

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR WOODLANDS ACADEMY 2026 – 2027

Woodlands Academy celebrates an international mix of children with a range of cultural backgrounds. We aim for children to achieve the highest possible standards, to be enthusiastic about learning and to develop a positive image of themselves as learners.

Teamwork and Partnerships are the beliefs upon which our school is built, underpinned by the values of Determination, Respect, Self-Belief and Resilience.

Our vision is to be an outstanding school that fosters excellence through a culture of rigor, consistency and high achievement for every member of our diverse community.

The school has an admission number of 30 for entry in reception.

Where fewer applicants than the published admission number are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

Woodlands Academy participates in the Ealing Council coordinated scheme for admission to reception. Late applications will also be processed by Ealing Council as per the published timetable.

All applications received by the Local Authority 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, the child will be placed on the school's waiting list

Applications outside the normal admissions round (in-year applications) should be submitted to Ealing Council and will be processed as per the Ealing Council coordinated scheme for in-year admissions unless other arrangements have been made and published on the academy website.

Oversubscription Criteria

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

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.
2. Children with a brother or sister who will be attending the main school (not the nursery class) at the time of admission.
3. Other applicants, those living closest to the school will be given priority for admission.

Tie Break

In the event that the distances are equal the place will be randomly allocated by the Local Authority's computerised measuring software.

Twins, Triplets or other Children from Multiple Births

The academy does not give priority under its admission criteria for twins, triplets or other children from multiple births, however, the academy will admit twins and children from multiple births when one of the siblings is the thirtieth child admitted.

Waiting Lists

The academy will operate a waiting list for each year group. This will be maintained by the Local Authority in accordance with the Ealing Council co-ordinated admissions schemes.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely by the oversubscription criteria.

Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appellants should contact Ealing Council for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on the Ealing Council website: www.ealing.gov.uk/admissions

Deferred Entry

Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made. Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. 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.

Notes:

Looked After and Previously Looked After Children:

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) at the time of making an application to a school. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after. A child arrangements order is defined in s8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by s12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by s14A of the Children Act 1989 as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

Sibling:

The words brother and sister refer to all blood, half, foster, step and adoptive brothers and sisters (not cousins) who live at the same home and in the same family unit as the child on a permanent basis or for the majority of time in any calendar year. A sibling relationship does not apply when the older child(ren) will leave before the younger one starts.

Distance:

Ealing Council measures the home to school distance on behalf of Woodlands Academy, the method they adopt for measurement will apply.

Home Address:

The home address is where a child normally lives. Where the parents have shared responsibility and the child is residing with one parent for the majority of the time or on a permanent basis, the address of this parent will be used for the purposes of the application.

Shared Responsibility:

Where parents have shared responsibility and the child lives with each parent for half of the calendar year, the parents must come to an agreement as to whose address will be used for the application. This address will be used to process the child's application and can only be changed after the beginning of the academic year unless the address of the chosen parent changes during the admissions process. Proof of residency will be required.

In all other cases of personal or family arrangements the address of the parent(s) will be taken as the main residence unless there is irrefutable evidence that the child lives elsewhere either full-time or for most of the year with an adult under arrangements which have been endorsed by a court.