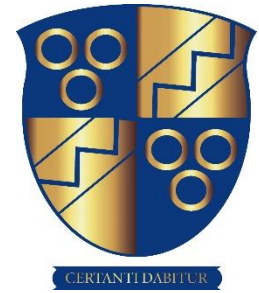


# Admissions Criteria

## The Oldershaw School



### Compliance

This admissions criteria has been drafted with regard to the following provisions, codes and guidance: School Standards and Framework Act 1998; Children and Families Act 2014; Equality Act 2010; Human Rights Act 1998; The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012; School Admissions (Appeal Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012; School Admissions Code, September 2021; School Admissions Appeals Code, October 2022; Special Educational Needs and Disability Code, January 2015; The Department for Education's "School Admissions Code", May 2021

### Admissions Number

The School has a Published Admission Number ("PAN") of 168 for entry into year 7. This includes children with a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan ("EHCP") which names the school.

Where fewer applicants than the PAN for the relevant year are received, all those who have applied will be offered places at the school.

### Admissions Criteria for Year 7

For admissions to secondary school in the academic year 2023-24, Wirral Council ("the Local Authority") will co-ordinate all admissions arrangements on behalf of Oldershaw School (Please also see the Local Authority documents 'Secondary Education in Wirral', 'Admission Policies' and 'Scheme for Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements for Maintained Secondary Schools in the Wirral Area' all of which are updated annually and available at: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions>).

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with EHCPs naming the school, priority for admission will be dealt with in order according to the following criteria:-

- 1. Children who are Looked After or previously Looked After.** A Looked After child is a child who is i) in the care of a local authority, or ii) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously looked after child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, residence 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 or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.
- 2. Children who have a valid medical reason for a specific placement.** You must give details on the preference form and this may be checked by a medical officer of the health authority. A letter in support from a senior health care professional will be required as evidence when you submit your preference form. You need to make it clear why only this school is appropriate for your child's medical needs.
- 3. Students who have a sibling** (including half-sibling or step-sibling living in the same household) who is on roll at the school at the start of the academic year September 2023.
- 4. Children of staff at the school** – priority is given to children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances: Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and/or ii. the applicant is the child of a member of staff who is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

**5. Distance from the school.** We will give priority to those students who live nearest to the school. The Authority's computer mapping system, based on Ordnance Survey maps, is used to measure the distance from your home to the school gate nearest to your child's home using the shortest road route, unless it is possible to use a footpath which we consider a safe walking route.

## **Tie Breaker**

If the number of applicants within any of the above oversubscription criteria exceeds the number of places available at the school and a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, random allocation undertaken by the Local Authority will be used as a tie-break to decide who will be admitted. Where random allocation is used to determine admission in these circumstances, it will be supervised by someone independent of the school.

## **Multiple Births**

If children of multiple births (twins or triplets) require admission into the same year group and there is only a single place left within the school's published admission criteria, the Local Authority will allocate above the PAN in order to accommodate each child.

## **Late Applications**

All applications received by the Local Authority after the deadline for submitting an application will be considered as a late application. Late applications will be considered after those received on-time and in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria. If, following consideration of all on-time applications the school is oversubscribed, parent(s) / carer(s) may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

Applications received after the start of the Autumn Term in any school year will be treated as an in-year application and not a late application. In these circumstances, parent(s) / carer(s) must complete the in-year application form which will be considered by the Local Authority.

An application will be considered late if it is submitted after 31 October.

## **Waiting List**

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the school 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 Local Authority and it will be open to any parent to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, subject to looked after children, previously looked after children and those allocated a place at the school in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol who will take precedence over those children on the waiting list. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

## **Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group**

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. If a parent wishes to make such an application they must contact the Clerk to Trustees with a written request including the following information:

- the normal age group that the pupil would be admitted to and the year group which they are requesting the child be admitted to
- the reason(s) for the request
- the parent's views on why the admission outside of the normal year group should be made

- information and evidence about the child's academic, social and emotional development as supported by professionals
- confirmation as to whether the child has been educated outside of the normal age group previously; and
- if relevant to the request, a medical history and the views of medical professionals about the request for being educated outside of the normal age group

The Principal will be given the opportunity to consider the information and, along with your application, submit the information to the Board of Trustees Admissions Committee to make a determination. If the request for a deferred entry is not made within the normal admissions round and is refused by the Admission Committee, whereby you are not offered a place for your child in the normal age group, then Parents will have the right to appeal the decision to an independent appeal panel.

If the application is made during the normal admissions round, and Trustees agree that an admission outside of the normal age group is acceptable, then the application will be processed and will still be subject to our oversubscription criteria. A grant of the application does not receive any priority under our oversubscription criteria. If the application is rejected by Trustees Admissions Committee during the normal admissions round then the application for a place at the school will still be subject to our oversubscription criteria but for admission into the normal age group.

## Appeals

Parents have the right to appeal the Trust Board's refusal to offer a place at the school. If an application for admission has been turned down by the Trust Board, parents can appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents should contact Wallasey Town Hall (Parental Appeals) for the necessary paperwork. Appeals should be sent back to the Appeals Panel at Wallasey Town Hall no later than 4 weeks from receiving the letter of refusal. The decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on the Trustees. The Independent Appeal Panel will conduct itself in compliance with the School Admission Appeals Code (as amended from time to time), in particular,

- Section 2 – Appeal Hearings and
- Section 3 – Reaching Decision on Appeal

The determination of the Independent Appeal Panel is binding on all parties. Parents will not have the right to a further appeal in respect of a place at the school for the same academic year unless there are exceptional circumstances whereby the Local Authority has accepted a second application because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parents, child or school but admission was still refused.

The Trust Board reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to sibling connections or place of residence.

## Admissions during the Academic Year

In-year requests will be co-ordinated by the Local Authority.

A parent can apply for a place as an in-year admission at any point

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked after children, previously looked after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

## **Fair Access Protocol**

We participate in Wirral Council's Fair Access Protocol. This helps ensure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

## **Admissions Criteria for Sixth Form**

Oldershaw welcomes applications from students who have not previously studied at the school. Applicants must complete an application form which is available from the school office or the school website. The required minimum standard for Sixth Form Level 3 courses is at least 5 GCSE passes at grade 9 - 4 including English and Mathematics. Some courses may require a higher grade. For Level 2 courses the requirement is 5 GCSE passes. Priority for admission is given to existing students. Where an application is received from a student from another school, they will require an interview with our Head of Sixth Form and they will be required to evidence their GCSE (or equivalent) results.

Should the school receive more external applications for the sixth form than can be accommodated, then the criteria applied for entry into Year 7 will be used to determine admission.

Places in Sixth Form will be confirmed on receipt of GCSE results in the summer. Admission to Year 13 is based on students successfully passing their Year 12 courses.