



ADMISSIONS POLICY - WMG ACADEMY FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS

2027-28 (Entry in September 2027)

AUTHOR: MR S TAIT

WMG ACADEMY FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS

ADMISSIONS POLICY SOLIHULL ACADEMY

FOR SEPTEMBER 2027

Author:	Stewart Tait	Version:	14
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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 meet the entry criteria and progress into year 12, additional external students will be admitted until Year 12 meets its capacity of 150. In September 2027, there will be capacity for 30 external students unless undersubscribed. From September 2028 and thereafter, there will be capacity for 75 external students unless undersubscribed.

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 for Young Engineers Solihull will consider all applications for places. However, if inaccurate or misleading information is provided in support of the application, WMG Academy for Young Engineers Solihull reserves the right to withdraw the place in accordance with paragraph 2.12 of the School Admissions Code. 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.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names WMG Academy for Young Engineers 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 for Young Engineers 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 for Young Engineers 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 apply a fair banding process to ensure a balanced intake across the full ability range. This process is fully compliant with the School admissions Code and ensures transparency for parents. 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. Late applicants may be tested if places remain.

1. Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT)
 - All applicants will be asked to sit a nationally recognised benchmarking test (CAT), which includes verbal, non-verbal and quantitative components.
 - This is not a pass/fail test but will determine placement in one of the five ability bands listed below.

2. Ability Bands

Band	CAT Mean Score	% of Intake	No of Students (PAN=100)
1	Above 116	20%	20
2	106-115	20%	20
3	96-105	20%	20
4	84-95	20%	20
5	Below 85	20%	20

- Students are initially allocated to bands based on their CAT mean score
- Any unfilled places in a band will be returned to a central pool and redistributed equally across all other bands
- If redistribution results in oversubscription in a band, random allocation is applied with that 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

Where the number of applications exceeds the Published Admission Number (PAN) places will be allocated in the following order:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (LAC/PLAC)
2. Children of Staff
3. Fair Banding

Priority Admissions

1. Looked After and Previously Looked After Children (LAC/PLAC)

- LAC/PLAC applicants are admitted in advance of the fair banding allocations in

accordance with the School Admissions Code.

- These applicants will still sit the CAT test to determine their ability band for curriculum planning, but these pupils will be admitted first and the remaining places will then be allocated using the oversubscription criteria.
- For example, if 5 LAC/PLAC applicants are admitted, the fair banding process is applied to the remaining 95 places.

2. Children of Staff

- Children of staff employed at the academy where the member of staff has been employed for two or more years at the time of application, or has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage are admitted after LAC/PLAC and before fair banding allocations.
- They will also sit the CAT test for curriculum planning purposes, but their admission is not restricted by band quotas.
- Places allocated to children of staff reduce the number of remaining banded places.

Allocation of Places within Bands

- If a band has more applicants than places, allocation is determined randomly within that band.
- If a band has fewer applicants than places, unfilled places are returned to the central pool and redistributed equally across all bands.

Example:

Band	Applicants	Allocated	Shortfall
1	10	10	10
2	40	20	0
3	25	20	0
4	20	20	0
5	15	15	5
Total	110	85	15

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

- All children not initially offered a place are placed on a waiting list, ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria and fair banding methodology.
- Waiting lists operate until 31 December of the admission year.
- LAC/PLAC students will take absolute priority

Allocation from the Waiting List:

- When a vacancy arises, the place is **normally offered within the same ability band as the departing student** to maintain cohort balance.
- If more than one applicant exists in that band, **random allocation** is applied.
- If no suitable applicants exist in that band, the place is returned to the **central pool** and redistributed across all bands as per the main allocation methodology.

LATE APPLICATIONS

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

'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 for Young Engineers 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 for young Engineers will provide this within two working days.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN THE SIXTH FORM

The WMG Academy for Young Engineers 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 for Young Engineers Solihull and electronically via the web based 'Applica' platform. The Applica platform is accessed directly on the WMG Academy for Young Engineers Solihull website via the dedicated Applications pages.

The closing date for Sixth Form applications for the WMG Academy for Young Engineers Solihull 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 for Young Engineers 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, random allocation will be supervised by an independent person who is not employed by the Academy. 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 for Young Engineers 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 20 working days of the date of refusal, setting out the reasons for appeal.

In conjunction with Solihull MBC, WMG Academy for Young Engineers 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