

ADMISSIONS POLICY - WMG ACADEMY SOLIHULL

2026-27 (Entry in September 2026)

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WMG ACADEMY FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS SOLIHULL

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

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Date Approved:	Awaiting approval subject to consultation	Date for Review:	June 2027

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 and 10 in 2026 and then Year 9 entry only from September 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 practical 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.

PUBLISHED ADMISSIONS NUMBER

The published admission number for Year 9 and Year 10 is 100 for 2026/27 only and then the PAN will be 100 for Year 9 only entry from 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. In September 2026 and 2027, there will be no capacity for external students unless undersubscribed. From September 2028 and thereafter, there will be capacity for 50 external students unless undersubscribed.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN YEAR 9 OR YEAR 10 FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Parent(s)/carer(s) should apply for a place at the Academy by making an application via the Academy website using the links to 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 2025.** 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 9th January 2026.

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 with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names WMG Academy Solihull will be offered a place first. This will reduce the number of places available.

The Academy will band across the ability range of applicants for admission to the Academy. All applicants will take a benchmarking test with a verbal, non-verbal; engineering aptitude and quantitative aspect. This is not a pass/fail assessment and does not impact on a student’s eligibility to join WMG Academy Solihull. Based on their mean scores in the tests, all applicants will then be placed in the most appropriate ability band.

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
- Engineering Design (Engineering Manufacture is compulsory in the core curriculum)
- Product Design
- Electronics.

If there are more applications than places available then all applications will be given a priority from the oversubscription criteria and places will be offered in priority order.

Oversubscription criteria

1. Looked after children (under section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and all previously looked after children and those subject to a Special Guardianship or child arrangements order. This includes 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. Applications for previously looked after children must be supported by appropriate evidence (ie, a copy of the adoption order, residence order or special guardianship order).
2. Children with siblings at WMG Academy Solihull will be prioritised. Siblings must be on roll at the Academy when the application is made. This includes siblings of Post 16 students. A sibling must live at the same address and is defined as:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
 - A half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one parent;
 - A stepbrother or stepsister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage or civil partnership;
 - The separate children of a couple who live together; or
 - An adopted or fostered brother or sister.
3. Remaining places will be allocated by distance from the WMG Academy Solihull (postcode B37 5FD) as follows
- a. Children within a 5 mile radius 40% of places (up to a maximum of 40),
 - b. Children living within a 5 – 10 mile radius 40% (up to a maximum of 40) of places,
 - c. Children outside the 10 mile radius 20% (up to a maximum of 20) of places.

LOCATION NOTES

1. 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 places available. If there is an uneven number of places left, the proportion allocated to each part of the catchment area will be rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. Where there are more applications than places available within any of the catchment areas identified within criterion (2), independently verified random allocation will be used to decide which children will be allocated a place.
3. If places remain unfilled from any of the three catchment areas, they will be offered by random allocation to the unallocated applicants.
4. Distances are interpreted by the Local Authority standard admissions measure/process. The admissions system uses six- figure grid references provided by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). The grid references provide a unique point on each property.
5. When considering a child's application, the permanent home address at the closing date of applications will be used. If parent(s)/carer(s) are separated and the child spends time at each parent(s)/carer(s) address, the address of the main carer (where the child lives for the majority of the week) will be used for admission to the Academy. Where a child spends equal time between addresses, the address in closest proximity to the Academy will be considered. Parent(s)/carer(s) may be asked to provide documentary evidence to verify the student's address. This could be defined and verified as that registered with his/her doctor.
6. Applications from sets of twins or other children from multiple births will be treated as individual applicants, this may result in one child being allocated a place under random allocation and another not.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Applications received after the closing date are late and will be processed after the offer day.

WAITING LISTS

Places may become available at the WMG Academy Solihull after the 9th January 2026..

All children who were refused 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 end of the Autumn Term 2026.

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 a 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 2026, there is no capacity for admitting external students unless undersubscribed.

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 applications for the WMG Academy Solihull for Young Engineers is 1st November 2025. 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 admitting SEN 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 **1st November 2025** 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, 10 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 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 may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. The request should be supported by professional evidence explaining why it is in the child's best interest to be admitted outside the normal age range.

A decision as to whether this is an appropriate course of action will be made by the Associate Principal in conjunction with the Governing Body. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

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