

# **SANDWELL ACADEMY**



## **Rules of Admission**

**Year 7  
September 2018**

# Rules of Admission to Year 7 for September 2018

The Rules of Admission have been agreed by the Governing Board in consultation with the DFE and Sandwell Children and Young People's Services.

Sandwell Academy has an agreed admission number of 200 pupils. The Academy will then accordingly admit 200 Year 7 pupils each year.

Sandwell Academy will consider all applications for places. Where fewer than 200 applications are received, the Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

## Procedures where the Sandwell Academy is oversubscribed

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered against the criteria in the order in which they are set out below.

**All applicants will be tested using a NFER (National Foundation of Education Research) Non-Verbal Reasoning Test** and placed into five ability bands with the same number of places in each band. All children will be placed in one of the bands and an equal number of children will be taken from each. No child can fail this test and therefore any requests to re-sit the assessment will be refused. The test will last one hour. The dates for the test are published on the back page of this document and are also found in Sandwell MBC's Admissions booklet. There will also be a 'Mop Up' testing date (usually up to five school days after the published dates) for any student who, for any reason, did not attend their first date and who requests a further date within that time scale. Any student not sitting the test at all will be considered for a place but only **after** all students who did attend testing have been considered. If places become available for students who have not taken the test, those applicants will be required to attend a further testing session to establish their band of ability to determine the allocation of places. The test results will be used to ensure that the Academy admits children of all abilities.

## **Within each Band, priority for places will be allocated to:-**

- i) Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of Educational Needs where the Academy is named in the Plan/Statement
- ii) Children in Public Care (Looked After Children) or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject of an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions
- iii) Up to 10% of the total number of students based on sporting aptitude (i.e. up to 20). Places based on sporting aptitude will be allocated by numerical scores, based on a series of internationally recognised and standardised physical tests, to determine potential to succeed at a high level in Sport. The physical tests will measure aerobic endurance, speed, power, agility, co-ordination and flexibility. The physical tests are generic and measure aptitude across a range of sports for which the Academy has expertise and facilities
- iv) Thereafter, taking into account (i) (ii) and (iii) above, for the towns Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and Wednesbury up to 30 places will be allocated and for the towns West Bromwich and Smethwick 40 places will be allocated, to each of town's centroid point on the basis of distance between an applicant's home address and the centroid point nearest to their home

Distance will be calculated according to a straight line measurement between the applicant's home and the centroid point (as the crow flies). There will be six centroid points, one each in Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich - see Centroid Map. There will be up to 30 places attached to each of the centroid points for the towns Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and Wednesbury and up to 40 places attached to each of the centroid points for the towns Smethwick and West Bromwich. These will be available to pupils on the basis of their proximity to the nearest centroid point.

Maintaining an equal allocation of places in the five ability bands will always be the determining factor when applying the oversubscription criteria. For the towns Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and Wednesbury six places will be allocated in each of the five bands of ability and for the towns Smethwick and West Bromwich, eight places will be allocated in each of the five bands of ability. The following examples show how the Academy would allocate places:

- Example 1      Only five applications in Band 3 Tipton – one further place would be allocated to the applicant with the shortest distance to one of the six Centroid Points using the distance criteria.
- Example 2      More than six applications were eligible for places on sporting aptitude from Band 4 Oldbury – a maximum of six places would be allocated.

Preference is not given in favour of siblings or those with medical conditions.

Sandwell Academy will have the discretion to admit additional students over and above the agreed admission number of 200 pupils, when the application criteria has determined that twins or triplets would ordinarily be separated.

## Procedures for Admission

As part of the National Co-ordinated Admissions Arrangements across all Admissions Authorities, parents are required to complete an online application form provided by their Local Authority. This form must be completed and submitted by **31 October 2017**. Please note that Sandwell Academy **must** be named as one of the six preferences, if you wish to be considered for a place at the Academy.

**The application will only be valid if all the required information submitted is correct and submitted by 31 October 2017.**

Parents/ Carers should read the Sandwell MBC's 'Sandwell schools admissions and appeals' booklet which is comprehensive and can be accessed from the Sandwell Local Authority website from **1 August 2017** onwards.

The Academy will liaise with Sandwell Local Authority who in turn will liaise with other neighbouring Local Authorities in line with the National Co-ordinated Admissions arrangement during the process. Parents need to be aware that the naming of Sandwell Academy and the ranking on the Local Authority's online form are taken into consideration by the Local Authorities and, as a consequence, by the Academy. If Sandwell Academy is not named on the Local Authority online form, a place will not be offered.

Applications received after the closing date will be considered where the Academy identifies that exceptional circumstances apply. Applications received after places have been offered will be kept on file and form the basis of the 'Applications to Transfer to Year 7' which will include casual admissions.

Those who are offered a place at the Academy will be informed on **Thursday 1 March 2018** by the home Local Authority.

Those not offered admission will be informed on **Thursday 1 March 2018** and will have been offered a place at an alternative school by the home Local Authority.

All applicants will be tested using the NFER Non-Verbal Reasoning Test and placed into five ability bands with the same number of places in each band. A date and time will be set for the prospective student to attend the NVR test. If you have not received notification of the test by **7 November 2017**, please contact Academy Admissions.

# Registering for the Sporting Aptitude Testing

Parents/Carers wishing for their child to be considered for the Sporting Aptitude, which will take place in October 2017 on a date to be notified, must register with the Academy by completing the Sporting Aptitude Registration form by **4:00pm** on **Friday 29 September 2017**. Details of the Sporting Aptitude Registration form will be published on the Academy website in the Spring Term of 2017. Those who have registered on time will be advised in writing about the arrangements for the Sporting Aptitude Test. If you have not received notification of the Sporting Aptitude by **Wednesday 4 October 2017**, please contact Academy Admissions immediately.

**NB** - Participating in the Sporting Aptitude provides an additional opportunity to be allocated a place, but must be undertaken in conjunction with the normal admissions process.

## Notification of the Outcome of the Sporting Aptitude Test

It is a requirement of the statutory School Admissions Code (2014) that the parents of the applicants should be informed of “the outcome of selection tests before the closing date for secondary applications on 31 October so as to allow parents time to make an informed choice of school, while making it clear that this does not equate to a guarantee of a selective place”. The outcome of the test will be sent to parents in mid-October 2017.

## Criteria for allocation of places by Sporting Aptitude

Decisions about which students to admit on the basis of sporting aptitude will be made based upon the standardised scores from the physical tests.

The physical tests will measure aerobic endurance, speed, power, agility, coordination and flexibility.

Each applicant will be awarded a standardised score with the applicants with the highest scores being allocated places based on sporting aptitude. The physical tests are generic and measure aptitude across a range of sports for which the Academy has expertise and facilities.

Scores allocated to individual applicants on sporting aptitude will be made available to parents/guardians on request in writing.

We welcome applications for places on sporting aptitude from all academic abilities and those with Special Educational Needs.

**NB** - Should fewer than 20 applications based on sporting aptitude either be received or be deemed suitable for admittance on sporting aptitude, then places will continue to be allocated using the remaining criteria.

## Operation of waiting list and appeals

Parents who do not obtain a place for their child may appeal against the decision. There will be an independent Appeals Panel appointed in accordance with the provisions of the statutory Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals.

If the Academy is oversubscribed, unsuccessful applicants will be placed on the Waiting List (if requested) which runs until **31 December 2017**. After that date there is an opportunity to apply to go on the Transfer List. If vacancies arise, those on the Waiting List/Transfer List will be offered a place using the Academy's Admissions Criteria outlined previously.

## Further Admissions Information

Sandwell Academy is committed to a fair and equal treatment of all individuals regardless of disability. The Academy will welcome applications from children with disabilities and has been designed and built to have provision and accessibility for people with disabilities so that they may be integrated fully into Academy life.

Residency of applicants must be established and proved at the time of application for a place. The Academy's ruling on residence, as defined by the Funding Agreement is final. Any offer of a place that is fraudulently obtained will be withdrawn.

## **TIMETABLE FOR ADMISSIONS**

<b>June 2017</b>	Rules of Admission and Sporting Aptitude Registration Form available
<b>Monday 17 July 2017</b>	Sandwell LA online application open to Sandwell residents
<b>Friday 29 September 2017</b>	Deadline for submission of Sporting Aptitude Registration form for early testing
<b>Friday 6 October 2017 Saturday 7 October 2017 Sunday 8 October 2017</b>	Sports Aptitude testing to take place (if applicable)
<b>Mid October 2017</b>	Notification of the outcome of the Sporting Aptitude Test (if applicable)
<b>Tuesday 31 October 2017</b>	Deadline for submission of Local Authority online form
<b>Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November 2017</b>	Non-verbal Reasoning Testing (notification of date & time should be received by <b>7 November 2017</b> – if not, contact Academy Admissions)
<b>Friday 8 and Saturday 9 December 2017</b>	Late Sports Aptitude testing to take place (if applicable)
<b>Thursday 1 March 2018</b>	Parents and Primary Schools notified of the result of applications
<b>Thursday 15 March 2018</b>	Deadline for return of Acceptance Form and Waiting List
<b>Friday 30 March 2018</b>	Final deadline for submission of appeals against decisions
<b>Monday 21 May – Friday 25 May 2018</b>	Appeals considered
<b>July 2018</b>	Induction programme for new students

