

# **Walsall Academy**



## **Rules of Admission Year 7 September 2010**

**Approval by the Governing Board**

**November 2008**

# **RULES OF ADMISSION TO YEAR 7 FOR SEPTEMBER 2010**

## **FORWARD**

When reading these rules, parents//guardians should understand that The Walsall Academy is a City Academy and is part of the Government's specialist school initiative. The Rules of Admission differ from those of Local Authority Schools, but have been agreed by the Governing Board in consultation with the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Admissions to the Academy will be made in accordance with the statutory Codes of Practice for Schools Admissions and Appeals as it applies to voluntary aided schools.

Students will be drawn partly from within a defined catchment area ("Inner Catchment Area"), and from outside the defined catchment area ("Outer Catchment Area"). They will be representative of the full range of ability and broadly representative of the community in those areas.

Preference is not given in favour of siblings (brothers and sisters) or those with medical conditions.

## **PLACES AVAILABLE**

Applications are welcomed from children of all abilities and with physical disabilities. All applications will be considered and processed in the same way by the Walsall Academy. Please inform the Academy of any specific disability which may result in a prospective student requiring individual help during the Admissions procedure. The Academy will admit 168 Year 7 students in September 2010. These places will be filled by selecting from the full range of ability of applicants, in accordance with the criteria embodied in the Funding Agreement between the Academy and the Secretary of State for Education.

There will be 100 places available for children living in the Inner Catchment Area, and 68 places available for children living in the Outer Catchment Area.

The Inner Catchment Area encompasses all WS3 3 postcodes, a small number of WS3 2 postcodes including Broad Lane (Walsall), southeast along to Elmore Green Road, across towards Stafford Road, A34. A small number of WS3 1 postcodes including part of Harden Road between Bloxwich Road as far as the Wyrley and Essington Canal. Then following the canal to where it meets Livingston Road.

The Outer Catchment Area is undefined.

A map of the Inner Catchment Area is enclosed with the Rules of Admission.

All children who apply for a place at the Academy will be invited to attend an assessment, namely the NFER Non-Verbal Reasoning Test. The assessment will last one hour and will be held at The Walsall Academy. Children cannot “fail” the NFER assessment and therefore any request to resit the assessment will be refused. Following the assessment, your child will be placed in one of five ability bands. The assessment results will be used to ensure that the Academy admits children of all abilities.

The Academy is especially equipped in the Technology, Science and Mathematics curriculum areas and this should be taken into account by prospective students and their parents when applying. The Academy also provides full coverage of the National Curriculum.

The general aim of the Walsall Academy is to maximise student performance. In pursuing this aim parents or guardians must be prepared to commit themselves to active support of their children, in attendance, in work and in conformity with Academy rules, throughout their stay, which they should intend to continue beyond age 16. Parents/guardians must also support the Academy in its endeavours to educate their child throughout the longer school day and year, which involves attending extra sessions.

When the number of applications for admission is greater than the published number (168 pupils), the Academy will be oversubscribed and all applications will be considered against the criteria set out below.

## **ADMISSION OF STUDENTS**

If the number of applications for admission is greater than the published number, the Academy will be oversubscribed and places will be allocated in the following order:

- A) Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs where the Academy is named in the Statement (see note below)
- B) Children in Public Care (Looked after Children)
- C) Applying the Admission Criteria (see below)

### **NOTES:**

1. The Admission of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. This procedure is integrated to the making and maintaining of statements by the child’s home Local Authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.
2. The Academy is committed to taking its share of vulnerable children who are hard to place, in accordance with locally agreed protocols.

## **ADMISSIONS CRITERIA**

### **1. BANDING OF CHILDREN (168 places in total)**

If the Academy is oversubscribed, all children will be placed in one of 5 ability Bands based upon their score in the NFER Non-Verbal Reasoning Test.

One-fifth of the applicants with the highest Test score will be placed in Band 1, Bands 2, 3 and 4 will each have one-fifth of the applicants and one-fifth of the applicants with the lowest scores will be placed in Band 5.

34 places in Bands 1, 3, and 5 will be offered, and 33 places in Bands 2 and 4.

### **2. APPLICATIONS FROM CHILDREN LIVING IN THE INNER CATCHMENT AREA (100 places)**

- 2a) 20 places in each Band will be offered to children who live inside the Inner catchment area.
- 2b) If in any Band there are more than 20 applicants from the Inner catchment area, then pupils living closest to the Academy, as measured in a straight line from their home address, will be offered a place.

**Please note:** If in any Band there are less than 20 applicants from the Inner catchment area, then all the children will be offered a place and the remaining places offered to children who live in the Outer catchment area.

Distance is measured from the centre point of the Academy site to the centre point of the applicants post code.

This measurement is taken using a PC software application.

Should more than one application, in the same NFER ability band, be received from the same postcode, a second measurement is taken using the ordnance survey map. This will be from the applicants address to the centre point of the Academy site.

### **3. APPLICATIONS FROM CHILDREN LIVING IN THE OUTER CATCHMENT AREA (68 places)**

- 3a) 14 places in Bands 1, 3, and 5, and 13 places in Bands 2 and 4 will be offered to children who live in the Outer catchment area.

- 3b) If in any Band there are more than 13/14 applicants from the Outer catchment area, then the children whose nearest secondary school is furthest as measured in a straight line from their home address, will be offered a place.

The nearest alternative secondary school is the school closest to the applicant's home address, where the school is maintained, non-denominational, co-educational and not wholly selective – this excludes independent schools, church and other faith schools, single sex schools and grammar schools.

**Please note:** If in any Band there are less than 13/14 applicants from the Outer catchment area, then all the children will be offered a place and the remaining places offered to children who live inside the Inner catchment area.

Distance is measured from the centre point of the nearest alternative secondary school site, to the centre point of the applicants postcode.

This measurement is taken using a PC software application.

Should more than one application, in the same NFER ability band, be received from the same postcode, a second measurement is taken using the ordnance survey map. This will be from the applicants address to the centre point of the nearest alternative school site.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible applicants are those children residing in the Inner and Outer catchment areas described previously, who were born between the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1998 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 1999.

The Walsall Academy is committed to a fair and equal treatment of all individuals regardless of disablement. The Academy will welcome applications from children with disabilities. The Academy has been designed and built to have provision and accessibility for people with disabilities so that they may be integrated fully into Academy life. The curriculum will be delivered through the use of ICT to provide flexible and equal access to all students whether able or disabled as far as is practicable within a mainstream educational establishment.

Residence of applicants in either of the areas must be established and proved at the time of application for a place. The Academy's ruling on residence, as defined in the Funding Agreement, is final.

## PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION

To apply, parents or guardians of prospective students will be required to complete an application form for their eligible child. Parents/guardians must be aware that an application form for the Walsall Academy must be returned to the Walsall Academy. The properly completed form must be received by the Academy before **Friday 23 October 2009**.

As part of the National Co-ordinated Admissions Arrangements across all Admissions Authorities parents/guardians are also required to complete a Preference Form provided by their Local Authority. This form must be completed and returned to the Local Authority before **Friday 23 October 2009**.

Please note: Parents/guardians must fill in both the Walsall Academy Application Form and the Local Authority Preference Form for the application to proceed.

Parents/guardians should read the Walsall Children's Services – Serco publication "Information for Parents/Guardians about admission to Secondary School for September 2010" which will be provided with the Local Authority Application Form.

The Academy will liaise with Walsall Children's Services – Serco and other neighbouring Local Authorities in keeping with the National Co-ordinated Admissions Procedure during the process of selection. Parents/guardians need to be aware that preferences relating to the ranking and the naming of the Walsall Academy on the Local Authorities Preference Forms are taken into consideration by the Local Authorities.

Once the Academy has received the completed application form, parents/guardians of prospective students will be asked to provide further information in support of their application.

A date will be set for the prospective student to attend for assessment. Applicants who do not attend for assessment will not be further considered for a place in the Academy.

**The application will only be valid if all the information required is supplied and all the forms are completed, signed and returned by the specified date.**

Applications received within two weeks after the closing date will be considered only 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.

168 applicants will be offered a place for admission in September 2010 while others will be offered a place on the Waiting List.

Those who are offered a place at the Academy or a place on the Waiting List will be informed by a letter posted on **Monday 1 March 2010** and will be asked to complete and return an acceptance form by **Friday 12 March 2010**. Offers of admission to those on the Waiting List will be made as soon as a suitable place becomes available.

The Walsall Academy will consult the Local Authority and write to the applicant's Primary School Headteacher to ensure that they are informed of the outcomes.

Those not offered admission or a place on the Waiting List will be informed by a letter posted on **Monday 1 March 2010** and will have been offered a place at an alternative school by the Local Authority.

### **WAITING LIST FOR ADMISSION TO YEAR 7**

If the Academy is oversubscribed, unsuccessful applicants will be placed on the Waiting List. If vacancies arise, those on the Waiting List will be offered a place using the Academy's Admissions Criteria outlined previously.

The Waiting List will be maintained until 31 December 2010.

### **THE APPEALS PROCEDURE**

Parents/guardians 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 as it applies to voluntary aided schools.

Appeals should be presented in written form to the Clerk of the Independent Appeals Panel no later than **Friday 19 March 2010**.

## **TIMETABLE FOR 2010 ADMISSIONS**

### **AUGUST 2009**

Application Forms, Rules of Admission and Academy Prospectus available

### **FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2009**

Deadline for return of Application Form

### **SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2009**

Student Assessment Sessions take place

### **MONDAY 1 MARCH 2010**

Parents/guardians and Primary Schools notified of the result of applications

### **FRIDAY 12 MARCH 2010**

Deadline for return of Acceptance Form

### **FRIDAY 19 MARCH 2010**

Final deadline for submission of appeals against decisions

### **APRIL 2010**

Appeals considered

### **SPRING/SUMMER 2010**

The Induction Programme for the new intake will take place. Further details will follow in due course

### **JULY 2010**

Year 7 Induction Days