



ADMISSIONS POLICY 2025/26

Version control	
Admissions Policy Reviewed January 2024	Reviewed and no changes required

Owner:	Vice Principal	Date of next review:	Sept 24 (for Sept 26 Admissions)
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ADMISSIONS POLICY for Years 7-11

Budmouth Academy operates an equal preference policy. This means that all applicants naming Budmouth Academy will be considered. All applicants will be placed in rank order according to the criteria below. The Local Authority will then allocate places taking into account, where possible, parental preference.

- A. Children who are or have been in care or are looked after by the Local Authority, or who have been adopted after having been in care. This will include internationally adopted or previously looked after children.
- B. Up to 30 students will be admitted following the sitting of ability tests.
- C. Remaining non-selective places up to the planned admission number of 260 will be allocated according to the following criteria in the order set out below:
 - children who will have a sibling(s) already attending the Academy at the time of admission
 - children of staff
 - children living within the catchment area for, or attending, Portesham • Primary School
 - other children:

When the admissions number is reached within one of the above criteria, geographical proximity to the Academy will be used to differentiate between children with the highest priority being given to children living nearest to the Academy.

The admission of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (EHCP) is covered by Sections 324 to 328 of, and Schedule 27 to, the Education Act 1996. Guidance on the admission of statemented (EHCP) students is given in the Special Needs Code of Practice.

In addition to these places up to two places may be available for admission to the Asperger Base. Admissions will follow the LA policy for admission to specialist bases. This means that the LA will hold a consultation period with the Academy, and students will be considered against the criteria drawn up in conjunction with the LA.

FOOTNOTES

1.

- (i) *A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order, including those 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. 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). An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).*
- (ii) This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).
- (iii) Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children's Act 1989, as amended by s.12 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.
- (iv) See Section 14A of the Children's Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

2. The term "sibling" means a full brother or sister, stepbrother or sister, adoptive brother or sister and non-blood related children who live with married or cohabiting parents in the same household.

3. The children of teachers, teaching assistants and administrative support staff, employed at the Academy for at least two years' continuous service at the date of application (or relevant closing date under the LA coordinated scheme for normal year of entry applications), or who will meet a relevant skills shortage. The term 'children' includes adopted,

foster and step children, living with that member of staff, in the same household.

4. Distance will be measured as the shortest route, straight line measurement using a Geographical Information based system which identified an Easting and Northing for the home address and the Academy and calculates the distance between the two locations.

Budmouth maintains a waiting list of one term in the academic year of admission and children will be ranked in the same order as our published oversubscription criteria.

For parents applying under the geographical proximity criteria, the child's present address will be the one that will be considered. With regard to a child who lives with parents with shared responsibility each for part of a week, the address will be the address of the person who is in receipt of child benefit.

In the event that the Governing Body is unable to distinguish between applications despite applying the priority categories above, lots will be drawn by an independent person to determine the final place(s).

Where applications are received from families with multiple birth siblings, and by adhering to the admission number these siblings could not all be offered Budmouth Academy, the admission number will be exceeded to accommodate the multiple birth siblings. This recognises the exceptional nature of emotional bonds between multiple birth siblings. This is not an indication that the Academy can exceed PAN other than under these exceptional circumstances.

Parents have a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel established under the provisions of the Schools Standards & Framework Act 1998.

Arrangements for in Year Admissions

In the Weymouth & Portland area, all applications for admission into Years 711 that are received after the start of the academic year will be considered by the IYFA Panel, which includes staff from Dorset Council admissions team and local Headteachers.