children undergoing an Education, Health and Care Plan Needs Assessment

Where a child is undergoing a needs assessment for an Education, Health and Care Plan the date of issue will be dependent on the date that the application was made and it may not always be possible to issue the plan in accordance with the 15 February 2024 timescale. Where the decision to issue an EHC plan is made after the 15 February 2024 the EHC

assessment team will continue to consult with both the existing school and the school identified by Secondary Admissions, as well as any parent preferences for schooling made as part of the EHCP process, in order to identify the child's school placement as quickly as the process permits.

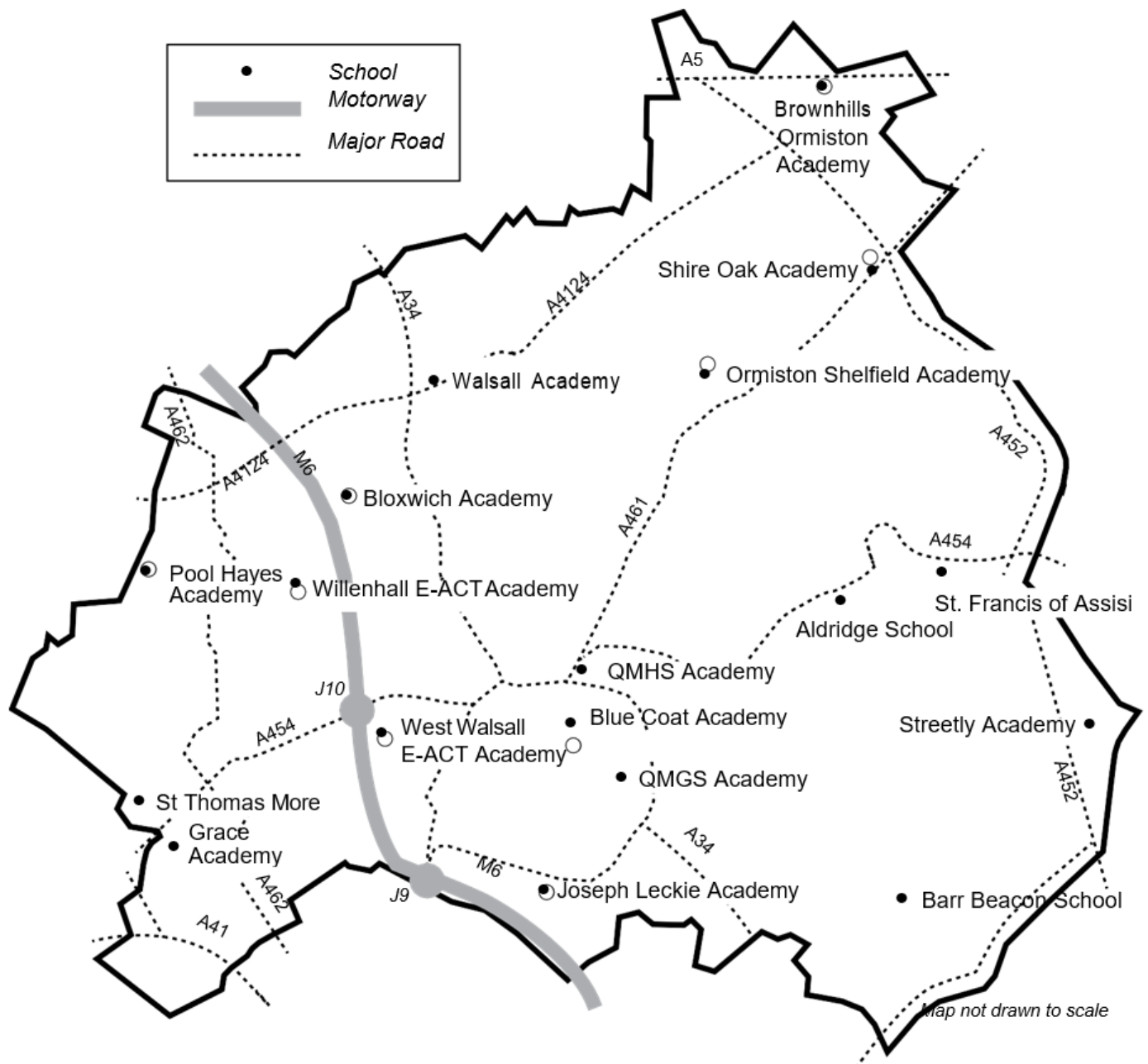
What are the chances of getting my child into the school I want?

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 2024, remembering Shire Oak Academy accept former siblings as a connection.
 - Check the admission criteria for your preferred school carefully. 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 the Admissions and Education Sufficiency 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 the same preference down more than once. If you do, we will treat this as one application unless you are applying for a 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.
 - List ALL preferences on your application.
- You must submit your application (see page 4 for details) before 31 October 2023.**

Information about Walsall Secondary Schools

Map of Walsall Secondary Schools



Walsall Secondary Schools-Contact Details and Open Evening/s Information

School	Admission Number	Type of School	Telephone Number	Email and Website	Open Evening/s and Days
Aldridge School	270 (including up to 27 music places)	Academy	01922 743988	Email: info@ald.mericantrust.org.uk Web: Aldridge School website	Please refer to the school's website.
Aldridge School – Specialist Music Places	27	Academy	01922 743988		Please refer to the school's website.
Barr Beacon School	252	Academy	0121 366 6600	Email: postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk Web: Barr Beacon School website	Open evening 14 th September 6-9pm Open mornings 15 th September and 6 th October 9.00-10am
Bloxwich Academy	180	Academy	01922 710257	Email: postbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk Web: Bloxwich Academy website	Open evening 14 th September 4.30-7.30pm. Open mornings: 2 nd -6 th October 9:15am-10:10am and 9 th -12 th October 9:15am-10:10am
Blue Coat CE Academy	150	Academy	01922 720558	Email: postbox@bluecoatacademy.org Web: Blue Coat CE Academy website	Please refer to the school's website.
Brownhills Ormiston Academy	150	Academy	01543 452886	Email: postbox@brownhillsoa.co.uk Web: Brownhills Ormiston Academy website	Open Evening is Tuesday 12 th September from 6pm to 8.30pm. Open mornings are Thursday 21 st September, 29 th September, and 4 th October and tours will start at 9.15am.
Grace Academy Darlaston	180	Academy	0121 568 3300	Email: enquiries@darlaston.graceacademy.co.uk Web: www.darlaston-graceacademy.org.uk	Please refer to the school's website.
Joseph Leckie Academy	240	Academy	01922 721071	Email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk Web: Joseph Leckie Academy website	Please refer to the school's website.
Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy	240	Academy	01922 685777	Email: postbox@scacademy.co.uk Web: Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy website	Open Evening will be on Thursday 28 September 2023
Pool Hayes Academy	200	Academy	01902 368147	Email: office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk Web: Pool Hayes Academy website	Please refer to the school's website.
Queen Mary's Grammar School (for boys)	180	Academy	01922 720696	Email: enquiries@qmgs.mericantrust.org.uk Web: www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk	Please refer to the school's website.
Queen Mary's High School (for girls)	150	Academy	01922 721013	Email: qmarys@qmhs.mericantrust.org.uk Web: QMHS website	Please refer to the school's website.
Shire Oak Academy	270	Academy	01543 452518	Email: postbox@soa.mericantrust.org.uk Web: Shire Oak Academy website	Please refer to the school's website.
St Francis of Assisi Catholic School	180	Voluntary Aided	01922 740300	Email: postbox@stfrancis.cc Web: St Francis of Assisi website	Please refer to the school's website.
St Thomas More Catholic School	243	Voluntary Aided	01902 368798	Email: postbox@st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk Web: www.st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk	Open evening 5 October 2023 5pm-7pm
The Streetly Academy	260	Academy	0121 353 2709	Email: postbox@thetreetlyacademy.co.uk Web: Streetly Academy website	Open Evening: 28 th September 2023. Please refer to the schools website for on-line booking details. Open Mornings: Mon 2 nd , Tues 3 rd and Wed 4 th October 2023 via online booking system.
Walsall Academy	208	Academy	01922 493910	Email: enquiries@walsallacademy.com Web: Walsall Academy website	Please refer to the school's website.
West Walsall E-ACT Academy	210	Academy	01922 720741	Email: wwea.info@e-act.org.uk Web: www.westwalsallacademy.e-act.org.uk	Open Evening 21 st September 3:30pm-7pm
Willenhall E-ACT Academy	180	Academy	01902 368221	Email: postbox@willenhalle-actacademy.org.uk Web: Willenhall E-ACT Academy website	Please refer to the school's website.

Offers Breakdown for September 2023

Name of School	DFE No	PAN 2023	EHCP	Child in care	Medical/ Social	Sibling(s)	Staff Child	Feeder	Specialist Places: Music/Sports	Distance	Furthest Distance	Total No. Of Preferences	Total Offers	Offers by Preference			PAN = Published Admission Number EHCP = Education Health and Care Plan LAC = Looked After Child (in Public Care or formerly in Public Care)
														1st	2nd	3rd	
Aldridge School	5405	270	4	3	0	90	0	74	19	90	2.273	924	280	221	30	14	School agreed to admit up to 280 on National Offer Day.
Barr Beacon School	5406	252	1	3	0	85	0	114	0	54	1.195	1270	257	224	22	6	School agreed to admit up to 257 on National Offer Day.
Bloxwich Academy	4001	180	7	1	0	63	0	57	0	57	0.931	389	185	166	13	4	School agreed to admit up to 185 on National Offer Day.
Blue Coat Church of England Academy	4004	150	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	363	160	124	27	5	School agreed to admit up to 160 on National Offer Day. Places offered in accordance with the schools faith-based criteria.
Brownhills Ormiston Academy	4057	150	2	3	0	49	0	0	0	113	5.725	360	167	140	21	6	School agreed to admit up to 167 on National Offer Day.
Grace Academy Darlaston	6907	180	4	2	0	75	0	0	0	140	1.394	412	220	200	13	6	School agreed to admit up to 220 on National Offer Day.
Joseph Leckie Academy	4007	240	8	1	0	95	0	0	0	184	1.376	429	288	228	37	12	School agreed to admit up to 288 on National Offer Day.
Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy	6906	240	5	4	0	85	1	0	0	170	2.872	524	265	219	30	11	School agreed to admit up to 265 on National Offer Day.
Pool Hayes Academy	4106	200	6	0	0	66	0	0	0	170	2.174	398	242	179	43	15	School agreed to admit up to 242 on National Offer Day.
Queen Mary's Grammar School	5404	180	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	794	181	144	31	4	Places offered in accordance with the school's test performance over-subscription criteria.
Queen Mary's High School	5406	150	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	714	150	115	56	9	Places offered in accordance with the school's test performance over-subscription criteria.
Shire Oak Academy	5402	270	1	1	0	61	0	0	0	225	n/a	376	288	140	14	4	School agreed to admit up to 288 on National Offer Day.
St Francis of Assisi Catholic School	4606	180	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	608	195	161	28	4	School agreed to admit up to 195 on National Offer Day.
St Thomas More Catholic School	5401	243	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	649	243	221	18	3	Places offered in accordance with the school's faith-based criteria.
The Streetly Academy	5400	260	3	1	0	93	0	82	0	91	1.309	897	270	240	16	8	School agreed to admit up to 270 on National Offer Day.
Walsall Academy	6905	208	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	699	208	189	11	2	Places offered in accordance with the school's fair banding criteria.
West Walsall E-ACT Academy	4003	210	13	1	0	63	0	0	0	133	n/a	377	210	155	27	16	
Willenhall E-ACT Academy	4002	180	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	173	n/a	220	225	129	7	9	School agreed to admit up to 225 on National Offer Day.

Aldridge School

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

Headteacher: Mr B Worth

Chair of Governors: Mr D Jones

Admission Number: 270 (including up to 27 specialist music places)

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

NB: The school will admit up to 285 places for September 2024

Total No. of Pupils (June 2021): 1,607

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 2023**.

Walsall Residents must submit an online application to Walsall Council by **31 October 2023**. 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.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team at 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 in Years 7-11 (or 6th form if that sibling was on roll at Aldridge School for Year 11) 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.
5. Priority is given to 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 27 places have been reserved as specialist music places. If you want to apply for a music place, please express a separate preference in your application, as Walsall Council - and Aldridge School treat preferences for Music Places and a place at the school as separate applications.

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

A total of 922 preferences were expressed for places in 2022. 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 2.417 miles from the school.

A total of 924 preferences were expressed for places in 2023. 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 2.273 miles from the school.

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.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place:

Appeal forms and information can be obtained from the school website (www.aldrigedridge.org) or by contacting the Head teacher's PA.

Aldridge School - Specialist Music Places

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

Headteacher: Mr B Worth
Chair of Governors: Mr D Jones

Type: Academy
Denominational Affiliation: None

How to apply for a place:

To apply for a place you must complete 2 forms:

Admission Number: 27 Specialist Music Places

1. Walsall Residents (where a child/children attends a Walsall Primary School) they should complete an online application by **31 October 2023**.
2. Parents living outside Walsall must submit an application to their home authority.
3. Aldridge School 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 the Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team at secondary.admissions@walsall.gov.uk

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

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
- 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.aldriggeschool.org) or by contacting the Head teacher's PA.

Barr Beacon School

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

Headteacher: Mrs K.Hibbs
Chair of Trustees: Mr J Bench
Admission Number: 252

Type: Academy
Denominational Affiliation: None

NB: The school will admit up to 259 places for September 2024

Total No. of Pupils (June 2023): 1,343 + 233 Sixth Form

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2023**. 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 Admissions & Education Sufficiency Team at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Admission criteria:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children) and previously looked after children.
2. Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school in Years 8 – 11 in September of the relevant year. Siblings of Sixth Form students DO NOT qualify for a sibling claim.
3. Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child (relevant medical or social grounds that show that attendance at the school is essential and supported in writing by a medical practitioner or social worker. Requests for such consideration will be subject to verification by Governing Body.)
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 / or the member of staff has been seconded to support another school within the Matrix Academy Trust.

** 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. Pupils from feeder Primary Schools – Meadow View JMI, Park Hall Junior Academy, Pheasey Park Farm Primary living within 2.9 miles of Barr Beacon School, as measured by a straight line.
6. Proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearest being accorded the higher priority, the distance being measured in a straight line.

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

A total of 1,334 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. 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 1.276 miles from the school.

A total of 1,270 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. 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 1.195 miles from the school.

Information provided by the school:

At Barr Beacon School we expect:

- Outstanding behavior
- Excellent Attendance
- High standards of uniform
- Barr Beacon values, be yourself, equal to everyone, act responsibly, consideration for others and the environment, own what you do and never discriminate
- High aspirations
- No mobile phones school (years 7-11)

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)

Headteacher: Mr A Seager

Chair of Governors: Mr Jeremy Bench

Admission Number: 180

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (May 2023): 1113

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must complete an on-line application no later than **31 October 2023**. 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 reduce.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Admissions & Education Sufficiency Team at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Admission criteria:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children) and previously looked after children.
2. Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school in Years 8 – 11 in September of the relevant year. Siblings of Sixth Form students qualify for a sibling claim.
3. Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child (relevant medical or social grounds that show that attendance at the school is essential and supported in writing by a medical practitioner or social worker. Requests for such consideration will be subject to verification by Governing Body).
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. Proximity of the child's home to the 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 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. 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, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Entry in Y7 2024:

Pupils will be admitted without reference to ability, aptitude, race or religion. Children in year 6 in the primary phase of Bloxwich Academy will automatically transfer to year 7 of the secondary phase without the need to apply for a place.

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

A total of 372 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022, and a total of 227 places were offered on 1 March 2022. The furthest distance being offered was 4.732 miles from the school.

A total of 389 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023, and a total of 185 places were offered on 1 March 2023. The furthest distance being offered was 0.931 miles from the school.

Information provided by the school:

Bloxwich Academy prides itself on 'being the best it can be.' Our high expectations for all pupils is integral to the achievement of all.

We are oversubscribed in every year group due to the popularity of the Academy. We insist that pupils show manners and respect at all times and not only focus on academic success but look at ensuring they become upstanding members of the community.

Ofsted has recognised Bloxwich Academy as being 'Good' in all areas, including behaviour and the quality of education received by pupils.

Bloxwich Academy is ranked in the top 20% of schools nationally for pupil progress and we continue to drive these standards for our journey to 'Outstanding.' Good attendance, being punctual, wearing full academy uniform and bringing all equipment to school on a daily basis, is an expectation for all.

Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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

Headteacher: Mr D Smith
Chair of Governors: Mrs L Parker
Admission Number: 150

Type: Academy Trust
Denominational Affiliation: Church of England

NB: The school will admit up to 160 places for September 2024

Total N° of Pupils (July 2023): 909

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 2023. Anyone requiring a place **MUST** apply. 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 Mrs S Cawley, Student Support Services at Blue Coat CE Academy, Birmingham Street, Walsall, WS1 2ND, Tel: 01922 720558, Email: st-cawley-s@bluecoatacademy.org or from the Local Authority) and return this form direct to Mrs S Cawley, Student Support Services at Blue Coat CE Academy. The form **MUST** be signed by an appropriate faith leader.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Admissions & Education Sufficiency Team at 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 an EHCP that names the Blue Coat CE Academy will have 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
- (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 (In years 7-11) and whose families are faithful and regular worshippers;
- (vi) Children of existing staff members, whose families are faithful and regular worshippers

In the event that two or more applicants have equal right to a place under criteria (ii) – (vi) 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 (In years 7 to 11);
- (iv) Children who have attended one of the following designated 'partner' primary schools: Refer to Appendix A
- (iv) Children of existing staff members who have been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time of application
- (v) All other children

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

There were 336 preferences expressed for places in September 2022 and after applying the admission criteria, places were offered to 150 pupils. Offered above PAN due to exceptional circumstances.

There were 363 preferences expressed for places in September 2023 and after applying the admission criteria, places were offered to 160 pupils. Offers were made above PAN due to exceptional circumstances.

For further details about the school please contact Mrs S Cawley, Student Support Services, at Blue Coat CE Academy, Birmingham Street, Walsall, WS1 2ND, Tel: 01922 720558, Email: st-cawley-s@bluecoatacademy.org.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place:

Contact the school and request an appeals form.

Open evening 6th October 5.30-8pm

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 C of E (C) Primary School
- St Margaret's CE (C) Primary School

Brownhills Ormiston Academy

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

Principal: Mrs Ann Lloyd
Chair of Governors: Mr Ian Pedder
Admission Number: 150

Type: Academy
Denominational Affiliation: None
Total No. of Pupils (June 2023):693

NB: The school will admit up to 167 places for September 2024

How to apply for a place:

To apply for a place you must complete two forms.

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 by **31 October 2023**.

AND

Complete the Brownhills Ormiston Academy Supplementary Information Form, available direct from the Academy or via a link from the Academy's website and return it either directly to the Academy or online before 31st October 2023.

If you are returning this form via your child's primary school please allow sufficient time for it to be forwarded to Brownhills Ormiston Academy.

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. Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the Academy when the application is made and who will be still attending the Academy at the proposed admission date
3. Children of Staff employed at the Academy (Children of members of staff where the member of Staff has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the Academy is made).
4. Proximity of the child's home to the Academy, 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 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.

Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the Academy, 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 2022 and 2023:

A total of 366 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to 151 pupils.

A total of 360 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. Places were offered to 167 pupils who met criteria 1.2.3.4.5 and for pupils assessed on distance, places were offered to pupils who lived up to 5.72 miles from the school

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place:

Write to Karen Shaw, Principle's PA, at Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, WS8 7QG or by email to kshaw@brownhillsoa.co.uk to request an Appeal Form.

Information provided by the school:

Brownhills Ormiston Academy is a smaller than average academy which prides itself on having traditional standards and being ambitious for its students. We offer a disciplined and positive approach that allows children to thrive in a safe, happy and academic environment. We have high expectations of all pupils in terms of behaviour, attendance, uniform and achievement. We 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 academy support these expectations and values in order to help their child be successful in the academy. As a minimum, we expect good attendance, punctuality, behaviour, smart uniform and hard work and we insist that parents support the academy 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 start to their secondary education.

On April 1st 2020, we chose to become an academy with Ormiston Academies Trust in order to give our students and staff a wider range of development opportunities within a family of 9 Midland secondary schools and 41 schools nationally. We are enjoying the benefits and increased support of this wider network.

Ofsted praised the school for its outstanding Leadership and Management in 2013 commenting on the drive for continual improvement. In May 2017 we enjoyed a one-day Ofsted inspection for GOOD schools, which reinforced these grading's and confirmed that we continue to be a very good school. Ofsted stated that the leadership of safeguarding and teaching and learning is a strength of the school. It noted "staff ensure that the well-being and safety of pupils are of the highest priority. Leadership is clear, thorough and compassionate and consequently, a culture of shared responsibility exists among staff and Governors. A caring and professional approach contributes strongly to the positive ethos in the school."

Ofsted noted that our students are polite and friendly to each other and visitors. Their attitudes to learning are good and they are proud of the changes that have taken place over recent years that, they say have made us an even better school.

Ofsted also complimented staff on "having a clear understanding of what needs to be done to ensure that all pupils at the school fulfil their potential. Leaders have clearly identified the strengths and weaknesses of the school and developed a Leadership Team with the capacity to improve the school further."

We are clearly focused on what we need to do to secure excellence in all areas of academy life and we are ambitious for our young people. It is pleasing that Ofsted validated our very accurate self-evaluation. At Brownhills Ormiston Academy we work very hard to improve the academy for the benefit of our students and parents.

The academy is recognised as a centre of excellence for music and the performing arts with the academy choir VIP (Voices in Partnership) winning national competitions. Musical productions take place each year with several students going on to professional careers in the performing arts and music. Dance is now a strength of this programme.

Formerly designated as a Sports College, teams are organised in all sports and competitions and we have a house system and a Leadership Academy to promote leadership skills in sport. The academy holds the Gold Quality Mark from the Youth Sports Trust for its excellent provision and participation in sport. The academy is involved in a national University of Oxford Mindfulness Project, which promotes well-being for students.

The academy 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. We have annual trips abroad and a range of educational visits in the UK and abroad.

Our geographical position makes Brownhills Ormiston Academy accessible for Walsall and Staffordshire children. Subsidised bus routes are available to support parents who wish to seek the right secondary school place for their child regardless of the distance to be travelled. The academy is now oversubscribed as a result of its good reputation and high standards.

Open Evening is Tuesday 12th September from 6pm to 8.30pm.

Open mornings are Thursday 21st September, 29th September, and 4th October and tours will start at 9.15am.

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

Grace Academy Darlaston

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

Principal: Mrs Julie Anstey
Chair of Governors: Mr Ian Baker
Admission Number: 180

Type: Academy
Denominational Affiliation: None
Total No. of Pupils: 1075

NB: The school will admit up to 220 places for September 2024

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than 31 October 2023. 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 Admissions & Education Sufficiency Team at 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 date.
3. Pupils for whom a place at the Academy 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 Academy as measured in a straight line, with those living closer to the Academy receiving the higher priority.

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

A total of 410 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. 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 1.2.miles from the school.

A total of 412 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. 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 1.394.miles from the school

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place:

Write to Chair of Appeals Panel, 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 Academya unique blend of traditional values and modern approaches Grace Academy has a distinctive ethos based on Christian principles and values. The Academy has very strong links with local business, commerce and universities through our Business Alliance. 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 Academyhigh quality teaching and learning relevant to the world of work Grace Academy has a broad curriculum where students of all abilities achieve excellent results. Our recent OFSTED confirmed that we are a good school. At Grace Academy Years 7-9 follow the National Curriculum and year's 10-11 study academic, vocational and industry standard qualifications. Our courses in the Sixth Form stretch, develop and challenge our students and prepare them for employment, training or further study.

Grace Academysuperb 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 Academyin 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 with clear communication and direct parental involvement in the support of learning.

Grace Academywhere individuals are important Grace Academy takes an individualised approach to care and guidance through a personal tutor in our tutor groups. Tutors understand and care 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 [Grace Academy Darlaston website](https://www.graceacademydarlaston.co.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 James Ludlow
Chair of Governors: Mrs Lisa Ingram
Admission Number: 240

Type: Academy
Denominational Affiliation: None
Total No. of Pupils (May 2023): 1,458

NB: The school will admit up to 300 places for September 2024

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than 31 October 2023. 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 Admissions & Education Sufficiency Team at 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. Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the Academy when the application is made and who will be still attending the Academy in Years 8 – 13 in September of the relevant year.
3. Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child. (Relevant medical or social grounds that show that attendance at the Academy is essential and supported in writing by a medical practitioner or social worker. Requests for such consideration will be subject to verification by Governing Body).
4. Students from feeder Primary Schools: Delves Junior, Palfrey Junior, Caldmore Primary Academy and Whitehall Junior Community School, who live within 2.25 miles of Joseph Leckie Academy, as measured by a straight line.

5. Proximity of the child's home to the Academy, with those living nearest being accorded the higher priority, the distance being measured in a straight line.

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

A total of 399 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. After applying the published admission criteria, places were offered to 270 pupils. All on time preferences were offered a place.

A total of 429 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. Places were offered to 288 pupils who met criteria 1.2.3.4.5 and for pupils assessed on distance, places were offered to pupils who lived up to 1.376 miles from the school.

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: Throughout Key Stage 3 students will study all National Curriculum subjects plus Religious Education, with this Key Stage being taught over 2 years. During Year 8 students will have the opportunity to make choices from an extensive range of GCSE or equivalent qualifications. It is expected that the majority of students will study 2 EBAC subjects alongside their core curriculum; however, they will have free choice of at least 3 qualifications within our student pathways. The full range of subjects offered to students at Key Stage 4 is available on our website. You can be assured that the Academy will work with students and parents to ensure that students are placed on the most appropriate courses to allow them to succeed and continue in their further education. All courses have progression routes to Post 16 opportunities which include a wide range of traditional A Levels alongside vocational courses at Levels 2 - 3 inclusive.

As students' progress through their Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 courses the Academy has additional and dedicated provision which allows for a personalised curriculum and supported study.

The Academy was inspected by Ofsted in October 2021 and the Academy has made been graded 'Good'.

A caring and supportive Academy: Our pastoral system is organised into year groups. We take great care in making sure that all of our students get the most out of the many opportunities we offer. Heads of Year, along with form tutors, support students' learning. Tutors know members of their tutor group well and are the first point of contact for parents. Within our pastoral team we have dedicated mentors and a qualified school counsellor.

House system: In addition to our excellent pastoral system, we have a House system with students divided up into one of four Houses from across the years. The Heads of House arrange a wide variety of activities and events involving a number of staff to engage students in various events from sporting competitions, crafts, music to quizzes and talent shows.

Excellent facilities: A new teaching block opened in September 2020 and houses MFL, Business, Health and Social Care and ICT teaching facilities as well as a brand new library.

Throughout the Academy we have a large number of networked computer rooms, interactive whiteboards, refurbished science laboratories and a well-stocked library including additional ICT facilities. Our sports facilities include a sports hall, gymnasium, weights area, swimming pool and grass pitches.

Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy

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

Principal: Mr M Riley

Chair of Board of Governors: Mr D Reynolds

Admission Number: 240

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (May 2023): 1,378

NB: The school will admit up to 265 places for September 2024

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2023**.

Admission criteria:

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

1. Looked after children or previously looked after children
2. Children of members of staff. Children of members of staff where the 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 and children of members of staff who have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
3. A sibling. Children who have a sibling registered at the academy at the time of application – years 7-13
 - A brother or sister (including half brothers or sisters) who shares one or both parents, whether or not resident at the same address)
 - A step brother or sister where the two children are related by a parent's marriage
 - An adopted or foster child living at the same address under the terms of the residents' order
 - Another child living at the same address where the adult has parental responsibility

In the case of twins or other children from multiple births (two or more siblings in one year group) and where only one place is available, the application will be considered together as one application.

4. Distance from the academy to the home address. Priority will be given to children living closest to the school.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Admissions & Education Sufficiency Team at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place:

You appeal information must be entered on the correct form. Please contact Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy to request an Appeal Form.

Our Open Evening will be on Thursday 28 September 2023

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

A total of 600 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. After applying the published admissions arrangements places were offered to children who met criteria 1-3 and who lived up to 2.962 miles away.

A total of 524 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. After applying the published admissions arrangements places were offered to children who met criteria 1-5 and who lived up to 2.872 miles away from the school.

Information provided by the Academy:

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy

- Our three core drivers of **Outcomes, Values and Choices** are at the heart of our daily actions and interactions. Our aim is simple; by rigorously instilling our **values**, students achieve positive **outcomes** enabling them to make considered life **choices** which open doors to the opportunities they deserve.

Outcomes

- We educate our students to understand that 'outcomes' means academic attainment and progress, development of values and character and progression to their preferred destinations. We support our students to achieve academic qualifications that empower them to seize opportunities and advance to the next stage of their chosen educational journey. We empower our students to have the knowledge, skills, personal traits and experiences in order to seize career and life opportunities

Values

- We are ready, respectful and responsible. We are honest. We do what we say we'll do and do not make excuses. We are a team. Helping a member of our team is helping ourselves.

Choices

- We develop our students to have the strength of character and courage to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Our values support our students to make the life choices that will have a positive impact on their future and contribution to society. Being outcome focused and values driven, students take responsibility for their learning and actions which opens doors for them to have a breadth of choices when they leave school.

Curriculum Intent

Our intention is that all students achieve the best possible outcomes by studying an appropriate curriculum, applying themselves in every lesson and by developing a clear understanding of why achievement matters to their future goals, aspirations, and destinations. Our dedication to develop the whole child enables our students to leave the academy proficient in the skills that are vital for everyday life.

Students are provided with opportunities which will inspire, challenge and motivate them, gaining access to a curriculum that enhances their academic and personal development, providing knowledge, understanding and skills so that they value education and understand that outcomes mean results and character. Our curriculum is carefully designed and responsive to the needs of our students accounting for the community we serve. Our curriculum allows students to deepen their knowledge by embedding regular review and recall opportunities; alongside explicit interleaving this builds firm foundations for progression to the next level.

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

Apply online at [Walsall Council website](https://www.walsall.gov.uk/secondary-admissions) and follow the link to Education - Secondary School Admissions email secondary.admissions@walsall.gov.uk

Pool Hayes Academy

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

Headteacher: Mr A Lawrence
Chair of Governors: Ms J Shulman
Admission Number: 200

Type: Academy
Denominational Affiliation: None
Total No. of Pupils (May 2023): 976 + 82 sixth form

NB: The school will admit up to 250 places for September 2024

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than 31 October 2023. 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 Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Admission criteria:

If there are more applications for places than there are places available, we will give preference to children according to the following rules in this order of priority-

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children (children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after) in accordance with section 22 of the Children's Act 1989.
2. Siblings; which for the purposes of this policy are defined as: children living permanently at the same address as a child attending the academy at the time of their admission (including children in the 6th Form)
3. Children of permanent teaching and support staff of an ATT academy who have been employed at the academy for 2 years or more at the time of the application.
4. Children who attend an ATT Primary Academy at the time of the application, who are in the same geographical catchment area within the same LA. These are: Jubilee Academy Mossley, North Walsall Primary Academy and Caldmore Primary Academy.
5. Distance from the academy – with priority for admission given to children who live nearest to the academy and measured using a straight line from the home address.

Please note that up to two of the 200 places may be offered to pupils who experience communication difficulties. These places will be allocated by Walsall Council.

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

A total of 412 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. Places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1,2,3 and offers assessed on distance from the home address to the school were made to children living up to 1.348 miles from the school.

A total of 412 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. Places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1,2,3 and offers assessed on distance from the home address to the school were made to children living up to 2.174 miles from the school.

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:

As the Principal of Pool Hayes Academy, I look forward to applications for September 2024. An essential part of our approach is the partnership between pupil, parent and the academy, based on the values of Respect, Aspiration, Excellence and Resilience. We want to ensure all of our pupils are effectively equipped for the next step in their lives.

We have moved from strength to strength. In April 2022 we achieved a Good grading from Ofsted, we are ranked as one of the most improved secondary schools in Walsall and have built on our results year on year. This success achieved on the solid foundations of high-quality specialist staff and an effective

curriculum that has a clear purpose and focus.

September we will be taking our largest ever intake. This reflects the positive view that parents and carers have of the school and the reputation it has as a great place to work and learn. We remain committed to developing strong links with our Community. We work with our charitable organisation – chosen by students as well as local businesses and employers. We also see our provision as a seven-year journey; taking our pupils from Year seven through to Year thirteen opening the door to university and beyond.

Queen Mary's Grammar School (for Boys)

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

CEO of the Mercian Trust: Mr D Parkes

Headteacher: Mr R J Langton, M.A.

Chair of Governors: Mr K Davis

Admission Number: 180

Type: Converter Academy (in a Multi-Academy Trust)

Denominational affiliation: None

Total No. of pupils (April 2023): 1,316

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 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 for your home Authority's Preference Form and return it 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 on-line application **4pm on 30th June 2023**. Please call the School if you have not done this.

Your application will not be considered unless **both** sets of forms are completed by the due dates. For Walsall parents apply on-line by **31st October 2023**.

The Entrance Test for the School will take place on the 16th of September 2023. You will receive a letter from Queen Mary's Grammar School giving you information on your son's test result. The School aims to issue the letters before 20th October 2023 to 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 Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team on secondary.admissions@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 PAN for entry to Year 7 is 180 pupils. As a selective school which offers places based on ability, the Governors are not obliged to admit pupils to the PAN.

In order to be eligible for admission to the school, candidates must achieve a minimum standardised score (the 'qualifying score') in the selection test. Where the number of applications for admission exceeds the number of places available at the school, places are offered to children as follows:

- A. *A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted who achieve the qualifying score by rank order of standardised score. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions as defined by section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. who achieve the qualifying score by rank of order of standardised score;*
- B. Children eligible for Pupil Premium* at the time of the test who achieve the qualifying score by rank order of standardised score but limited to no more than 54 pupils in this category;

If the number of students applying under this criterion exceeds the number of places available, priority will be given to students as follows

B1. For those students attending a state funded Primary School in Walsall at the time of the test a list of such schools appended.

B2. For those students whom do not attend a state funder primary school in Walsall but who achieve the qualifying score by rank order of standardised score.

C. Other children who have achieved the qualifying score by rank order of standardised score until the Published Admission Number is reached.

If one or more candidates satisfy the admissions criteria and are equal on the order of merit, the positions in the three skills areas of the Test will be added together, and the candidate(s) with the lowest number will be offered the place(s).

** The School will require evidence to confirm Pupil Premium status*

Please note that due to Covid-19, the entrance test has been delayed this year until October 2020. As a result, the school will be taking applications up to 10th September 2020. The School will write to parents after the date applications close to explain what the arrangements will be.

How places were offered in September 2023:

By reference to the child's performance in the selective examination in accordance with the criteria above (A, B and C).

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place:

Write to the Clerk to the Governors: Mr D Milne, 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 we 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 we 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.

The School is a Founder academy of a new Multi Academy Trust in Walsall: The Mercian Trust.

Our Trust is a group of Schools working together under a common banner, but each retaining their autonomy, unique heritage and distinct identity.

Pupils in the Mercian Trust will be part of a family of schools forming an educational community. We are convinced we are stronger together. The Trust is already shaping the educational landscape in exciting ways; every pupil in the Trust will be part of that story.

Queen Mary's High School (for Girls)

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

Headteacher: Mrs N Daniel

Executive Headteacher: Ms N Walters

Chair of Governors: Mr T Normanton

Admission Number: 150

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (May 2023): 909

How to apply for a place:

The closing date for registrations has now passed. Applications will now be considered 'late'. Please see the admissions policy here: [Queen Mary's High School website](#) for further details.

Parents who wish to apply to Queen Mary's High School should have registered 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 2023, including Queen Mary's High School as one of the preferences.

Queen Mary's High School aims to send a letter before the closing date for the submission of the Local Authority application 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 Education & Sufficiency team via email secondary.admissions@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 2024 takes place on or around **Saturday 16th September 2023**.

How places were offered for September 2023:

Pupils are admitted on the basis of their performance in the test. After the test, candidates are ranked according to their test scores. Further details can be found on the school web site: www.qmhs.org.uk

To be eligible for admission to the school, candidates must achieve a minimum standardised score (the 'qualifying score') in the Test. This will be decided by Governors once they have received the order of merit.

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds the number of places available at the school, places are offered to children as follows:

a) A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted who achieve the qualifying score by rank order of standardised score. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions as defined by section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989.

b) Children eligible for the Pupil Premium* at the time of the Test who achieve the qualifying score by rank order of standardised score but limited to no more than 30% of pupils in this category (currently 45 places);

If the number of students applying under this criterion exceeds the number of places available, priority will be given to students as follows:

B1. For those students attending a State-funded Primary School in Walsall at the time of the Test.

B2. For those students who do not attend a State-funded Primary School in Walsall but who achieve the qualifying score by rank order of standardised score.

c) Other children who have achieved the qualifying score by rank order of standardised score until the Published Admissions Number is reached.

If one or more candidates satisfy the admissions criteria and are equal on the order of merit, the positions in the three skills areas of the Test will be added together, and the candidate(s) with the highest score will be offered the place(s).

In the event of the process listed above not producing a result where individual applications can be separated, a random allocation process will be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission. This process will be independently verified.

*** The School will require evidence to confirm Pupil Premium status**

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place:

Write to the Clerk to the Governors: Mr D Milne,
Whitehouse Ridsdale, 26 Birmingham Road, Walsall WS1 2LZ

Information provided by the school:

Queen Mary's High School is an outstanding girls' grammar school with a reputation for the highest academic standards. It is a school at which the individual needs of 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. The school's high academic achievement is supported by a committed and skilled staff, and a learning environment in which family values and high moral standards are a leading principle.

In all year groups, lessons are designed to ensure that each student is challenged at the appropriate level, and to provide opportunities for developing teamwork, leadership, cooperation, listening and a variety of other skills.

Parents are supportive of the school's ethos, systems and procedures, and feedback shows that they feel fully informed about their child's progress, are comfortable to meet with staff, and are confident that the school is providing high quality learning experiences for their child.

The move to secondary school is a pivotal one in the life of any young person and choosing the right school can be challenging. Queen Mary's High School holds an Open Evening each year, and several Open Mornings throughout the year. Prospective students and their parents are encouraged to come and visit the school to experience the unique environment that our school community has to offer.

Further information about the school and the Open Events can be found on the web site at www.qmhs.org.uk

Shire Oak Academy

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

Headteacher: Mrs A Stoddart **Type:** Academy

Chair of Governors: Mrs Jane Mole

Admission Number: 270

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (May 2023): 1,448

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 2023.

AND

2. Complete the Shire Oak Academy Supplementary Form available direct from the Academy and return it to the Academy by **31 October 2023**.

If you require any advice or information before you complete your application, please contact the Admissions & Education Sufficiency Team on 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. Sibling – pupils who have a sibling at the academy or are a sibling of a former pupil of the academy (that sibling having left the academy within the last 5 years (no earlier than the end of term in July 2019 subject to verification by the academy)
3. Medical factors – If parents believe there are specific medical reasons for claiming priority for a child to attend a particular school, the relevant part of the preference form must be completed and evidence to support the claim must be submitted with the form. This must relate to the child. Requests for such consideration will be subject to verification. 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, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.
4. Children of staff at the Academy (subject to verification by the academy) - where the member of staff has been employed at Shire Oak academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made.
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 2022 and 2023:

A total of 567 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. Places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1,2,3,4 & 5. All on time applicants were offered a place at Shire Oak Academy.

A total of 376 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. Places were offered to pupils who met the criteria 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. All on time applicants were offered a place at Shire Oak Academy.

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 an Academy

- 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 School

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

Acting Headteacher: Mr L Salkeld
Chair of Governors: Mr Michael Wilkinson
Admission Number: 180

Type: Voluntary Aided
Denominational Affiliation: Catholic
Total No. of Pupils (May 2023): 1,157

NB: The school will admit up to 195 places for September 2024

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2023**. 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 (e.g. 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 Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team via 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 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 (e.g. 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 looked after or previously looked after.

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 an EHCP naming St Francis 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: A "looked after child" has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (eg children with foster parents) at the time of making the application to the school. A "previously looked after child" is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order and includes those children who appear (to the governing body) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. For the purposes of this policy, a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the carers is Catholic will be considered as Catholic. The carer must forward a copy of their own Catholic Baptismal or Reception certificate directly to the school in order for this priority to be given to the child as failure to do so will result in the looked after child being ranked as a non-Catholic.

Note 4: 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 5: 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 2022 and 2023:

A total of 551 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. Places were offered only to pupils who met admission criteria A,B,C,D,E,F, and some in category G

A total of 609 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. Places were offered only to pupils who met admission criteria A, B, C, D, E, F and some in Category G.

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."

Ofsted Inspection- January 2022

"The school has a strong culture of care and keeping pupils safe."

"Teachers make sure that learning is well planned. They have thought carefully about what to teach and when. They provide high quality resources that help pupils to organise what they need to learn."

"Pupils are courteous and kind and keen to do well, and they work hard in class."

"Pupils feel safe in school. They know that staff care about them."

Diocesan Inspection- May 2018

"The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. The Catholic Life and mission of the school is at the heart of everything it does and its impact on pupils is profound."

"Pupils have a deep respect for themselves and others, which is evident in the behaviour and positive relationships around the school site and in public."

"All teaching and support staff embrace Catholic Life as the most important aspect and feature of the school, everything else revolves around it."

"There are positive relationships throughout the school community, which are based on mutual respect. Pastoral care is of the highest quality."

"Governors are passionate about the Catholic mission of the school and are committed to improving pupils' school and adult life."

"Care of the most vulnerable pupils is given the highest priority and is highly effective."

"The leadership of the school is deeply committed to the Catholic Life of the school and Catholic Life is given the highest priority."

St Thomas More Catholic School

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

Headteacher: Mrs S Bowen
Chair of Governors: Mr R Dalton
Admission Number: 243

Type: Voluntary Aided
Denominational Affiliation: Catholic
Total No. of Pupils (June 2023): 1,490

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2023**. Parents living outside Walsall must apply online to their home Local Authority and return it, as stated.

A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must also be completed and returned directly to the school by the same date (see Note 2).

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 Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team via email;

schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk

Admission criteria:

1. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who are looked after or previously looked after (See Note 3 below)
2. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) currently attending a named feeder school (see Note 5 below)
3. Baptised Catholic children of staff (see Note 7 below)
4. Other Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below)
5. Non-Catholic children who are looked after or previously looked after (see Note 3 below)
6. Non-Catholic children with a sibling attending St Thomas More Catholic School at the time of application (see Note 4 below)
7. Non-Catholic children currently attending a named feeder school (see Note 5 below)
8. Non-Catholic children of staff (see Note 7 below)
9. Non-Catholic children currently attending a Catholic school
10. Other Non-Catholic children

Note 1: Children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school MUST be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to applicants. This is not an oversubscription criteria.

Note 2: In all categories, for a child to be considered as Catholic, evidence of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church will be required. For a definition of a Baptised Catholic, see the Appendix. Those who face difficulties in producing written evidence of a Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church should contact their Parish Priest.

Parents making an application for a Catholic child should also complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which should be returned directly to the school. If you do not provide the information required in the Supplementary Information Form and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, this is likely to affect your child's chance of being offered a place at this school.

For the purposes of this policy, a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the carers is Catholic will be considered as Catholic. The carer must forward a copy of their own Catholic Baptismal or Reception certificate directly to the school in order for this priority to be given to the child as failure to do so will result in the looked after child being ranked as a non-Catholic.

Note 3: A "looked after child" has the same meaning as in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making the application to the school. A "previously looked after child" is a child who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, child arrangement order or special guardianship order and includes those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

For the purposes of this policy, a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the carers is Catholic will be considered as Catholic. The carer must forward a copy of their own Catholic Baptismal or Reception certificate directly to the school in order for this priority to be given to the child as failure to do so will result in the looked after child being ranked as a non-Catholic.

Note 4: For all applicants the definition of a brother or sister is:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents
- A half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent
- A step-brother or step-sister, where two children are related by a parents' marriage or where they are unrelated but their parents are living as partners
- Adopted or fostered children

The children must be living permanently in the same household.

Note 5: The named feeder schools for St Thomas More Catholic School are: St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Darlaston

Corpus Christi Catholic, Wednesfield,

Holy Rosary Catholic, Wolverhampton

Holy Trinity Catholic, Bilston,

St Joseph's Catholic, Darlaston

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary, Walsall,

St Peters Catholic Primary, Bloxwich

St. Mary's The Mount Catholic Primary, Walsall (also a feeder school for St Francis of Assisi)

St. Teresa's Catholic, Wolverhampton

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary, Walsall

Note 6: Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centrepiece of the home address to the centre point of the school addressing the Local Authority's computerised measuring system with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. In a very small number of cases, where the school is oversubscribed, it may not be possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who are the final qualifiers for a place when applying the published 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 the 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 Published Admission Number for the child's year group to be exceeded the Governing Body will randomly select the child to be offered the final place.

The governing body will, where possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's published admission number.

A child's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main permanent residence and is either:

- Owned by the child's parent (s);
- Leased to or rented by the child's parents (s) under lease or written rental agreement of not less than twelve months duration.

Evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required, plus proof of permanent residence at the property concerned.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the week, then 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 satisfy the Governing Body that the child lives at the address put forward by the parents.

If a place in the school is offered on the basis of an address that is subsequently found to be different from a child's normal and permanent home address, then that place is liable to be withdrawn.

Note 7: For children to be prioritised as children of staff, the staff member must have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made or the member of staff has been employed at the school for less than two years but has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

APPENDIX

Definition of a "Baptised Catholic"

A "Baptised Catholic" is one who:

Has been baptised into full communion (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 837) with the Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome. Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by resource to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place (Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, 877 & 878).

Or

Has been validly baptised in a separated ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases, a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the Rite of Reception took place (Cf. *Rite of Christian Initiation*, 339).

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.

REPEAT APPLICATIONS

Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time outside of the normal admissions round. Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Governing Body has accepted a second application from the parent because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school, but have still refused admission.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications will be dealt with in accordance with the Local Authority's coordinated admissions scheme. This states that all applications received after the closing date of 31 October 2023 will be classed as late applications.

Applications received between 1st November 2023 and 29th November 2023 may be considered as on time but only where there are exceptional circumstances, for example:

- Where the family was unable to complete the on-line form by the closing date because they moved into the borough of Walsall after the closing date of 31st October 2023.
- The family was unable to comply with the admission timetable because of exceptional circumstances which prevented the on-line form being submitted on time.
- When a lone parent has been ill for some time.

In these cases the circumstances must be given in writing at the time of application and attached to the Late Preference Form. They will then be verified by the Executive Director of Children's Services, Walsall Council.

Applications received between 30th November 2023 and 28th February 2024 will be considered only after all other applications received on time.

Please note that any change in preference after the closing date will be regarded as a late application and will be considered under the above policy.

You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

CHANGE IN PREFERENCE

Up to the closing date of 31st October 2023, parents may change their preferences if they wish to do so. After the closing date any change in preference, other than in exceptional circumstances, will be regarded as a late application and will be considered under the published late application policy. Documentary evidence is required to support claims of exceptional circumstances.

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

A total of 648 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. 243 places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1-9 and some in category 10.

A total of 649 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. 243 places were offered to pupils who met criteria 1-9 and some in category 10.

How to appeal if you do not obtain a place:

Write to the Secretary of the Independent Appeals Committee at the school address.

Information provided by the school:

School Mission Statement: **"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".**

The admissions process for St Thomas More Catholic School is part of the Walsall Local Authority co-ordinated admissions scheme. To apply for a place at St Thomas More Catholic School in the normal admissions round, an application must be made using the school admission application process of the local authority in which you live naming St Thomas More Catholic School on the application form. Applications need to be made by 31st October 2022. A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must also be completed and returned directly to the school by the same date (see Note 2).

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time, after the closing date.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 1st March 2023, or the next working day, by the local authority on behalf of the school.

Please note that throughout this policy, the term parent relates to any individual with responsibility for a child for whom an application is being made.

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. As a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. All parents are therefore expected to give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of a parent who is not of the faith to apply for a place for their child at the school.

The governing body is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The governing body has set its admission number at 243 pupils to be admitted to Year 7 in the school year which begins in September 2024 (see Note 1 below).

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority. If there is oversubscription within a category, the Governing body will give priority firstly to children who will have a brother or sister (see Note 4) attending St Thomas More Catholic School at the time of admission and then secondly to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance (see Note 6)

The Streetly Academy

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

Headteacher: Mr William Downie

Chair of Governors: Mrs Deborah Talbot

Admission Number: 260

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (July 2022): 1,520

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2023**. 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 Admissions and Education Sufficiency team via 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. Where a child has a sibling attending the Academy in years 7 to 10 when the application is made and who will be still attending the Academy at the proposed admission date.
3. 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 week and above contract

All part time teaching staff with a 45% and above timetable

All part time support staff who work at least 6 hours per week for 27 weeks or more.

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.

The definition does not include peripatetic staff.

4. Where the child is attending one of the following named feeder primary schools and lives within 2.5 miles of the Streetly Academy, as measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the Academy address using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.

Blackwood Primary School,

Lindens Primary School,

Manor Primary School,

5. Proximity of the Child's home to the Academy, 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 Academy address using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

A total of 914 preferences were expressed for places in September 2022. After applying the published admissions criteria, places were offered to 265 pupils who met criteria 1,2,3,4,5,6 and children who lived 1.223 miles or less from the school.

A total of 897 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. After applying the published admissions criteria, places were offered to 265 pupils who met criteria 1,2,3,4,5,6 and children who lived 1.309 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 [The Streetly Academy](#)

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.

Open Evening: 28th September 2023. Please refer to the schools for website for on-line booking details.

Open Mornings Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th October 2023 Via online booking system.

Walsall Academy

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

Headteacher: Mr S Topper

Chair of Governors: Mrs T Littlefield

Admission Number: 168 + 40 additional places

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (May 2023): 1,061 + 300 sixth form

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 [Walsall Academy](#)

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 2023**.

AND

- 2) Complete the Walsall Academy Registration Form - available direct from the school - and return it to the school by **4pm on 29 September 2023**.

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:

Admissions Oversubscription Criteria

When the number of applications for admission is greater than the places (168 pupils plus 40 additional places approved by Governors, 208), 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:

Banding of Applicants

Applicants will be placed in one of nine ability bands based upon their score in the NFER (National Foundation of Education Research) Non-Verbal Reasoning Test.

Band	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	total
% in normal distribution	4%	7%	12%	17%	20%	17%	12%	7%	4%	100%
Number of places (if 208 allocated)	8	15	25	35	42	35	25	15	8	208

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

The assessment results will be used to ensure that the Academy admits the full range of ability of applicants for the school (through a normal distribution of ability). 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. If an applicant fails to sit the admissions assessment, their application will be deemed to be withdrawn.

Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

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

Children of staff at the school are given the next priority in each band

Where a member of teaching staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Distance from the Academy

After Looked After Children and children of staff at the school, proximity to the Academy will be used combined with banding to decide who will be offered places. From within each of the bands the applicants that live closest to the Academy (not their ranking within the band) will be given priority for admission.

Distance is calculated in a straight line from the centre point of the home address post code to the centre point of the Academy. Home address is classified as the permanent residence where the applicant is living at the time of the offer and there must be evidence it is not temporary or for the purposes of gaining advantage to seek admission. The Academy may ask for proof in such cases where it may be suspected that unfair advantage is being sought by applicants on the issue of residence. Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the week, the main residence will be determined as the address where the child spends the majority of the week. Documentary evidence may be required in such cases.

Where there are insufficient children in a particular band, the next nearest child will be selected from the band below, then the band above.

Tie Breaker

Where two applications cannot otherwise be separated, the place will be offered on the basis of random allocation.

How places were offered for September 2022 and 2023:

There were 758 applications for places in September 2022. Places were offered to pupils in accordance with the Academy's admission criteria.

There were 699 applications for September 2023. Places were offered to pupils in accordance with the Academies admission criteria.

West Walsall E-ACT Academy

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

Principal: Mrs Kerry Solway-Blower

Chair of Ambassadors: Ms Caroline Ceasar-Caston

Admission Number: 210

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

Total No. of Pupils (June 2023): 1,175

Please note that for Year 7 admissions for September 2024 West Walsall E-ACT Academy will have a temporary admission limit of 230.

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2023**. 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 Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team via 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. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously 'looked after' but immediately after being 'looked after', became the subject of an adoption, residence order or special guardianship order.
2. Exceptional and Compelling Medical, Psychological, Social or Special Access Reasons which can only be met at the Academy.
3. Siblings of pupils currently on roll in years 7-10 at the Academy at the time of application for the proposed admission of the applicant.
4. Children currently on roll at the designated feeder school, Reedswood E-ACT Primary Academy.
5. Children who are at the time of application eligible for the Pupil Premium or the Service Pupil Premium.
6. Children whose parent/carer is a member of staff who has been employed at the academy for 2 or more years at the time of application.
7. 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 2022 and 2023:

There were 377 preferences expressed for places in September 2022 and after applying the published admission criteria 240 places were offered. All on-time applicants were offered a place.

A total of 313 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. After applying the published admissions criteria, places were offered to 210 pupils who met criteria 1,2,3,4,5,6.

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:

At West Walsall E-ACT Academy we pride ourselves on ensuring that every student '*strives for excellence*'. We want to develop our students into good, kind, creative, and ambitious young people, not only through providing a quality academic provision but also seeking out opportunities for our students to excel and develop their cultural capital and pursue their interests.

Our academy values encapsulate the ethos and culture that we promote in our academy.

Our students are encouraged to '*Do the right thing*' through supporting each other, show kindness towards one another and to promote integrity. Our students '*Show team spirit*' through celebrating our diversity, taking on leadership roles within the academy and participating in regular inter-form competitions. Our value of '*Think Big*' reminds us of the importance of being ambitious and enterprising to really achieve the very best that we possibly can, and we believe that everyone can achieve! Our final value of '*Be Proud*' ensures that our students are always reminded of the community we serve, the academy they attend and strive every day to ensure that both staff and students are proud to be members our E-ACT family. This permeates through pride in our uniform, pride in our work and pride in our community.

We have a passionate belief that every student, no matter who they are or where they are from, deserves the very best education for them to follow their aspirations and goals. The staff at West Walsall E-ACT Academy have a genuine care about our students and the families we

serve and go above and beyond to ensure that every student receives the very best they can.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, we offer a range of subjects across all stages including Post 16, where our students have access to a range of opportunities that enable them to make informed decisions about their next steps in their education and learning, whether this be university or an apprenticeship, we strive to ensure that they have choice. We have a thriving extra-curricular programme that further widens the opportunities available to our students including (but not limited to) Duke of Edinburgh, sports clubs and arts clubs.

We have a strong pastoral system and take the mental health of our students incredibly seriously with many staff trained as Mental Health First Aiders. Every year group has a non-teaching Head of Year and Progress Leader dedicated to supporting the welfare and wellbeing. We have recently introduced a House system in order to support and recognise the outstanding work our students undertake, named after Mountain Ranges, we recognise the journey our students are on and draw comparisons in order to promote resilience and aspiration.

If you would like a tour of the Academy or to come and see what we do, feel free to get in touch. Please contact us on 01922 720741 to arrange your visit or email me on kerry.solway-blower@wwea.act.org.uk or wwea.info@e-act.org.uk and I would be proud to show you our students and staff.

Willenhall E-ACT Academy

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

Headteacher: Mrs S Murcott

Admission Number: 230

Total No. of Pupils (May 2023): 925

Type: Academy

Denominational Affiliation: None

How to apply for a place:

Parents living in Walsall must apply on-line no later than **31 October 2023**. 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 Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team on 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. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously 'looked after' but immediately after being 'looked after', became the subject of an adoption, residence order or special guardianship order.
2. Exceptional and Compelling Medical, Psychological, Social or Special Access Reasons which can only be met at the Academy.
3. Siblings of pupils currently on roll at the in years 7-10 Academy at the time of application for the proposed admission of the applicant.
4. Children who are at the time of application are eligible for the Pupil Premium or the Service Pupil Premium.
5. Children whose parent/carer is a member of staff who has been employed for 2 or more years.
6. 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 2022 and 2023:

There were 316 preferences expressed for places in September 2022. After applying the admission criteria, all on-time applicants were offered a place.

A total of 220 preferences were expressed for places in September 2023. After applying the published admissions criteria, places were offered to 225 pupils who met criteria 1,2,3,4,5,6.

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 will provide a highly engaging learning environment. We have a commitment to the wider personal progression, including the development of character and an intelligent moral, spiritual and ethical compass. We aspire to develop students who are outstanding human beings, active and participatory citizens and exemplary members of our community.

The Academy's curriculum is broad and balanced, with an emphasis on academic success. Our curriculum is both coherent and cumulative, with an emphasis on the critical importance of knowledge acquisition. Our students are required to read extensively from a broad range of high quality and increasingly challenging literary and technical material across all disciplines.

The Academy is fully involved in a range of initiatives and programmes, which are designed to stretch and challenge students and provide them with a broad range of curricular and extra-curricular experiences, giving them life skills as well as developing their ambition and self-esteem.

Willenhall E-ACT Academy promotes excellence in everything it asks its' students to undertake. The Academy insists on:

- High expectations, aspirations and a spirit of excellence
- Personalised excellence that results from a passionate belief that every individual is unique and special; our job is to nurture this talent
- Healthy competition that will permeate the life and conduct of The Academy
- Ambition for all students to go to university or pursue a career

Transport to Secondary Schools

Free Transport Criteria from September 2024:

To qualify for a free school bus pass, each pupil must satisfy with the following criteria:

1. If 11 years of age or above, at the start of term, the pupil's home address must be 3 miles walking distance or more from his/her nearest qualifying school.
2. The walking distance is a measurement we use, the child is not expected to walk this distance unaccompanied.
3. Pupils living at temporary addresses and who meet the distance criteria may qualify for short term assistance provided if the address is within the Borough of Walsall.
4. If a pupil moves address during year 11 a free school bus pass will only be issued if the distance criterion is not met.
5. Children aged 11 years from low-income families would qualify for a free school bus pass if they live more than 2 miles and less than 6 miles from one of their three nearest qualifying schools.
6. Pupils aged 11 or over from low-income families will qualify for a free school bus pass to one of their three nearest qualifying schools if they live more than 2 miles but not more than 6 miles from that school.
7. References to the 'nearest qualifying school' means the nearest qualifying school with places available in the required year group, appropriate to the age, ability and aptitude of the child and any Special Educational Needs that the child may have. This may not be one of your preferred schools.
8. The council does not provide transport to denominational schools unless the family is on low income, children who live over 2 miles and less than 15 miles from that school would qualify for a bus pass.
9. Pupils with Special Educational Needs with an Education Health Care Plan and attending their nearest qualifying school named in the place. They should contact their SEND Caseworker.
10. Information for all pupils including buss pass applications and travel assistance applications can be found on the Walsall Council Home to school web pages. [Home to school transport | Walsall Council](#)
11. Further government guidance can be found at: school bus [Home to school travel - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Examples relating to eligibility based on income:

Child A 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 A would qualify for a free school bus pass to each of these three schools.

Child B is an 11 year old child whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Universal 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 B would qualify for a free school bus pass to schools Y and Z but not to school X.

Child C 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 school bus 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 submit an application 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 2023**.
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 Specialist Music Place
- Blue Coat CE Academy
- Brownhills Ormiston Academy
- Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy
- 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 or supplementary information form so please remember to check with the relevant local authority.

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, e.g. 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 2023**, the admission criteria for each of the schools for which you have expressed a preference will be applied by the appropriate admission authority to determine whether your child meets the school's 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 50.

9. On the National Notification Date, 1 March 2023, Walsall Council will write to all parents resident in Walsall on behalf of the relevant admission authority, 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. – check re letters/email.
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:

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 does not do well in 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 of the score he accumulated in 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 achieve a high enough score in the grammar school examination to be offered a place at Holmetown Girls' Grammar School examination. She met 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 close to all the 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 their application 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 $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away	No	No
3	Grangetree School	Lives 4 miles away	No	No
4	Marsh Hill School	Lives $3\frac{1}{2}$ 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 local authority therefore offers Joshua a place at Hempley Hall School. This school is 3 miles from his home, but was offered by the local authority, as it was the nearest school with places still available.**

Jagdeep lives $1\frac{1}{2}$ 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 $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away	Yes	No
3	Grangetree School	Lives 2 miles away	Yes	No
4	Roundhill School	Lives $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away	Yes	No
5	Marsh Hill School	Lives $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away	Yes	No

Jagdeep did the assessment tasks for Kingsmere Academy and her score in the tasks was average. 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

Secondary school applications can only be made through Walsall Council's on-line portal up to 31 October 2023. Any applications (and where appropriate, a school's own Registration/Supplementary Information Form) submitted after the closing date of 31 October 2023 will be classed as late applications. Any request to add additional schools or change the ranking position of your named schools after the closing date will mean that the whole application will be classed as late.

Late applications are considered for places after applications that were received by the closing date of 31 October 2023. Therefore late applicants will be less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools.

Each admission authority is required to publish its own Late Application Policy that explains how late applications will be dealt with. Details of each school's or Local Authority's late application policy is available on their website or upon request from the school or Local Authority.

Walsall Council's Late Application Policy is set out below and is applicable to any Walsall secondary school that does not publish its own late application policy.

Late Applications received up to 4 weeks after the Closing Date (between 1 November 2023 and 29 November 2023):

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, including:

- Where the family were unable to submit their online application to Walsall Council on time because they moved into the Borough of Walsall after the Closing Date;
- The family were unable to comply with the admission timetable because of exceptional circumstances which prevented them from submitting their online application;
- When a single parent has been ill for some time.

In these cases, the circumstances must be given in writing at the time of application. Supporting evidence must be provided and will be subject to verification by Walsall Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team.

Late Applications received more than 4 weeks after the Closing Date (between 30 November 2023 and 28 February 2024):

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. Please note that you if you submit a late application then you will not receive your offer until after National Secondary Offer Day.

Late Applications received after Notification Date of 1 March 2024

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 preferred schools a place will be offered by Walsall Council at the nearest alternative Walsall school with vacant places, after consultation with the relevant admission authority and the child's name will be added to the waiting list for schools listed as preferences in admission criteria order.

If the deadline for applications through Walsall Council's On-Line portal (31 October 2023) has passed then applicants will be required to submit a late application form. Please visit the School Admissions pages of Walsall Council's website for details of how to submit a late secondary school application. Visit: [Walsall Secondary School Admissions](#)

Please refer to key dates on page 7 to determine when offers will be received for late applications.

Waiting List Policy for Admission to Year 7

Waiting lists for all Walsall secondary schools will be maintained until 31 August 2024. Parents may enquire about their child's waiting list position by contacting the Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk. Parents who wish to enquire about their child's position on the waiting lists for Walsall Academy should contact the school directly.

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 the highest ranked of their preferred schools.

After 1 March 2024 a parent may contact the Admissions and Education Sufficiency 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 accompany your offer, as some schools have different return dates (e.g. Walsall Academy and Walsall Grammar Schools). If the school you wish to appeal for is situated outside Walsall you should contact the relevant local authority 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.

To appeal for an out-of-borough school, please contact the appropriate school authority. Contact details are available on page 8.

Offer of a place at a school

If you live in Walsall, Walsall Council will inform you of the result of your on-time application by email on Monday 1 March 2024. 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 your child is a Walsall resident and they do not meet the admission criteria of any of your named schools, the Admissions & Education sufficiency Team will allocate a school place to your child. This allocation will be the closest school to the home address where there are still places available after all on-time offers have been made.

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

If a place becomes available at a school listed as a higher preference before 31 August 2024 the lower preference offer will be removed and replaced with the higher offer.

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 will be withdrawn.

Definition of Admission Criteria

Where a school is 'oversubscribed', i.e. 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, as some schools differ slightly.

Children with an Education Health and Care Plan:

Education for some children is provided in accordance with an Education Health and Care Plan. These children are placed in schools before applications for other pupils are considered.

1. Children in 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 (i.e. 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 (e.g. 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. The evidence provided 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 considered by the relevant school in accordance with their admissions policy and evidence will subject to verification. Please check whether the school that you wish to apply has this criteria as part of its policy.

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.

Not all secondary schools accept Medical Social reasons as part of their admission arrangements, this can be determined through the individual schools admissions criteria listed on pages 18 – 45.

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 either:

- owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian and the child resides in the property or
- 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 duration and the child resides in the property.

Documentary evidence of ownership or a 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 under the distance criterion.

In the event that a family moves between the application date and the date of offer, the parent(s), carer(s) or guardian(s) **must** inform the Admissions and Education Sufficiency 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 visit Walsall's Free School Meals Team's webpage on the Walsall Council website: [Walsall Council](#)

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 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 2023. It is, however, possible that there may be some later changes affecting points of detail.



Information for Parents

about Year 7 Admission to Special
Schools in September 2024

Year 7 Admission to Special Schools

This section provides information on Walsall Special Schools.

There are several special schools in Walsall which are provided to meet the complex learning needs of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

How to apply?

Children can only be admitted to a special school if they have an Education Health and Care Plan which names the school.

Parents of a child who is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2024 and who has an Education Health and Care Plan, or is currently undergoing the statutory assessment process may list a special school on their secondary application.

Applications for special schools must be made on a Special School Preference Form by Walsall residents, it is not possible to submit an online application for a special school. The Walsall Preference Form is available from September 2023 from the Admissions and Education Sufficiency Team at schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk. Non Walsall residents who wish to apply for admission to a Walsall special school must apply directly to their home local authority.

Please note that it is important that if your child has a statement of special educational needs, or an Education, Health and Care Plan, or is undergoing the statutory assessment process it is essential that you discuss your preferences with the SENCO at your child's primary school and the SEND Team for your home local authority before submitting your application.

Special Schools

Castle Business and Enterprise College

Address: Odell Road, Leamore, Walsall, WS3 2ED
Telephone: 01922 710129
Email: postbox@castle.walsall.sch.uk
Age Range: 7-18

Elmwood

Address: King George Crescent, Rushall, WS4 1EG
Telephone: 01922 721081
Email: postbox@elmwood.walsall.sch.uk
Age Range: 11-16

Mary Elliot

Address: Leamore Lane, Walsall, WS2 7NR
Telephone: 01922 490190
Email: postbox@mary-elliott.walsall.sch.uk
Age Range: 11-19

Oakwood

Address: Druids Walk, Walsall Wood, WS9 9JS
Telephone: 01543 452040
Email: postbox@oakwood.walsall.sch.uk
Age Range: 3-11

Old Hall

Address: Bentley Lane, Walsall, WS2 7LU
Telephone: 01902 368045
Email: postbox@old-hall.walsall.sch.uk
Age Range: 3-11

Phoenix Academy

Address: Odell Road, Leamore, Walsall, WS3 2ED
Telephone: 01922 712834
Email: postbox@phoenix.attrust.org.uk
Age Range: 4-11

The Jane Lane School

Address: Churchill Road, Bentley, WS2 0JH
Telephone: 01922 721161
Email: postbox@jane-lane.walsall.sch.uk
Age Range: 7-19

