

SANDWELL ACADEMY



Rules of Admission

**Academic Year
2025 / 2026**

Rules of Admission to Year 7 for September 2025

This document outlines the admission arrangements for Sandwell Academy. The Rules of Admission have been agreed by the Governing Board in consultation with the DFE and Scth

All applicants will be tested using a NFER (National Foundation of Education Research) Non-Verbal Reasoning Test.

All children will be placed in one of the five ability bands, with the same number of places in each band, 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 Admission Booklet. There will also be a 'Mop Up' testing date (usually 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.

Due to the large number of applications the Academy regular receives, it is strongly advised that applicants attend their allocated test date and time. Further testing arrangements, after the 'Mop Up' testing session, **cannot** be made due to the marking system used by the testing company. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/carer(s) to ensure their child has received a test invitation and attends a testing session. If you have not received notification of the test by **Wednesday 27 November 2024**, please contact the Admissions Officer.

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.

Procedures where Sandwell Academy is oversubscribed

If the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan where the school is named in the Plan, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in order.

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

- 1) 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 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. 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
- 2) 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 standardise

ordination and flexibility. The physical tests are generic and measure aptitude across a range of sports for which the Academy has expertise and facilities.

- 3) Children of teachers who have been employed by the Academy, for two or more years at the time the application is made, or the parent/carer has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. Up to 5 applicants will be considered under this criteria. Priority will be determined on the basis of distance between an applicant's home address and the centroid point nearest to their home.
- 4) Thereafter, taking into account priorities 1, 2, 3, and 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 up to 40 places will be allocated, on the basis of distance between an applicant's home

Tie Breaker

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break in category '4' above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and their closest centroid point is the same. This process will be independently verified.

If a tie-break is required in earlier categories to decide who has priority for admission between two children, priority will be determined on the basis of distance between an applicant's home address and the centroid point nearest to their home.

Registering for the Sporting Aptitude Testing

Parents/Carers wishing for their child to be considered for Sporting Aptitude must register with the Academy by completing the Sporting Aptitude Registration form.

Sporting Aptitude Registration forms should be returned to the Academy by **12:00pm** on **Wednesday 3 October 2024**. Testing will take place in October 2023. Details of the Sporting Aptitude Registration form will be published on the Academy website in the Spring Term of 2024. 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 Test by **Friday 5 October 2024**, please contact the Admissions Officer immediately.

NB - Participating in the Sporting Aptitude Testing provides an additional opportunity to be allocated a place, but must be undertaken in conjunction 00000806itbt musc-241(0010

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents/Carers may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for

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.

TIMETABLE FOR ADMISSIONS

June 2024	Sporting Aptitude Registration Form and Information Evening booking form available
Summer 2024	Sandwell LA online application open to Sandwell residents
Thursday 19 September & Tuesday 8 October 2024*	Virtual Information Evening – please note these sessions are by appointment only
Wednesday 3 October 2024 (12.00pm)	Deadline for submission of Sporting Aptitude Registration form for early testing
Saturday 5 October 2024*	Sports Aptitude testing to take place (if applicable)
Monday 21 October 2024	Notification of the outcome of the Sporting Aptitude Test (if applicable)
Thursday 31 October 2024	Deadline for submission of Local Authority online form
Saturday 30 November	

***Please note these dates may 2024/2025 home fixtures. Please check www.sandwellacademy.com for updates and further information.**