

Admission Arrangements for Wolverhampton 2017/18

Contents

Overview of the Application Process	3
Primary School Applications	3
Secondary School Applications	4
Admissions Criteria for All Applications	5
Additional Arrangements and Information	6
Changes of Address (occurring during the allocation process)	6
Financial Implications	6
Fraudulent or Misleading Applications	6
Late Applications	6
Material Changes of Circumstance	7
Sixth Form Admission Arrangements for Academy and Community Schools.....	7
Special Educational Needs.....	8
Summer Born Children	8
Supplementary Information Forms.....	8
Tie Breakers for Over-Subscribed Schools.....	9
Unsuccessful Applications and Appeals	9
Waiting Lists.....	9
Definitions	10
Sibling	10
Looked After Children.....	10
Home Address.....	10

Overview of the Application Process

The scheme is an “Inter-Local Authority” scheme whereby Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall and Wolverhampton Local Authorities have agreed to co-ordinate applications for their schools to ensure that each child receives the best possible single offer of a place at a secondary school, based upon parents’ preferences.

In brief terms:

- Parents whose child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education and Health Care Plan follow separate admission procedures through the Statutory Assessment or Annual Review process.
- Parents will only have to fill in one application form, on which they will state their school preferences and reasons for those preferences. Applications are made online;
- Five preferences are invited;
- Initially, all preferences are treated as equal, and sent out as equal to other admission authorities as appropriate (i.e. voluntary aided and academy schools in Wolverhampton, and other participating Local Authorities as detailed above).
- After over-subscription criteria have been applied (where appropriate), if more than one school place can potentially be offered, the single offer is for the available school the parent ranked highest on the preference form.

Primary Admissions 2017 – Including Admission into Reception Year and Transfer from Infant to Junior Education.

If your child was born between 1/09/2012 and 31/08/2013 you must apply for a place in Reception Year before the 15 January 2017.

The online application system is made live on the **1st September 2016**. Applications should be made online, hard copies of the form will only be made available on request. Parents are invited to name and give reasons for applying for up to 5 preferred schools, ranked in order of preference, by **23:59 15th January 2017**. Parents should name all schools (to a Maximum of 5), for which they wish their child to be considered for a place, including any Voluntary-Aided schools, Academies or Free schools and/or any school outside the Wolverhampton area.

By **13th February 2017**, the admissions and appeals team will send other Local Authorities and own Admitting Authority Schools details of applicants for their schools. These details will not reveal the order of preference. All Own Admitting Authority schools will apply their over-subscription criteria, and return their complete ranked list of applicants to the admissions and appeals team who will then compare the potential offer lists. If more than one school place can potentially be offered, a place will be allocated at the available school that the parent ranked highest on their application.

On **17th April 2017** parents who made their applications online will be able to view their allocation via the online admissions facility. The admissions and appeals team will also write to every applicant resident in Wolverhampton telling them of their allocated school place. Parents will be required to respond to any offers made within 10 school days.

Transfer from Infant to Junior Education

There are five Infant Schools in Wolverhampton which cater for children up to the age of seven. At this point there is an expectation that pupils will transfer to the corresponding Junior School.

Parents of children attending a Wolverhampton Infant School will receive a letter from the Local Authority in the Autumn Term 2016 informing them that their child will automatically transfer to the corresponding Junior School.

If the parent wishes for this to happen they will need to take no action. If, however they wish to apply for a place in a Primary School they should make an application via the online application system.

Primary School Application Timeline	
01/09/2016	Online application is made live
15/01/2017	Closing date for application forms to be submitted
11/02/2017	The final date for late applications
13/02/2017	Wolverhampton City Council sends/receives unranked preferences to/from other authorities
24/02/2017	Schools submit final lists of applicants in ranked order
16/03/2017	Wolverhampton provisionally allocates places
30/03/2017	Final data exchange with co-ordinating authorities
17/04/2017	Allocation day

Secondary School Applications

Children born between 1/9/2005 and 31/8/2006 will commence secondary education in September 2017. Parents must apply for a secondary school place before 31 October 2016.

The online application is made live on the **1st September 2016**. Applications should be made online, hard copies of the form will only be made available on request. Parents are invited to name and give reasons for applying for up to 5 preferred schools, ranked in order of preference, by **23:59 31st October 2016**. Parents should name all schools (to a Maximum of 5), for which they wish their child to be considered for a place, including any Voluntary-Aided schools, Academies or Free schools and/or any school outside the Wolverhampton area, with the exception of any independent schools.

By **17th November 2016**, the admissions and appeals team will send other Local Authorities and Own Admission Authority Schools details of applicants for their schools. These details will not reveal the order of preference. All admission authorities will apply their over-subscription admission criteria including any selection tests and return their complete ranked list of applicants to the admissions and appeals team who will then compare the potential offer lists. If more than one school place can potentially be offered, they will allocate a place at the available school that the parent ranked highest on their application.

On **1st March 2017** parents who made their applications online will be able to view their allocation via the online admissions facility. The admissions and appeals team will also write to every applicant resident in Wolverhampton telling them of their allocated school place. Parents will be required to respond to any offers made within 10 school days.

Secondary School Application Timeline	
01/09/2016	Online application is made live
31/10/2016	Closing date for application forms to be submitted
17/11/2016	Wolverhampton City Council sends/receives unranked preferences to/from other authorities
30/11/2016	The final date for late applications
13/01/2017	Schools submit final lists of applicants in ranked order
23/01/2017	Wolverhampton provisionally allocates places
13/02/2017	Final data exchange with co-ordinating authorities
01/03/2017	Allocation day

Admissions Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

1. Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

Priority will be given to a child who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority or a child who has been adopted (or is subject to a residence order or special guardianship order) immediately following being in the care of a Local Authority.

Supporting Evidence

If the child is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority this must be indicated on the common application form and evidence (e.g. evidence of child in care from the placement authority) to support this claim must be submitted with the preference form.

If the child has previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them and has subsequently been adopted, or is subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order this must be indicated on the common application form and evidence (e.g. adoption certificate/copy of court order) to support this claim must be submitted with the common application form.

2. Children who are attending the corresponding Infant School (Infant to Junior transfers only)

3. Medical/Social

Whether there are specific medical or social circumstances that can be met only by the child's attendance at the preferred school.

Supporting Evidence

If parents believe there are specific reasons, medical or social, for claiming priority for their child to attend a particular school these special factors must be indicated on the form and evidence (e.g. a letter from a registered health professional such as a doctor or a social worker) to support this claim must be submitted with the common application form. The information submitted must state clearly the effects of the condition/illness and why the preferred school is the only school that can meet their child's needs. This is necessary because parents would be asking the Authority to assess their child as having a stronger case than many other children, even some who live closer to the school in question than they do. The information provided will be used to prioritise the request for a particular school. Please note that only in exceptional cases are places prioritised in respect of a child's/parent's medical/social grounds.

4. Siblings

Whether siblings attend the school (or the associated Infant/Junior School) and will still be attending the school in September 2017. See the definition of a sibling on page 9.

5. Religious Reasons for voluntary controlled schools (PRIMARY ONLY)

To a child and family who has religious reasons for attending the preferred voluntary controlled school and for whom it can be demonstrated by the faith leader that s/he has current strong religious connections. This reason will only be taken into consideration if the preferred school is the nearest Church of England (voluntary controlled or voluntary aided) school to the child's home address (measured by a straight line from the home address to the school).

Supporting Evidence

A Supporting Evidence form will be provided for parents and your faith leader to complete, to enable them to demonstrate your child and family's current strong religious connections.

6. Distance

How close the child lives to the school requested with those living closest to the school getting the highest priority. The measurement between home and school will be determined by the straight line measurement from the home address to the preferred school carried out by the LA's software.

If there are a limited number of spaces available and we cannot distinguish between applicants using the above criteria, children who live in the same block of flats will be offered the available spaces randomly selected by drawing lots.

Additional Arrangements and Information

Changes of Address (occurring during the allocation process)

In these circumstances - or if a query arises in respect of your child's place of residence - you will be required to supply evidence of your new address. This would need to be validated by documentary evidence such as a solicitor's letter confirming the completion of a house purchase or rent book confirming tenancy.

Financial Implications

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to a Wolverhampton schools.

Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

The Local Authority will follow up any reports they receive that allege that a fraudulent or misleading application has been made.

Parents can alert the Local Authority of any potential fraudulent applications by contacting the Admissions and Appeals team. Contact details are published in the composite prospectuses.

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date will be treated as late.

Applications received after the closing date and before the final date for late submissions with approved written evidence will only be incorporated into the initial allocation process if the late

submission is for a valid reason or parents can demonstrate a material change of circumstances (see below).

When submitting late applications parents must give reasons in writing and supporting documentary evidence for the late submission. The appropriate admission authority will give consideration to the reasons, following which the application will be:

- Either 1) incorporated into the initial allocation and assessed against the over-subscription criteria for the school(s) concerned
Or 2) considered only after all other applications.

Applications without written reasons for the late application or received after the final date for late submissions will only be considered after all other applications and the notification may be sent shortly after the national offer day.

Material Changes of Circumstance

In claiming material changes of circumstances the applicant, at the time of application, must supply documentary evidence to confirm the changes. An example of material changes of circumstances is a house move that necessitates a change of preferences. This would need to be validated by documentary evidence such as a solicitor's letter confirming the completion of a house purchase or rent book confirming tenancy. An impending change of circumstances should not delay the submission of the preference form.

If applicants' circumstances change during the course of making the application that relate to any of the published criteria it is the applicant's responsibility to provide evidence to the Admissions and Appeals Team as this may affect the outcome of the application.

Sixth Form Admission Arrangements for Academy and Community Schools

Applications for admission to Sixth form will be dealt with by the school in accordance with the school's published admission arrangements.

Each school which admits pupils into Year 12 is required to publish in the school prospectus the minimum requirements for entry into sixth form.

Pupils already in school will not be required to apply formally for places in Year 12 but should have reached the minimum entry qualifications for admission into the sixth form.

Minimum entry requirements are the same for internal and external applications.

External applicants must not be refused the opportunity to make an application, or advised that they can only be placed on a waiting list rather than make a formal application

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

Schools must not interview children or their families for entry to Year 12 although meetings can be held to provide advice on options and entry requirements for particular courses.

Any applicant refused a place in year 12 is entitled to appeal to an independent appeal panel whether the child is already attending the school or is an external candidate.

Special Educational Needs

The admission of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) will be agreed between the Local Authority's SEN Statutory Assessment and Review Team, parents and school in accordance with parental preference, as far as possible, and the child's individual needs. Children with Statements of SEN or a EHCP are given overall priority to the named school. This will reduce the number of places at the school, which are available for allocation in accordance with the above criteria.

Deferred Entry

In this authority children commence full time education in September prior to their fifth birthday. Parents can choose to defer entry until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made.

Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Summer Born Children

Parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that 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. Any parent wishing to make such a request must put the request in writing to the Admissions and Appeals section.

Requests will be considered on an individual basis and decisions will be reached by taking account of the parent's 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; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The view of the head teacher of the school concerned will also be sought as part of the decision making process.

Supplementary Information Forms

In order to assess the application for Voluntary Aided schools and Academies parents are required to provide additional information to that collected on the preference form and should complete a "supplementary information form". For Wolverhampton schools these forms will be made available on the Wolverhampton City Council website and they should be returned to the relevant school or schools by the specified date. In the case of Voluntary Controlled schools the supplementary information form must be returned to the Local Authority. Please note if the school is over-subscribed the additional information gathered will be used to determine the allocation of school places.

Parents who are applying for schools outside of Wolverhampton are advised to contact the appropriate LA to determine whether any Supplementary Information Forms are required, their submission date and to whom they must be submitted.

Parents should be aware that where a Supplementary Information Form is completed it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the LA has also received a completed application showing an expressed preference for the school concerned.

Similarly, if applicants are required to sit school tests they will be required to complete an “entrance examination registration” form. These forms will be made available on the Wolverhampton City Council website.

Tie Breakers for Over-Subscribed Schools

If there are an insufficient number of places to accommodate all the children of a particular criterion, the next criterion will be used to assess the applications concerned in order to prioritise applications.

Unsuccessful Applications and Appeals

If the applicant is a Wolverhampton resident and the admissions and appeals team is unable to allocate a place at any of the preferred schools then a place will be allocated at the nearest Wolverhampton maintained school that has a place available except where parents have indicated on the application form that they do not wish their child to attend a faith school. Allocations to Own Admitting Authority schools in this case would be made following consultation with the governing body concerned.

For Wolverhampton residents, where preferences cannot be met, the Admissions and Appeals Team will notify parents accordingly, setting out the reasons and advising of the right of appeal, how to lodge an appeal and to whom.

For other applicants for Wolverhampton schools the home LA will notify parents of the reasons why parental preference cannot be met and to whom any appeal should be lodged.

Parents are only entitled to one appeal per year group, per school, per academic year unless there is a material change of circumstances.

Waiting Lists

If the applicant has not been allocated their first preference, the application will automatically be placed on a waiting list for the preferred Wolverhampton school or schools that were ranked higher than the allocated school.

Unless material changes of circumstances have been demonstrated a child’s name will only be included on those lists for schools that were ranked higher on the application than the school allocated to the child and, therefore, if a child is allocated a place at the first preference school the child’s name will not be added to the waiting list for any of the other preferred schools.

The waiting lists will be ranked in admission criteria order. As soon as places become vacant the LA on behalf of the admitting authorities will re-allocate those places from the waiting list, even if this is before appeals have been heard.

The Authority will maintain the waiting lists until 31 December 2017.

Requests for inclusion on waiting lists for non-Wolverhampton schools must be made in writing to the relevant local authority for the school concerned for assessment in accordance with their scheme.

Definitions

Sibling

For admission purposes, a sibling is a child who resides permanently at the same address as the child for whom a place is being requested, and is one of the following:-

- brother/sister
- half brother/sister (i.e. share one common parent)
- or stepbrother/sister (i.e. related by a parent's marriage)
- any other child for whom it can be demonstrated that s/he is residing permanently at the same address (e.g. under the terms of a residence order).

The sibling connection only applies where the child concerned has a sibling attending the school at the time of the application as well as at the time of admission, (i.e. for normal year of entry applications siblings are expected to be attending the same school in September 2017). A sibling connection will not be accepted if the original place was obtained by using fraudulent or false information.

Looked After Children

If the child is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority.

If the child has previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them and has immediately been adopted, or is subject to child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

Home Address

Parents are asked to provide their child's home address, i.e. the usual place of residence on weekdays and nights. Please note that childminder's addresses will not be accepted. This applies to both formal childminders and relatives and friends acting in a childminding capacity.

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. Documentary evidence relating to house moves taking place between National Offer Days of 1 March 2017 and 17 April 2017 and the start of the academic year in September 2017 will be considered. The address must be the child's only or main residence and is either:

- Owned by the child's parent(s), carer(s) or guardian(s)
- Leased to or rented by the child's parent(s), carer(s) or guardian(s) under lease or written rental agreement.

Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residence at the property concerned.

Where parents have shared responsibility for the 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 school week. If the child equally shares living with both parents, the parents must inform the Local Authority which address should be used for admission purposes and which parent will make the application. Parents will be requested to supply documentary evidence to support the address used for the application.