

Woodlands Academy of Learning



Admission Arrangements for the Academic Year 2026/2027

**These admission arrangements have been set in accordance with the School Admissions Code
2021**

Woodlands Academy of Learning is part of an inter-LA Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary Admissions. All dates referred to within this document are in line with this scheme.

The academy, as its own Admission Authority is required to consult on admission arrangements for the academic year 2026/2027

WOODLANDS ACADEMY OF LEARNING

Admissions Number = 60

Admission Criteria - September, 2026

OVER SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

In the case of over subscription, places will be allocated using the over subscription criteria in the following order of priority:

1. Children in public care (looked after children), and previously looked after children

Definition: Children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority, or who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order)

2. Sibling - pupils who have an older sibling already in attendance at the school, and who will be still attending the school at the proposed admission date.

Definition: A sibling is a child who resides at the same address as the child for whom a place is being requested and is one of the following:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
- A half-brother or sister sharing one common parent;
- A step-brother or sister (ie related by their parents marriage);
- Any other child for whom it can be demonstrated that he or she is residing permanently at the same address (eg under the terms of a residence order)
- In the event of that there is an insufficient number of places to allocate to twins, triplets or other children from multiple births, a decision will be made as to which child(ren) the place(s) are to be offered. In this situation a place or places will be offered to the first born (older child(ren)) and in cases where this is not known, the offer will be decided by lot

3. Children of staff who have been employed at the Academy for two or more years.

Definition: A child of a staff member who has been employed at the academy for two or more years and continues to be employed at the time the application to Woodlands Academy of Learning is made.

4. Medical factors

Definition: Pupils for whom a place at the school is essential on medical or social grounds as supported in writing by a medical practitioner or a social worker. This can relate to either the child or the parent, for example where one or both parents or the child has a disability that may make travel to a school further away from home more difficult.

Requests for such consideration will be subject to verification by the schools Admissions Committee. This is necessary because parents will be asking the Committee to assess the child as having a stronger case than many other children, some of whom may live closer to the school.

Medical evidence must be submitted in writing from a medical practitioner and should state why the preferred school is the only school that can meet the child's needs.

4. Distance

Definition: The home address of a child is considered to be the permanent residence of a child in a residential property when the place is offered. The address must be the child's only or main residence and is either:

- Owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian; or
- Leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under lease or written rental agreement of not less than six months duration.
- Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residence at the property concerned. In certain circumstances the child's current school will be asked to verify the address given.
- Where parents have shared responsibility for a child and the child lives with both parents for part of the week, the main residence will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the week. Parents may be requested to supply documentary evidence to support the address used for the application.
- The offer of a place is based upon the address of the child when the offer is made. If a child is offered a place at an oversubscribed school the place may be withdrawn if it is found that the child moved (before the place was offered) to a new address which was further away from the school and the child would not have qualified for a place on the distance criterion.
- In the event that the family moves between the application and the date of offer, the School Admissions Team must be informed as soon as possible of these circumstances.
- If the home address is a flat (or apartment) and there is more than one flat at the same address, priority will be given to applications living at the lowest numbered flat and/or the flat on the lower floor.
- Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the school address using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

OVER SUBSCRIPTION FOR NURSERY PLACES

Applications for nursery places should be made direct to the school.

Oversubscription Criteria in the following order of priority.

- Priority for nursery places will be given to children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023. If places are oversubscribed the following Oversubscription Criteria will apply:
- Children in Public Care (looked after children) (see above)
- Pupils who have an older sibling already in attendance at the school. (see above)
- Children of staff who have been employed at the Academy for two or more years. (see above)
- Pupils for whom a place at the school is essential on medical or social grounds and supported in writing by a medical practitioner or a social worker (see above)
- Distance between the home address and the school as measured in a straight line with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority (see above)

Where places are still available the school may only offer places to children who have attained the age of 3. If the remaining places are oversubscribed the oversubscription Criteria shown above will apply.

* A place in Woodlands Nursery does not guarantee a place in the school.

SCHEME FOR ADMISSIONS TO WOODLANDS ACADEMY OF LEARNING 2023/2024

Secondary Schools

Early in September 2025 Walsall Council will issue to Walsall Primary Schools (including Woodlands Academy of Learning) the “Walsall Secondary School Preference Information” to enable Walsall parents for Year 6 children (who will transfer to secondary education in September 2026) to name up to 5 secondary schools, rank them in order of preference and give reasons for their preference. The Walsall Preference Application may be used to apply for a place at any secondary school in or outside the borough.

Primary Schools

During Autumn 2025, Walsall Council will issue the “Walsall Primary School Preference Information” to all parents of children at Woodlands Academy of Learning, to enable Walsall parents of Nursery children to name up to 3 primary schools, rank them in order of preference and given reasons for their preference. The Walsall Preference Application may be used to apply for a place at any primary school in or outside the borough.

Parents of children who are in nursery provision in Walsall and are resident in Walsall must complete a Walsall preference form if they want their child to join a reception class in a Walsall primary school.

Attendance at Woodlands Academy of Learning Nursery does not guarantee a place at Woodlands Academy of Learning.

LATE APPLICATIONS POLICY

The policy on late applications for Woodlands Academy of Learning is in line with Walsall Council arrangements.

- Late Applications received up to 4 weeks after the Closing Date

Late applications received up to four weeks after the Closing Date may be considered as being on time but only where there are exceptional circumstances.

- Where the family were unable to complete the Walsall Preference Application by the Closing Date because they moved into the Borough of Walsall after the issue of the Walsall Preference Form
- The family were unable to comply with the admission timetable because of exceptional circumstances which prevented the on-line form being

submitted on time.

- When a lone parent has been ill for some time

In these cases the circumstances must be given in writing at the time of application and attached to the Preference Form they will then be verified by the Executive Director of Children's Services, Walsall Council.

- **Late Applications received more than 4 weeks after the Closing Date**

Applications for schools received more than 4 weeks after the Closing Date but before the Notification Date will be considered only after all other applications.

- **Applications Received After the Notification Date (once places have been offered)**

- Parents making a late preference for a place at an undersubscribed school will be offered a place for their child.
- Any late application for a place at an over-subscribed school which is received after places have been offered will be added to the school's waiting list in admission criterion order.

Please note that any change of preference after the closing date will be regarded as a late application and will be considered under the late application policy. Any change of preference must be made in writing by parents (letter or email). Parents can only have three preferences at any one time throughout the admission process. During the admissions procedure you must notify the Admissions and Pupil Planning Team in writing of any change of home address.

WAITING LIST POLICY

Waiting Lists for all Walsall schools will be maintained by Walsall Council. Parents may enquire about their child's position on the Waiting List by telephoning the Admissions Team on (01922) 652585 between the closing date for acceptances/refusals of places offered and the end of the autumn term 2026.

Children who are the subject of a direction by a local authority to admit to a school or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol must take preference over those children on the waiting list.

Waiting Lists are kept for all children who have been refused a place at any school which was ranked higher than the school at which they have been offered a place, for example

- If a child is offered a place at the school that was ranked 2nd on the Walsall Preference Application then the child's name will only be placed on the waiting list for the school that

was ranked 1st.

- If a child is offered a place at their first choice school the child's name will not be added to any waiting list kept for their other ranked schools.

After the Primary Admissions notification date a parent may contact the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team to apply for a place at an oversubscribed school. Their child's name will be placed on the school's waiting list in admission criteria order. Any vacancies will be offered on the basis of the admission criteria for the school.

DEFERRED ENTRY POLICY

Children reach compulsory school age on the first day of the term following their fifth birthday. However, all Walsall primary schools provide full time places for pupils in a reception class from September in the year before children reach their fifth birthday.

If parents prefer their child to start later than 1st September 2026 they have the option of deferring the child's entry until later in the 2026/2027 school year. Parents opting for this must inform Walsall Children's Services in writing of the date they wish their child to start in a reception class. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Parents are not able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term following their child's fifth birthday or beyond the academic year for which admission is sought.

This is because the school place is held for that child and is not available to be offered to another child.

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

Summer born children, (born between 1 April and 31 August) reach compulsory school age in the September following their fifth birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on 31 August). Parents of summer born children may submit a request for their child to be admitted to a reception class in the September following their fifth birthday, at the point at which other children in their age group are moving from the reception class to year 1.

Parents seeking a place for their child outside of their normal age group in a community of voluntary controlled primary school should make a request in writing to Walsall Council providing details of the reason for the request and supporting medical evidence or evidence from the child's current head teacher if appropriate.

When an application for admission outside of a child's normal age group is received, Walsall Council and Woodlands Academy of Learning will work together to make the decision on whether or not to grant the request based on the individual circumstances of each case.

MID YEAR ADMISSION POLICY

Nursery

Parents should contact Woodlands Academy of Learning direct to request an admissions form for a Nursery place.

Primary

Walsall Local Authority coordinates the midyear admission process for applications to Woodlands Academy of Learning. This can be done online by visiting the Walsall LA website, alternatively please contact the Walsall Admissions Team by telephoning (01922) 652585 for more information.