



Admissions Policy 2020/21

This policy outlines clearly and simply the procedures and protocols which are currently in operation around admissions into RSA Academy Arrow Vale. As an Academy we are our own admissions authority, but we have taken the decision to carry on working closely with the Local Authority to ensure that all arrangements are both transparent and fair.

Admissions Process - Entry to the school at the normal time of transfer (Year 9)

Applications for all school places must be made on the Common Application Form (CAF) provided by the parent[s]/carer[s] home Authority, with the opportunity to nominate schools, ranked in order of preference. Alternatively, if you are a Worcestershire resident, you can complete the CAF on-line at www.worcestershire.gov.uk. (Different links can be used if you are resident in another Local Authority). Once completed the CAF (including if you apply on-line) must be received by your home local authority (Worcestershire if you live in Worcestershire, Birmingham if you live in Birmingham etc) by their deadline. The home Local Authority will notify parents of the outcome of their application for a place.

Applying for Places

Applications are welcomed from all who wish their children to attend RSA Academy Arrow Vale. Students and their parent[s]/carer[s] who are considering applying are warmly invited to visit the School. The school holds an Open Evening and Open Mornings for Year 8 students and their parent[s]/carer[s] in the September of the year prior to intended admission. The School will be pleased to provide information and answer questions by letter or telephone, or to meet parents to discuss possible applications.

If there are more applications than places the Governors have a Published Admission Limit of 224 places for Year 9. The following procedure for applications is designed to ensure that the Governors' Admissions Policy is applied as fairly and consistently as possible.

Age of Pupils

Students normally enter the School in Year 9 in the September after they reach the age of 13 and leave at the end of Year 11 (unless they stay on into the sixth form). Students also enter the school in Year 12 in the September after they reach the age of 16 and leave at the end of Year 12 or Year 13 (depending on their course of study)

Date of Application

The CAF forms will be provided direct to parents via middle/primary schools from their home Local Authority. It is also available on-line at www.worcestershire.gov.uk for residents living in Worcestershire (other Home Local Authorities have their own arrangements.) The CAF (including if you apply on-line) must be received by your home Local Authority by their published deadline.

Procedure

Your home Local Authority will sort applications into preference order and will send those nominating RSA Academy Arrow Vale in any position to the Governing Body for assessment. The Common Application Form data will then be used to place applications in order of priority according to the scheme below.

Statemented Students - Students for whom a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan has been agreed naming the School on the Statement or Plan: where places required by statemented or EHCP pupils are known before the Admissions Committee meets, the number of pupils with statements or EHCP naming this School will be deducted from the 224 places available to be offered.

Offers of Places

The Governors' Admissions Committee will rank all applications received in order of priority as described above. This list of students for whom places could be offered will then be provided to the Local Authority who, according to the Co-ordinated Scheme, will make offers. The offer of a place will be a single offer to you, of your highest ranked school, where a place is available. Those for whom no place can be offered are advised of their right to appeal within fourteen days of the date of posting of the letter.

Firm offers will be made by the home Local Authority on the published date. They will not be made by RSA Academy Arrow Vale.

The Governors reserve their right to withdraw an offer of a place before the student is admitted to the school where it is found that the offer of a place has been made on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application which effectively denied a place to a student with a stronger claim, or where a parent/carer has not responded to the offer within 14 days of the offer being made.

The parent[s]/carer[s] of students who are unsuccessful in gaining a place will have the student's name placed on a waiting list for a place at RSA Academy Arrow Vale irrespective of whether they make an appeal against the decision not to offer them a place. In previous years a small number of places have become available between April and September due to families moving home etc. Any such places will be allocated to students on the waiting list. This process will operate in keeping with the principles outlined in this Policy i.e. when a place becomes available, it will be allocated according to the oversubscription criteria listed above.

N.B. Parents are advised that they must return the transfer application form to their home Local Authority by the published deadline. This deadline will be adhered to **strictly** and applications received after this date will be at a disadvantage in the event of oversubscription. **We remind you that you will only receive a single offer of a school place under the Co-ordinated Admissions process. This offer will be of your highest ranked school, where a place is available.**

Oversubscription Criteria for Admission to RSA Academy Arrow Vale

In the event that RSA Academy Arrow Vale is oversubscribed, the purpose of the published oversubscription criteria is to give everyone a fair opportunity to apply for a place at the school.

The Admissions Committee take considerable time and the utmost care to ensure that the system is applied fairly.

At Age 13:

When there are more applications than places (which is normal) students will be admitted in the following order of priority:

1. Relevant **"looked after"** and **"previously looked after"** young people.
2. Young people who have a **sibling** currently attending Arrow Vale RSA Academy. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the school, the sibling must be attending the school at the time of intended admission.
3. **Children of staff** employed for at least two years or recruited to meet a skills shortage.
4. Young people who **attend our main contributory schools** i.e. Ipsley CE RSA Academy, Church Hill Middle School
5. Other young people who **live in the Arrow Vale RSA Academy Catchment Area**. A copy of the Catchment map is available from the LA or can be seen in school.
6. Other young people.

Within each criterion priority will be given to those who live nearest to Arrow Vale RSA Academy. This distance will be measured from the front entrance of the home to the front entrance of the school in a straight line. In the case of oversubscription places will be allocated (for all the listed criteria) to pupils who live **nearest** to the school by the shortest straight line distance. The measurement will be taken using the GeoCode Points from the centre of the building of the home address (centroid) to the Geocode point for the centre of the School buildings (centroid). This will be done by using the Local Authority's software package called Arcview GIS to determine distance. Ordnance Survey supply the co-ordinates that are used to plot an address within this system. (In the event of equi-distance applicants, any place will be allocated by random selection (lottery). This process will be conducted by a suitable person independent of the school.)

Definitions

- **'Looked after'** means all those currently in the care of or accommodated by a Local Authority under the terms of the Children Act 1989 and children who were previously in the care of or accommodated by a Local Authority but immediately after being looked after, became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.
- **Parent[s]/carer[s]** – parent, guardian and others who have actual care of a student and whose address appears on the student benefit book or other legal agreement confirming the care of the student.
- **Catchment Area School** - is the school allocated by the LA to take children for the geographical area within which your address falls. It is likely to be the school nearest to your home address but this will not always be the case.
- **Sibling** – a brother or sister including half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother or stepsister, or any student who lives in the home as part of the family.
- **Home** – must be the address where the student usually lives. Places cannot be offered on the basis of a possible future address. If you move to a different address but have not sold or given up the tenancy of your previous home, this will not count as a change of address. Also, if you allow your child to live with someone in a different area, the student's usual home will be taken as their home address for the measurement of distance. Students who have parent[s]/carer[s] with shared responsibility will have the address of the parent/carers who is in receipt of Child Benefit used as their home address for admissions purposes. If you are moving, the Governors will need one of the following before they can consider your new address when applying the Oversubscription Criteria for a place at this School:
 - a letter from a solicitor confirming that you have exchanged contracts to buy a property
 - a tenancy agreement confirming that you will be renting a specific property
 - a letter from a housing association confirming that you will be living at a specific address

Admissions Process at Age 16 (Year 12)

In addition to RSA Academy Arrow Vale students continuing from Year 11, where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in order of priority set out below:

1. **"Looked After" and "previously looked after" young people.**
2. Students with an elder or younger **sibling** currently attending RSA Academy Arrow Vale.
3. **Children of staff** employed for at least two years or recruited to meet a skills shortage.
4. Students who have completed Year 11 at RSA Academy Arrow Vale.
5. Students who live in the RSA Academy Arrow Vale catchment area.
6. Other students. Priority will be given to those who live nearest to RSA Academy Arrow Vale. This distance will be measured from the front entrance of the home to the front entrance of the school in

a straight line. In the event of equi-distance any place will be allocated by random selection (lottery). Someone totally independent of the school will supervise this process.

N.B. The definitions outlined above relating to Looked After, siblings, and the allocation of places on the basis of the shortest distance also apply at age 16.

In addition to the above criteria the following entry requirements to courses will apply.

1. All students starting courses must meet the minimum requirements published in the Prospectus
2. All prospective post 16 students will be expected to complete an interview process to determine the appropriateness of their course choice prior to an offer of a place being made. All offers of a place are conditional upon students meeting the minimum course requirements before they take up their place.

Appeals

The parent[s]/carer[s] of children who are unsuccessful in gaining a place at RSA Academy Arrow Vale will be able to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parent[s]/carer[s] wishing to exercise this right should contact in writing the Clerk to the Governing Body of RSA Academy Arrow Vale within fourteen days of receipt of notification.

The Independent Appeal Panel's procedures are in accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002 and the Schools Appeals Code of Practice. Parent[s]/carer[s] may attend the hearing of their appeal and make their case to the panel.

In Year Applications for Admission

The parent[s]/carer[s] of children seeking admission to the school should apply for a place by completing an in year admission form, available from RSA Academy Arrow Vale. Once completed, the form should be sent straight to Worcestershire County Council's School Admissions Team, marked 'In Year Admissions', in accordance with the Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for In-Year Applications.

If a place is not available in the relevant year group, the application will be placed on the school's waiting list for admission into the relevant year group. This is organised according to the criteria for over-subscription above. When a place becomes available, it will be offered to the student at the top of the waiting list. However, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 removes the duty to comply with parental preference where agreeing to the preference would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

If no place is immediately available, parent[s]/carer[s] are entitled to appeal following the procedure outlined above. Where places are awarded we reserve the right to refuse admission for a reasonable period of time to allow and encourage the parents / carers to work with their existing school. Additionally we reserve the right to refuse admission for a reasonable period of time in order to collect information from the student's previous school (including completion of form AV – CA1B) to facilitate our planning and provision mapping to meet their individual needs with a personalised learning programme. Parents / carers should be aware that in order to ensure the correct provision for all students joining RSA Academy Arrow Vale previous school (s) will be contacted to ensure a smooth transition.

Admission of children outside the normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. The governors will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen

into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. They will also take into account the views of the Principal.

When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the governors will set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

Where the governors agree to a parent's request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (i.e. the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school) the local authority and governors will process the application as part of the main admissions round, unless the parental request is made too late for this to be possible, and on the basis of their determined admission arrangements only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. They will not give the application lower priority on the basis that the child is being admitted out of their normal age group.

Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

The information contained in this policy is correct at the time of going to press but minor amendments may be made without notice, for example to comply with new statutory requirements or due to circumstances beyond the control of the Governing Body at RSA Academy Arrow Vale including information published by Worcestershire County Council.