



Academy
Oldbury

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Admissions Arrangements 2024/25

STATUS: Determined Arrangements (October 2023)

“The Academy believes that inclusive practice is central to developing quality teaching and learning. As such we endeavour to provide a supportive framework that responds to pupils’ needs and overcomes potential barriers for individuals and groups of pupils and to ensure that pupils of all abilities and needs are fully included in the life of the school. The ethos of this statement underpins all Oldbury Academy’s policies.”

Admissions

Stour Vale Trust and the Local Governing Body for Oldbury Academy comply with all legislation regarding admissions. The Trust has determined that its schools will comply with the co-ordinated admissions scheme for their relevant local authority, for Oldbury Academy this is Sandwell, which requires all parents to complete a preference form provided by the LA. ([Apply for a school place | Sandwell Council](#))

The published Pupil Admission Number (PAN) is 310. If the academy receives more applications than there are available places, then priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the oversubscription criteria set out below:

Oversubscription admission priorities for Oldbury Academy - academic year 2024/2025

1. Children who are in public care and children who were previously in public care but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order). This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children with a particular medical condition. Applications submitted under this criterion must be accompanied by a medical declaration form (ASU75M) signed by the child's general practitioner or consultant confirming the condition, detailing the child's needs and specifying why, in their opinion, the school is the only or most appropriate to meet the child's needs. All applications under this criterion will be assessed by the local authority to decide whether the child's needs can be met most appropriately by the school.
3. Children having a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission.
4. Children prioritised by distance measured in a straight line from a child's home^{1*} to the centre point of the school site.

In all cases, should the number of applicants exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated based on distance between home and school, as measured in a straight line from home to the centre point on the school site with priority being given to those living closest to the school.

NB. Children with an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP) (previously known as Statement of Educational Needs), naming the school will be admitted before all other applicants.

Fair Access

The local governing body have adopted the local authority fair access policy for admission of previously excluded or hard to place children. This can be viewed on the local authority website www.sandwell.gov.uk

Mid- year Admission Requests

In the case of a mid-year request for admission, a student will be considered eligible for transfer if:

- There are available places in the relevant year group
- They have not been permanently excluded from two or more previous schools

^{1*} Measured from the Local Land and Property Gazetteer address base for the property.

Additional arrangements for year of entry admissions 2024-25

1. Late applications

Late applications for places will only be considered alongside those received by the closing date under the following circumstances:

- When the applicant has bought, rented or leased a house or flat and has moved into Sandwell after the closing date, but before the allocation of places has been made.
- When the applicant has moved home within Sandwell to an address more than three miles from their previous address but closer to the school after the closing date but before the allocation of places has been made.
- When a child who is in public care (looked after) or was previously in public care moves into Sandwell after the closing date, but before the allocation of places has been made.
- When a sibling has commenced at the school after the closing date but before the allocation of places has been made.
- When the applicant is a single parent and was prevented from submitting their application on time due to long term illness of more than six weeks' duration from the date on which application forms became available.

If your application is received after the closing date and not covered by one of the circumstances above, then it will be processed after consideration of all on time and accepted late applications.

2. Waiting lists

Places will be offered initially to applicants whose forms have been received by the closing date or whose application has been considered as being made on time (under 1 above).

Any preferences which cannot be met following the application of the admission priorities will be put on a waiting list which will be ranked in accordance with the published admission priorities.

Waiting lists will be maintained until the end of the autumn term preceding the year of entry and will then be discarded.

Places will only be offered from the waiting list if the number of confirmed offers (including those offered as a result of independent appeals) is less than the published admission number.

3. Further applications in the same academic year

Oldbury Academy will only consider more than one application in the school in the same academic year if one or more of the following significant changes apply:

- (a) The child becomes looked after by the local authority;
- (b) The child has a medical condition which was not present when the previous application was considered;
- (c) The child's brother or sister has been admitted to the school and was not there at the time of the last application;
- (d) The applicant has changed address since the previous application was considered and the applicant now lives closer to the school;
- (e) A vacancy arises in the relevant year group.

4. Changing or adding new preferences

Once a parent/carer has submitted an application they will be able to amend it online before the closing date. However, if the closing date has passed it will not be possible unless they meet the criteria to be considered as a “late” application (in 1 above).

5. Twins and multiple births

Special conditions will apply if one child from a set of twins or other multiple births does not gain admission to the preferred school through the admissions criteria. Oldbury Academy will exceed the admission number to prevent separation of twins or children from multiple births.

6. Tie breaker

If two or more applicants tie for last place during the allocation process the final place shall be decided by the tossing of a coin. Applicants' names will be drawn from a hat. Two names will be drawn for the first toss of the coin, and the successful applicant will stay in for the next draw. The process will be repeated until there remains only one child, who will be granted the place.

7. Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group; for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Parents should make their application, including a supporting statement setting out the reasons why they believe their child should be taught outside their chronological age group.

In addition, the parents of summer born children (children born between 1 April and 31 August) may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to Reception rather than Year 1. These parents will need to make an application alongside children applying at the normal age with a supporting statement explaining why they believe it is in the child’s best interest to be admitted outside their normal age. This should include information such as professional evidence and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. A decision as to whether this is an appropriate course of action will be made which will take into account the circumstances of the case and the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

- parents’ views;
- information about the child’s academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely; and
- the headteacher’s views.

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child’s normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Definitions used in admissions administration

1. **Brother and sister (Sibling)**

The definition of a brother or sister is:

- (a) a brother or sister sharing the same parents*;
- (b) a half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent*;
- (c) a step brother or step sister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage*;
- (d) adopted or fostered children*;
- (e) children of unmarried parents*

*and living at the same address;

It does not include:

- (a) cousins or other family relationships;
- (b) brothers or sisters who, at 1 September in the year of entry will not be registered pupils at the preferred school;
- (c) brothers or sisters who, at 1 September in the year of entry will be in the sixth form at the preferred school.

2. **Children in Public Care**

A child in public care means 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 (see section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time an application is made.

This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.

An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoptions and Children Act 2002.

A child arrangement order (previously residence order) is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a special guardianship order as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

3. **Home address**

The home address of a child is the address at which a parent with parental responsibility lives. It may also be the address at which a child resides (and sleeps) for the majority of the school week (Sunday to Thursday night). In the event of a query on the home address we will require two examples from the following list;

- Council tax
- Tenancy agreement
- Solicitors letter confirming completion of purchase
- Statutory declaration from a solicitor

Appeals

Appeals regarding a failure to gain a place at the Academy will, at present, be dealt with according to the Appeals process of Sandwell Local Authority. Please click the link below for detailed information and the timetable to be followed.

http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200303/school_admissions/2054/pupil_admissions_appeal