WIXAMS ACADEMY

Wixams Academy Admissions Arrangements 2026-2027

Principles

Wixams Academy welcomes applications from students living in Wixams, Wilstead, Bedford and the surrounding areas. As an Academy, education provision will be provided for pupils across the whole ability range.

Admission to Year 7

Our PAN for new Year 7s joining the Academy in September 2026 is 210 students per year group.

Applications

Please apply via the Bedford Borough Schools Admission site:
www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions

The closing date for applications is 31st October in the year preceding the September start date (e.g. 31 October 2025 for September 2026 start).

Oversubscription Procedure

If the Academy is oversubscribed (after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school), priority admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below in priority order:

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order, including those children 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.
2. Children with siblings in the Academy.
3. Children of staff.
4. Any other children.

Undersubscription Procedure

The Academy will admit up to its published admission number each year if there are sufficient applications. Where the school is undersubscribed, all applicants will be admitted.

Tie Break

Within each of the over-subscription categories, priority is given to those who live nearest to the Academy, as measured by the straight-line distance using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system. The distance will be measured from the address point of the pupil's home to the front door of the Academy regardless of the distance of travel.

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between a child's home and the Academy is equidistant in any individual case. This process will be overseen by the Local Authority. Where a pupil lives for part of each week at different addresses, the 'home' address shall be that address at which the pupil spends the majority of the Academy week.

Appeals

Parents will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are refused a place at Wixams Academy. In line with the School Admissions Appeals code published by the Department for Education, an independent Appeals Panel will be established. The Appeal Panel will be independent of Wixams Academy and their decision binding on all parties.

Parents wishing to appeal against the decision not to offer their child a place at Wixams Academy must appeal to the Local Authority. The appeal will be heard within 40 school days of receipt of the appeal. Parents will receive written notification of the date and time of their appeal hearing, which they can attend to explain their case. Following the appeal, the Clerk to the appeals panel will write to parents with the decision.

Waiting List

Where, in any year, Wixams Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, Bedford Borough Council will maintain a waiting list. This will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list following an unsuccessful application.

A pupil's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. Where places become vacant, they will be allocated to students on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Whenever a new applicant is added to or is removed from the waiting list, the list will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

In-Year Applications

Wixams Academy will consider any in-year applications. If the year group applied for has a place available, the Academy will admit the applicant. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria will be applied.

Any applicant not offered a place will be advised of their right of appeal.

Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school outside the normal admissions round.

Requests for admissions into other year groups should be made on the In-Year Application Form. The In-Year Application Form is available from the Local Authority and can be downloaded from the Local Authority website.

Late Applications

All applications received after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the Academy's waiting list.

Admissions of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so, parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested and the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place.

When such a request is made, the academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the Headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

1. 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).

i) A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

ii) Previously 'looked after' child – A previously 'looked after' child is one who immediately after being 'looked after' became subject to an adoption, residence,

or special guardianship order. An 'adoption order' is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order setting the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individual's to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

2. A sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

3. Children of staff who have been recruited to the Academy to fill skills shortage areas.

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