

***PROPOSED* ADMISSIONS POLICY - WMG ACADEMY**

2027-28 (Entry in September 2027)

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WMG ACADEMY FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS

ADMISSIONS POLICY SOLIHULL ACADEMY

FOR SEPTEMBER 2027

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INTRODUCTION

The WMG Academy for Young Engineers is a University Technical College for 13 – 19 year old students, which offers an integrated and applied academic and technical curriculum based on a STEM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) with a core learning time from 8.30 am until 4.15 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (8.30am until 3.20pm on Monday, Thursday and Friday). With a ‘business-like, business-led’ ethos, WMG Academy works with employer partners to deliver an industry-backed education.

The Academy is non-selective for entry at Year 9 in 2027. Entry to programmes of study Post 16 include appropriate entry criteria, based on previously achieved national qualifications.

Potential students should be aware that the Academy’s approach will be founded on both practical and academic problem solving with a focus on engineering, mathematics and science.

The Academy Trust will act in accordance with the School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code. WMG Academy will publish information about the arrangements for admissions, including over- subscription on its website. This will include details of open days, evenings and other opportunities for prospective students to visit the WMG Academy and minimum entry requirements for Post-16 applicants.

This Admissions Policy has been determined by the WMG Academy Trust Board in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Education Act 2002 (and subsequent amendments), the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination) (England) Regulations, the Equality Act 2010, and complies fully with the School Admissions Code 2021 and the School Admission Appeals Code.

PUBLISHED ADMISSIONS NUMBER

The published admission number for Year 9 is 100 for 2027/28.

The published admission number for Year 12 in total is 150. Priority will be given to the Academy's Year 11 students progressing to Year 12; therefore the Academy will not admit external applicants into its Sixth Form, unless undersubscribed by its own students. If fewer of the Academy's own Year 11 students do not meet entry criteria and progress into Year 12, additional external students will be admitted until Year 12 meets its capacity of 150.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN YEAR 9 FOR SEPTEMBER 2027

Parent(s)/carer(s) should apply via the Academy website, using the web-based Applica platform accessed via the Academy website. **The closing date for applications for the WMG Academy for Young Engineers Solihull is 1st November 2026.** All applications received by this date will be classified as “on time” and will be considered first.

Parent(s)/carer(s) will be notified of the outcome of their child’s application on the 8th January 2027.

WMG Academy Solihull will consider all applications for places. However, if inaccurate or misleading information is provided in support of the application, WMG Academy Solihull reserves the right to withdraw the place. Where fewer than the published admission number for any relevant year group are received, the academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

Students that are looked after by a Local Authority (in line with section 22 of the Children Act) and all previously looked after children who are now adopted or subject to a residence order or a 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 children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names WMG Academy Solihull will be offered a place first. This will reduce the number of other places available. However, they must not apply directly to the Academy. Instead, applications must be made through the local authority, they will liaise with the academy and make sure the academy can meet the needs of the EHCP.

WMG Academy Solihull is a specialist STEM Academy and, as such, all students will follow a core curriculum offer of Engineering Manufacture, Maths, Triple Science and English. For those students joining in Year 9, this will be a foundation year with a broad and balanced curriculum to cater for National Curriculum requirements but have a STEM focus.

All students intending on joining WMG Academy will be asked to indicate at the application stage which of our STEM subjects they already have an interest in:

- Computer Science/IT/Digital
- Engineering Design (Engineering Manufacture is compulsory in the core curriculum)
- Product Design
- Electronics

Consideration of Applications for Year 9

The Academy will band across the ability range of applicants for admission to the Academy.

1. All applicants will take a nationally recognised benchmarking test (CAT test) (i) with a verbal, non-verbal and quantitative aspect. This is not a pass/fail test. Based on their mean CAT scores in the test (ii) , all applicants will then be placed in one of five ability bands(iii) .
2. The highest ability students by CAT scores will be placed in band 1 and the lowest ability in band 5.
3. Students will then be selected on an equal proportion basis from each band to ensure that a fully comprehensive intake from the most able to the least able are offered places.
 - a. It is anticipated that this will be The Cognitive Abilities Test produced by GL Assessments comprising a verbal, non-verbal and quantitative aspect. GL assessments are a range of standardized tests and tools developed by the company GL Assessment to measure student abilities, knowledge, and progress. However, the Academy reserves the right to use another test provider or test.

- b. The mean result used is the one attained by an individual on the test.
 - c. The ability group into which an applicant is placed on the basis of their Mean score.
4. There will be multiple dates for the banding tests in October and November 2026. All applicants will be invited to complete the CAT test as part of the fair banding process.
 5. The boundaries of each band reflect the national range of abilities and are as follows:
 6. Invitations to sit the Fair Banding test will only be sent to those applicants that have applied directly to WMG through Applica by 1st November 2026
 7. Any unfilled places remaining after the initial band allocations will be returned to the central pool and reallocated equally across all ability bands. These places will then be offered by random allocation within each band.

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds the Published Admission Number (PAN), places will be allocated in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out below. All children whose Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) names the Academy will be admitted before the oversubscription criteria are applied.

Oversubscription

If we receive more applications than there are places available (which is normal) places will be offered in the following order.

1. Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

Children looked after by a Local Authority (in line with section 22 of the Children Act) and all previously looked after children who are now adopted or subject to a residence order or a 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 of Staff

Children of staff employed at the Academy in either of the following circumstances, in accordance with paragraph 1.39 of the School Admissions Code:

- a) where the member of staff has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time of application; or
- b) where the member of staff is recruited to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.

3. Fair Banding

The Academy uses fair banding to ensure that its intake represents the full ability range.

All applicants are invited to sit a Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT). The test is not used to select high-scoring pupils, but to place applicants equally into ability bands.

3.1 Banding Method

- Applicants will be placed into **five ability bands**, each representing approximately 20% of the national ability range, based on standardised scores.
- The Academy will admit an equal number of pupils from each band, as far as possible, to a total of **100 places** (PAN).
- If the number of applicants in a band exceeds the number of available places after the application of oversubscription criteria 1–3 (shown above), **random allocation** will be used to determine allocation of places within that band.

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Total
CAT Test Mean Result	Above 116	106-115	96-105	84-95	Below 85	
% of students in each ability band	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	100%
Number of Students	20	20	20	20	20	100

3.2 Applicants Who Do Not Take the Test

- Applicants who do not sit the banding test without exceptional reason (e.g., illness, late application, or unavoidable circumstances) will be allocated to a band based on alternative information, such as Key Stage 2 teacher assessment or primary school reports.
- Where no reliable information is available, the applicant will be placed into the middle band to ensure fairness and compliance with the Admissions Code.

3.3 Late Test Session

The Academy will offer an additional test session for applicants who were unable to attend the main session for an acceptable reason.

Multiple Births

If the final available place is offered to a child from a multiple-birth group (twins, triplets, etc.), all siblings in the group will be offered places, even if this exceeds the PAN.

Waiting List

The Academy will maintain a waiting list until at least 31 December of the admission year. The waiting list will be ordered strictly according to the oversubscription criteria above, and not by the date the application was received.

In-Year Admissions

For in-year applicants requiring banding, the Academy will arrange a banding test (CAT test) and place applicants into the appropriate band using the same method as above. Places will be offered based on availability within bands and the oversubscription criteria.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Applications received after the closing date (1st November 2026) will be considered late and processed after the offer day.

WAITING LISTS

Places may become available at the WMG Academy Solihull after the 9th January 2027 Offer Day if places are declined.

All children who were not offered a place will be placed on a waiting list of the Academy; the list will be prioritised in line with the oversubscription criteria; the list will be maintained until the 31st December 2027.

If a vacancy arises, the place will be offered to the child with the highest priority. Where there are more applicants on the waiting list in priority than places available, the place will be offered using the method of random allocation.

‘IN YEAR’ APPLICATIONS TO YEAR 9, 10 AND YEAR 11

Applications for a place at any time other than the normal time for admission (in-year admission) should be made to WMG Academy Solihull. If there is a vacancy in the relevant year group a place will be offered unless it is deemed to fall under the Solihull MBC Fair Access Protocol whereby it will be referred to Solihull MBC Admissions and Inclusion Teams. If the year group is full, the application will be given a priority and put on the waiting list. Where the local authority requests information regarding ‘in year’ applications, WMG Academy will provide this within two working days.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN THE SIXTH FORM

The WMG Academy Solihull will operate a Sixth Form for 150 students in each of Year 12 and Year 13 when at full capacity.

Places will be available in Year 12 for internal students who meet the minimum academic entry requirements for their chosen programme of study. Remaining places will be offered to any external candidates, on condition that they meet the Academy's minimum entry requirements. For entry in 2027, external candidates will only be admitted if places remain after internal applicants have been accommodated.

Applications should be made directly to the WMG Academy Solihull and electronically via the web based 'Applica' platform. The Applica platform is accessed directly on the WMG Academy Solihull website via the dedicated Applications pages.

The closing date for Sixth Form applications for the WMG Academy Solihull for Young Engineers is 31st January 2027. All applications received by this date will be classified as "on time" and will be considered first.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum entry academic requirements for the courses offered to gain entry to the Sixth Form will be published on our website. Students applying to Year 12 will be offered courses appropriate to their prior achievement.

Any students with an Education, Health and Care Plan, where WMG Academy Solihull is named in the statement **and** who meet the minimum admission criteria, will be offered a place. Priority will then be given to any looked after or previously looked after children who meet the criteria.

After admission of students with an EHCP subject to appropriate consultation and LAC students, should the number of external candidates applying, who have met the minimum entry requirements for the Academy, exceed the number of places available, independently verified random allocation will be used to identify the students who will be offered a place. Applications made **after** the closing date of **31st January 2027** will be considered in the order that they are received or the order in which their name was added to the list.

RESPONDING TO OFFERS FOR POST 16 PLACES

All students must respond to offers by the deadline set on the offer letter via the Applica online platform accessed through the academy website. Failure to do so may mean that the offer is withdrawn and a place can be offered to another student. If oversubscription criteria have been applied and a student does not achieve the necessary entry requirements for a particular pathway, they must instead accept a place on an alternative pathway or the offer may be withdrawn.

APPEALS

IF YOUR CHILD IS REFUSED A PLACE AT THE ACADEMY IN YEAR 9, OR 12

Applicants who are refused admission into any entry year group for any reason have a right to appeal. WMG Academy Solihull will notify the unsuccessful applicant as to why their application has been refused. Applicants (or their parents if under the age of 16) can appeal a decision to refuse admission by writing to solihull.admissions@wmgacademy.org.uk within 10 working days of the date of refusal, setting out the reasons for appeal.

In conjunction with Solihull MBC, WMG Academy Solihull will facilitate an independent appeals panel to hear any appeal lodged. The purpose of this panel is to enable the Academy to explain their reasons for refusal and to allow the appellant to set out their reasons for appeal. The panel will either uphold the decision to refuse admission or determine that the applicant should be admitted.

Where an applicant refused admission is a looked after child (LAC), it is likely to be more appropriate for the Local Authority looking after the child to exercise their powers of direction in line with the School Admissions Code of Practice. This does not preclude a home local authority from appealing a decision instead of/as well as exercising their powers of direction.

APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN TO BE ADMITTED INTO A CLASS OUTSIDE OF THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

Parents/carers who wish for their child to be considered for admission to a class outside their normal age group should first make an application for the child's normal age group. A formal request must then be submitted to the school's Admissions Officer in the form of a written letter outlining the reasons for the request and including any supporting evidence or documentation. Professional evidence explaining why it is in the child's best interests to be educated outside the normal age range should also be provided.

Each case will be considered individually, taking into account the circumstances of the child and their best interests. The Associate Principal, in conjunction with the Governing Body, will make the final decision. Parents/carers should note that there is no automatic right to placement outside a child's normal year group and such requests may not be agreed. Parents/carers will be contacted to discuss the matter further if required and will receive a written decision outlining the outcome and the reasons for it.

Should you require any further information, please contact us at solihull.admissions@wmgacademy.org.uk