



## **Smestow Academy**

For the academic year **2026-2027**

Smestow Academy is part of an inter-LA Co-ordinated Admission Scheme  
All dates referred to within this document are in line with this scheme  
The City of Wolverhampton Council's online application process will open in September 2025  
Closing date for the submission of applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025  
Notification date – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026  
(or next working day if 1<sup>st</sup> March is not a working day)

The school, as its own Admission Authority, is required to consult on admission arrangements every seven years unless there has been a change to the criteria.

Once the consultation process has taken place determined arrangements are forwarded to consultees.

It should be noted that where a child meets the admission criteria of two or more schools named in their application then they will be allocated a place at the highest ranked of these schools.

For admissions to Sixth Form, applications should be made directly to Smestow Academy,  
Windmill Crescent, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8HU

## ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2026-2027

Smestow Academy is a mixed 11-18 Academy with 555 pupils. The school's admission policy is in accordance with the guidelines below:

### Entry into Year 7 September 2026

Pupils will be admitted without reference to ability, aptitude, race or religion. The Published Admission Number in 2026 will be 150

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below:

**1. Children in Public Care (looked after children) and previously looked after children**

Definition: 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.

**2. Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school in Years 8 – 11 in September of the relevant year. Siblings of Sixth Form students DO NOT qualify for a sibling claim.**

Definition: a child who resides at the same address as the child for whom a place is being requested and is one of the following:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents
- Half brother or sister sharing one common parent
- Step brother or sister (i.e. related by parent's marriage)
- Any other child for whom it can be demonstrated that he or she is residing permanently at the same address (e.g. under the terms of a residency order)

**3. Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child**

Definition: relevant medical or social grounds that show that attendance at the school is essential and supported in writing by a medical practitioner or social worker. Requests for such consideration will be subject to verification by Governing Body.

**4. Children of Staff employed at The Academy**

Where a member of staff (\*\*) has been employed at The Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage / or the member of staff has been seconded to support another school within the Matrix Academy Trust.

- \*\* All full time teaching staff  
All full time support staff – (defined as those on a 37 hour week and above contract)

The definition does not include contract staff. If service has been 'in house' and is subsequently 'contracted out' children of staff will no longer be eligible for priority admission under this criterion.

**5. Proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearest being accorded the higher priority, the distance being measured in a straight line**

Definition of home address: the home address of the child is considered to be the permanent residence of a child in a residential property when the place is offered. The address must be the child's only or main residence and is either owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian or

leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under lease or written rental agreement of not less than six months duration

Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority

### **Waiting List Policy (Year 7 Intake)**

Until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 parents may enquire about their child's position on the Waiting List by contacting the Admissions and Appeal Team on 01902 551122. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 the waiting list will be maintained by the school and parents should make enquiries by contacting Smestow Academy Admissions on 01902 558222.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025, parents wishing their child/ren to be placed on the Waiting List should contact Smestow Academy Admissions in writing to make their requests.

### **Siblings**

Siblings of Sixth Form students DO NOT qualify for a sibling claim.

### **In-Year Admissions**

The school manages its own mid-year admissions. Applications for in-year admission (age groups other than the normal year of entry) must be made to Smestow Admissions using the mid-year admissions form on Smestow Academy's website.

Parents will be notified of the outcome of their application within 15 school days of receipt of a completed mid-year application form.

### **Appeals**

Appeals in respect of Year 7 intake for September 2026 should be lodged by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

### **Entry Requirements for Year 12 – Entry in September 2026**

The maximum sixth form capacity for Year 12 external candidates for September 2026 is 10. This number may be exceeded if demand for available courses can be met.

### **Minimum entry requirements for Year 12**

Students will be considered for entry into Year 12 based upon their academic attainment and/or individual subject grade criteria and the availability and suitability of courses at Smestow Academy.

For vocational courses, grade 4 in 5 different subjects with each course having its own particle requirements. At A Level a grade 5 in English and Maths with 5 passes as grade 4 and above, with each A level having its own specific requirements. Students refused a place in Year 12 are entitled to appeal to an independent appeal panel.

### **Late Applications (Year 6 – Year 7 transfer)**

A late application is an application form received after the published closing date. Late applications will normally be considered for places after applications that were received by the closing date. Late applicants may be less likely to be offered a place at the school.

When places are offered, applications received by the closing date and valid late applications (see below) will be considered first.

### **Late applications received before the notification date (before places are offered):**

Applications received by the closing date and valid late applications (see below) will take priority when places are offered.

Valid late applications can only be considered if the application form is received within four weeks of the closing date.

### **Explanation of valid late applications:**

There are limited circumstances when a late application may be categorised as a valid late application and considered together with those applications that were received by the closing date.

Subject to verification by the Director of Children's Services, City of Wolverhampton Council, a late application may be considered as a valid late application where:

- The family were unable to complete an application form before the closing date because they moved into the City of Wolverhampton after the issue of application forms.
- OR
- The family were unable to comply with the admissions timetable because of exceptional circumstances which prevented the application arriving on time – the circumstances must be given in writing and attached to the application form.

### **Applications received after the Notification Date (after places are offered):**

Where the school is over-subscribed an application for a place which is received after places have been offered will be added to the school's waiting list in admission criteria order.