

1. Aims

Great Western Academy is a publicly funded, co-educational, non-denominational secondary Academy based in North Swindon. Our vision is to create an outstanding 11-18 school that radically improves the life chances of our learners. Students will experience excellent teaching and learning across a comprehensive, flexible and responsive curriculum which meets the needs of all our learners and has particular focus on Business, Enterprise and Computing / IT. They will develop social and interpersonal skills, all within a professional safe and caring environment.

2. Legislation and Guidance

These admissions arrangements are constructed in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

3. Admission Numbers

- 3.1. The published admission number for September 2025 for Year 7 is 150.
- 3.2. The published admission number for September 2025 for Year 12 is 150 (internal students) and 80 (external students).
- 3.3. The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year group are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

4. Application Process (Year 7)

- 4.1. Great Western Academy will participate within Swindon Borough Council's Co-ordinated Scheme for the 2025-26 academic year.
- 4.2. To apply for a place in Year 7, an application should be made via the home authority. For Swindon residents, applications should be made to School Admissions, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Swindon, SN1 2JH or schooladmissions@swindon.gov.uk. Alternatively an application can be made using the online systems accessible via <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/secondaryschoolplaces>.
- 4.3. The closing date for application is Thursday 31st October 2024 and the offer date is Monday 3rd March 2025.

5. Application Process (Year 12)

- 5.1. Applications should be made using the online form available at <https://www.gwacademy.co.uk/sixth-form-apply>
- 5.2. The closing date for applications is Friday 20th December 2024
- 5.3. Applicants will be invited to attend a meeting to receive information, advice and guidance on their subject choices. Conditional offers will be made by Friday 23rd May 2025.

Policy Owner	Mr Graham Davis – Principal
Date of Last Review	January 2024
Date of Governor's Meeting	31 January 2024
Date of Next Review	October 2024

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6. Oversubscription criteria

- 6.1. The criteria in this section apply to entry at both Year 7 and Year 12. Any students wishing to enter Year 12 will also be required to meet the academic entry criteria for the sixth form set out below.
- 6.2. When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order
 - 6.2.1. Looked after children¹ and all previously looked after children, 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 adopted². Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted³ (or became subject to a child arrangements order⁴ or special guardianship order⁵).
 - 6.2.2. Children of staff employed by Great Western Academy on a permanent, minimum 40% Full Time Equivalent contract for two or more years at the time at which the place applied for would be taken up or who have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
 - 6.2.3. Any child who has a sibling attending Great Western Academy at the same time as he or she is due to be admitted
 - 6.2.4. Other children

7. Tie Break

- 7.1. If in the categories listed above, a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission. The distance between the applicant's home address and the school is taken as a straight line between the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address points for the home address and the school with those living closest to the school receiving priority.
- 7.2. Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has the highest priority for admission if the distance between the home address and the school is equidistant in two or more cases.
- 7.3. Should the situation arise where children of multiple birth from the same family are tied for the final place, all children from the family will be admitted.

8. Arrangements for admission to the Sixth Form

- 8.1. Places in Year 12 are offered on the basis of students obtaining the appropriate grades. Offers made are provisional on students attaining the entry requirements, and subject to availability of places in the appropriate pathway, courses and classes. Reference should be made to the sixth form prospectus to confirm the relevant entry requirements.

¹ 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

² A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society

³ 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 Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders).

⁴ Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replaced residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

⁵ Section 14A of the Children 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)

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- 8.2. Students already attending GWA are prioritised but still need to meet the entry requirements.
- 8.3. The sixth form will admit any students with an Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs where the school is named.
- 8.4. Students not having met a grade requirement in their chosen subjects will be offered alternative subjects (if available) for which they have met the required standard. This information will be available on our website at <http://www.gwacademy.co.uk/sixth-form>
- 8.5. Where there are more eligible students than places, the oversubscription criteria will determine who is submitted.

9. Late applications

- 9.1. All applications received 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, those who are not offered a place will be added to the school's waiting list.

10. Admissions of children outside their normal age range

- 10.1. Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of the normal year group is being requested and the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place.
- 10.2. 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 Principal and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.
- 10.3. The process for requesting such an admission is as follows.
 - 10.3.1. With the application, parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group and provide the reasons for that request. Parents should submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, Principal etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include -
 - Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
 - Where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
 - Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal year group; and
 - Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group were it not for being born prematurely
 - 10.3.2. The Academy will consider each request on the basis of the circumstances of the case, taking into account the individual circumstances of the requirements and the child's best interests. The parents will be made aware whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made and if necessary the reason for any refusal
- 10.4. Request for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside applications made at the same time. An application for a child who would normally be a Year 8 child for a Year 7 place will be considered alongside applications for Year 7.

11. Waiting lists

- 11.1. The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the academic year. The list will be maintained by the Academy and any child refused a place at the school will be automatically added to the list. The list will be cleared at the end of each academic year.

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- 11.2. A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or is removed from the waiting list.
- 11.3. The school will also keep a list, ranked against the oversubscription criteria, of those applying for entry to year 12 who are not made a conditional offer by Friday 24th May 2024. Any of those students meeting the academic entry criteria on 22nd August 2024 will be considered for a place if any students who were previously offered places conditional on meeting the above academic entry criteria, do not achieve their grades.

12. In-year admissions

In year admissions will be dealt in accordance with this policy. The Local Authority operate a co-ordinated scheme for in-year applications. Applications should be made via the form available <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/inyearadmissions>.

13. Appeals

All applicants refused a place, have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admissions Appeal Code. (Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code>)

14. Notes and definitions

14.1. **Home address**

The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents, then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

If it is found that an application has been made using an incorrect address, based on the definition above then the award of a place may be withdrawn

14.2. **Sibling**

A sibling is defined as a child attending Great Western Academy at the same time as he or she is due to be admitted, who is:

- a brother or sister;
- a half brother or sister;
- an adopted brother or sister;
- a step brother or sister, or
- the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling