

Admissions Policy 2026–27

SCOPE:	Academy Policy
AUTHOR/ORIGINATOR:	Principal
NAME OF RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL:	Academy Principal & Director of Improvement
APPROVING COMMITTEE:	LAB
STATUTORY BASIS:	Statutory
REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH ON WEBSITE:	Yes
DATE RATIFIED:	25 th March 2025
DATE DISTRIBUTED:	25 th March 2025

ADMISSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO
WEY VALLEY ACADEMY, WEYMOUTH – 2026/27

Wey Valley Academy is a fully comprehensive, mixed 11-16 Academy, committed to inclusion and equality of opportunity for all, admitting students across the ability range. The Academy aims to provide a learning environment in which all individuals know that they are cared for in every way, spiritually, morally and culturally. It serves the whole of the Weymouth & Portland. A map of this area is available from the school.

Our admission numbers are as follows: 210 Years 7-11

Wey Valley Academy invite applications from any parents/carers who wish their children to receive their education within a positive environment. Wey Valley Academy operates an equal preference policy. This means that all applicants naming Wey Valley Academy will be considered.

The Local Authority will allocate places taking into account, where possible, parental preference. Parents who wish their children to be admitted to the Academy should complete the Common Application Form available through the Local Authority. The timetable for, and information on how to apply for Year 7 is available from Dorset Council. The Co-ordinated Admission Scheme may be read at [2026 to 2027 school admissions policies – Dorset Council](#)

The Academy Trust will consider all applications for places at the Wey Valley Academy. Where fewer than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year groups are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at Wey Valley Academy to all those who have applied.

Oversubscription criteria

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. (After the admission of young people with Statements of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plans where Wey Valley Academy is named on the statement) the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- a) A 'Looked After Child' or who was previously a 'Looked After Child' (as defined by the Admissions Code 2012);
- b) Young people whose siblings (see Additional information Note 8) currently attend the Academy and who will continue to do so on the date of admission;
- c) Children of staff at Wey Valley Academy, where the member of staff has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
- d) Young people who live within the Academy's designated catchment area,
- e) Young people who are attending one of the following primary schools as at the national closing date for secondary applications: St Nicholas & St Laurence CE VA Primary School, Radipole Primary School, St John's CE VA Primary School, Bincombe Valley Primary School or St Andrew's CE Primary School, Preston;
- f) All other young people not included in paragraphs (a) – (e) above, and;
- g) If the school is oversubscribed in any of the categories (a) to (f) above, young people who live closest to the school will be given priority. The distance is measured by a Geographical Information System used by the local authority and the routes detailed in its published admissions policy for secondary schools (see Additional information Note 9). If applicants live at the same address or in the same block of flats the allocation of places will be made by way of drawing lots (See Additional information Note 10).

Waiting list

Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in the Local Authority's co-ordinated admission scheme, the Academy will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year Wey Valley Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the autumn term. This will be maintained by the Academy Trust and it 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.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out for entry to Year 7. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

In-year admissions

The local authority co-ordinates admissions for in-year applications and for applications for year groups other than the normal point(s) of entry. This will not affect the Academy's right to determine which applicants have priority for admission.

Subject to any provisions in the co-ordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the Academy Trust will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available it will offer a place. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria for Year 7 will apply. Parents whose application is turned down will be entitled to appeal the decision.

Additional information:

1. Applications for a place in any year group other than a young person's correct age related National Curriculum year group

Applications for young people to be educated outside their normal national curriculum year group will be considered by a specialist panel comprising: The Vice Principal Curriculum & Standards & Vice Principal Pastoral & Inclusive, a member of the governing body and the Principal of the Academy.

Applicants must provide with their application form the following information in support of their request:

1. Clear, documented evidence that to place the young person in his/her normal age group would not be detrimental to his/her educational progress or likely exam performance.
2. Clear evidence that it would not be detrimental to the interests of the young person's social and emotional development to be placed in a different year group.

3. Clear evidence that the young person has previously been placed in a different year group and this has had positive benefits.

(A young person would need to meet Criteria 1 and 2 above in all cases, for agreement of an out of year group admission. The existence of Criterion 3 would serve to strengthen a case.)

2. In Year Fair Access

All the admission authorities in Dorset have established an In-year Fair Access Protocol. The purpose of the Protocol is to ensure an equitable distribution of in-year admission placements. Cases are considered by a Panel comprising Head Teachers and/or their representatives. Decisions of the Panel may mean that the Academy might have to admit young people which could result in the Published Admission Number being exceeded.

3. In Year Admissions – Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

A Looked After Child or Previously Looked After Child may be admitted to the Academy above the Published Admission number if it is felt by the Academy, in consultation with the local authority that the Academy is the most appropriate placement to meet the needs of the individual child.

4. Applications from separated parents

Only one application can be considered for each young person. Where parents are separated it is essential that agreement is reached by both parties concerning the nominated preferred schools. If agreement cannot be reached the Academy will only consider the application from the parent who is the prime carer for the young person. The prime carer is the parent in whose name Child Benefit payments for the individual young person are made. If Child Benefit payments are not received by either parent, then the address that the young person has been registered with a General Practitioner (GP) at will be considered as the address for the prime carer.

5. Applications for young people of multiple births

If there are insufficient places to accommodate all the young people of a multiple birth (i.e. twins, triplets etc) if one young person can be admitted then the other siblings of the multiple birth will be admitted over the Academy's Published Admission Number.

6. Withdrawing an offer of a school place

The Academy may withdraw the offer of a school place if it is considered that the offer of a place was obtained using fraudulent or intentionally misleading information. The application will then be considered as a late application using the correct information. If a young person starts at the school the place will not however be withdrawn.

7. Home address

The Academy will consider that a young person lives at the address at which he/she lives during the school week. Where a young person lives at more than one address during the school week the Academy will consider the home address as being where the prime carer resides. The "prime carer" is the person in whose name Child Benefit payments for the individual young person are made. If Child Benefit payments are not received by either parent, then the address that the young person has been registered with a General Practitioner (GP) at will be considered as the home address of the prime carer. The final decision on the home address of a child will be made by the Academy. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the Academy to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading the Academy may refuse to offer a place or if already offered may withdraw the offer.

8. Definition of siblings

"Sibling" means:

- A full brother or sister who lives with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.
- A half-brother or half-sister who lives with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.
- An adoptive brother or sister who lives with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.
- A foster brother or sister who lives with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.
- Non-blood related children who, together, all live with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week.

9. Distance measurements

Places will be allocated on the basis of the shortest straight-line measurement (as the crow flies) using a geographical information-based system which identifies an Easting and Northing for the home address and the school and calculates the distance between the two locations.

10. Young persons of equal priority

If there are insufficient places to accommodate all applicants and the distance criterion is used, the Academy will use random allocation for applicants living an equal distance from the school (up to three decimal points) or at the same address or in the same block of flats who are eligible for the remaining places. Applicants will have their names drawn as lots to see who should be offered the place(s). The person drawing the names will be an employee of the Academy who has no involvement in the school admissions process.