



# **Admissions Policy**

Reviewed: September 2023

Next Review: September 2024

## **Admissions Policy**

If you would like to attend our school, please see full details of our admissions arrangements below.

### **Nursery Admission**

Applications for a Nursery place at Rivers Primary Academy are made directly through our website.

We will admit 26 children for our morning session and 26 for our afternoon session. We offer a staggered intake and pupils can begin the term after they are 3. Therefore, we have 3 entry points: September, January and after Easter. Dates are as follows:

- Children born in the period 1st January to 31st March: the start of term beginning on or following 1st April after the child's third birthday
- Children born in the period 1st April to 31st August: the start of term beginning on or following 1st September after the child's third birthday
- Children born in the period 1st September to 31st December: the start of term beginning on or following 1st January after the child's third birthday

When applications for Nursery are oversubscribed given any of the above conditions, the following criteria will apply in order to decide who will enter the school:

1) Children in Public Care (Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children). \*See note below. 2) Children who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of entry. \*See note below. 3) Due consideration will then be given to other applicants in terms of distance from the school from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the school. \*See note below.

### **Reception Admission**

Our admission number for Reception is 60 based on our Published Admission Number (PAN). For admissions in September 2024, Rivers Primary Academy will be part of the coordinated admission arrangements with Walsall Council. Applications should be made online to Walsall Council. Parents can list up to three schools on their application and rank them in order of preference. All applications for named schools will be considered in accordance with each school's published admission criteria. Parents will receive written confirmation of an offer of a school place. If a child does not meet the admission criteria for any of their parent's preferred schools, Walsall Council will offer a place at the nearest alternative primary school.

### **Years One to Six**

Our admission number is 60 based on our Published Admission Number (PAN). If a child does not meet the admission criteria for school, they should contact the Local Authority for information on alternative schools with places available.

### **Over subscription**

All schools must admit any child with a statement of special educational needs that names the school directly unless there is an exceptional circumstance that it is not appropriate. In the event of oversubscription places will be offered using the following criteria:

1. Children in Public Care (Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children). \*See note below. 2. Children who have an older sibling already in attendance at the school when the application is made and who will be attending the school at the proposed admission date. \*\*See note below. 3. Children for whom a place at the school is essential on medical or social grounds and is supported in writing by a medical practitioner or a social worker (applications will be subject to verification). 4. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the school.\*\*\* See note below

## Notes

\* Looked after Children – as required by the Regulations of 2012 the school will give priority to applications on behalf of children in public care (Looked After Children) in accordance with the definition below: 'Looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by the local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

\*\* By sibling we mean: Children living at the same address who have one or both natural parents in common. Children living at the same address who are related by a parent's marriage. Children living at the same address whose parents are living as partners at this address. Fostered children living at the same address. We include siblings who are adopted within our definition of sibling. We do not include 'cousins' within our definition of sibling.

\*\*\* Proof of residence will be required by the co-ordinated scheme. The offer of a place may be withdrawn if proof of residency is not met. Where a child lives part of the week with one parent and part of the week with another member of the family, the 'home address' will be considered to be the residence where the child resides at least three nights of the school week. Proximity of the child's home to Rivers Primary Academy using a straight-line distance will be used as a 'tiebreaker' for any oversubscribed criterion. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the school. Special conditions will apply in the event that one child from a multiple birth does not gain admission to the school through the use of the Admissions Policy: Jun 18 admissions criteria; in this instance the school governors will exceed the admission number for the family concerned to prevent separation of twins/triplets.

## Waiting Lists

As required by the current School Admissions Code, all school waiting lists are now held by Walsall Council Admissions Team you can contact them directly by telephone (01922 652585) or alternatively by emailing [schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissionsadvice@walsall.gov.uk)

## In Year (Mid Year - MYA) Admissions

Admissions mid-year for any year group will be dealt with in accordance with this policy and will be administered by the Local Authority. Please contact the Local Authority.

## Appeals

If you are not offered a place at our school, you have the right to appeal to an independent panel and should contact the school for the relevant papers if they are not available from the LA. Please ensure that the school form, rather than the LA Admission Appeal Form, is used.

## Further Information

All parents are advised to read the Local Authority booklet for parents on primary admissions. The Choice Adviser is available to answer any questions or if you require advice and can be reached at: Parent Support Advisor Zone 2E, The Civic Centre Darwall Street Walsall WS2 1TP Telephone: 01922 652578