SANDWELL ACADEMY

Rules of Admission

Year 7
September 2016
Rules of Admission to Year 7 for September 2016

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 non-verbal reasoning test and placed into 5 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. 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 composite prospectus. There will also be a ‘Mop Up’ testing date (usually up to 10 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) Students with an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of Educational Needs where the Academy is named on the Plan/Statement

ii) Students in public care, or those who were in public care but have since been adopted or who have become subject to a residence order or special guardianship order

iii) Up to 10% of the total number of students based on sporting aptitude (ie 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 available to pupils on the basis of their proximity to the nearest centroid point.

Maintaining an equal allocation of places in the 5 ability bands will always be the determining factor when applying the oversubscription criteria. For the towns Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and Wednesbury 6 places will be allocated in each of the 5 bands of ability and for the towns Smethwick and West Bromwich, 8 places will be allocated in each of the 5 bands of ability. The following examples show how the Academy would allocate places:

Example 1 Only 5 applications in Band 3 Tipton – 1 further place would be allocated to the most oversubscribed town in that band using the distance criteria.

Example 2 More than 6 applications were eligible for places on sporting aptitude from Band 4 Oldbury – a maximum of 6 places would be allocated.

Preference is not given in favour of siblings (brothers and sisters) 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 2015. 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.

Parents wishing their child to be considered for a place must indicate this by completing the Sandwell Academy Registration Form (Including Sporting Aptitude) as this will ensure arrangements for the physical testing can be made. Even if you do not wish to be considered for Sports Aptitude, please complete the form for our records. If the application is not successful based on sporting aptitude, the application will then be automatically considered using the remaining criteria.

Please note: For the application to proceed, parents must complete and submit the online Local Authority form (with Sandwell Academy named as one of the six preferences) and complete and return the Sandwell Academy Registration Form (Including Sporting Aptitude).

The application will only be valid if all the information required is supplied and both forms are completed, signed (if applicable) and returned/submitted by the specified date.

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 Tuesday 1 March 2016 by the home Local Authority.

Those not offered admission will be informed on Tuesday 1 March 2016 and will have been offered a place at an alternative school by the home Local Authority.
**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 the end of August. 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.

**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.
## TIMETABLE FOR ADMISSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13 July 2015</td>
<td>Registration Form (Sporting Aptitude) and Rules of Admission available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 31 October 2015</td>
<td>Deadline for return of Registration form to Sandwell Academy and for submission of Local Authority online form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November 2015</td>
<td>Non-verbal Reasoning Testing (notification of date &amp; time should be received by 9 November 2015 – if not, contact Academy Admissions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3, Friday 4 and Sunday 6 December 2015</td>
<td>Sports Aptitude testing to take place (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 March 2016</td>
<td>Parents and Primary Schools notified of the result of applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14 March 2016</td>
<td>Deadline for return of Acceptance Form and Waiting List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29 April 2016</td>
<td>Final deadline for submission of appeals against decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16 May – Friday 20 May 2016</td>
<td>Appeals considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May – July 2016</td>
<td>Induction programme for new students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5 July and Wednesday 6 July 2016</td>
<td>Induction Days for students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>