Wickersley School and Sports College (Sixth Form) Admissions Policy 2028/29 (DRAFT)

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OWNED BY: Risk & Compliance Manager
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1. Admissions Arrangements for the 2028/29 Academic Year

1.1 Wickersley School and Sports College is an academy and founding member of the Wickersley Partnership Trust which is its own admissions authority.

1.2 The Admissions Arrangements refer only to entry to Wickersley Sixth Form in September 2028.

1.3 The maximum number of students that can be accommodated in Year 12 is 200, due to the space available in school.

1.4 The school accepts external applications for entry to Year 12. (External applicants are students who did not attend Wickersley School and Sports College in Years 7-11).

- The school has a Published Admission Number of 30 for external applications. (This is the determined number of places available for external pupils who meet the entry requirements and includes students with an EHCP naming the school).
- Where there are likely to be more than 30 places available for external pupils due to places being unfilled by existing students, the school will make this clear to applicants at the time of application.

1.5 In the event that there are more applications than places available for external applicants, the following oversubscription criteria will be used:

a) Applications from students who are looked after children (or previously looked after child) will be given the highest priority if entry criteria are met (see 3.10 below for the full definition of a looked after child or previously looked after child)
b) Applications from Students who have an older sibling (brother or sister / step brother or sister / child living in the same family home) who is expected to still be on roll in Year 13 on 1st September 2028
c) Applications from students who live nearest to the school using a straight-line measurement (often referred to as a measurement as 'as the crow flies'

The distance measurement will be used if there are more applications than places available in category b.

2. Eligibility for Application

2.1 Applicants must be aged between 16 and 18 on 31st August 2028.

2.2 Applications for students outside this age group will be considered alongside individual circumstances (see paragraphs 32- 34).

2.3 Both internal and external students are eligible to apply to study at Wickersley Sixth Form.

2.4 A student will be offered a place at Wickersley Sixth Form subject to the following conditions:

- The pupil has met the minimum entry requirement of five GCSE 4 grades
- The pupil has met the subject-specific entry requirements (see paragraph 5.1)
- The pupil has demonstrated a commitment to learning
- The pupil has a good behaviour record.

3. Application Process for Internal and External Applicants

3.1 The application process is the same for both external and internal applicants.

3.2 External applicants who meet the entry requirements will be offered a place at Wickersley Sixth Form in line with the admissions criteria for external applicants (see paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5).

3.3 Applications to study at Wickersley Sixth Form may be submitted after the November Information Evening. To apply, students must submit an electronic application via the Wickersley Sixth Form website or through their form tutor. Paper applications are available upon request.

3.4 All application forms must be submitted by the 9th February 2028. Competition for places is strong, late applications may be submitted but may not be considered.

3.5 Once an electronic application has been submitted, students will be invited to attend an interview at Wickersley Sixth Form. Interviews will begin in January for entry in the following September. Repeated failure to attend a scheduled interview will be considered as withdrawal of an application.

3.6 Interviews are conducted to discuss options and courses and do not form part of the decision process on whether to offer a place.

3.7 Applicants will be assessed on their estimated/predicted GCSE grades.

3.8 A student will be offered a place at Wickersley Sixth Form subject to the following conditions:

- The pupil has met the minimum entry requirement of five GCSE 4 grades
- The pupil has met the subject-specific entry requirements (see paragraph 4.1)

3.9 If a pupil fails to meet the criteria above, their application will be rejected or deferred and reviewed later. If a deferred pupil repeatedly fails to satisfy the criteria above, then their application will be rejected.

3.10 Applications from students who are looked after children (or previously looked after child) will be given the highest priority if entry criteria are met, the definition of a looked after child follows the School Admissions Code 2021 criteria outlined below. Applications made under this criterion must be accompanied by details of circumstance and supporting evidence (e.g. from social care).

A 'relevant looked after child' is a child that is looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to a school is made, and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when he/she is admitted to the school.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). All references to previously looked after children in the Code mean such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and 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.

3.11 All students will be expected to register and provide evidence of their GCSE grades by the 6th of September 2028.

3.12 We will not accept any applications for entry after the 6th of September 2028.

3.13 Any student who has registered with another post-16 provider who wishes to transfer their study to Wickersley Sixth Form must gain confirmation from the provider in writing that they are no longer on roll before the 20th of September 2028. We will not register students until this confirmation is received.

3.14 The deadline for Year 12 students to swap option choices is the 27th of September 2028.

4. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

4.1 Please contact your SEND caseworker or Local Authority for further information regarding the transition to Sixth Form. Young people have the right to request that Wickersley is named in their EHC plan if, after consultation with Wickersley Sixth Form, the young person's age, ability, aptitude and SEND are compatible with the resources available.

5. Subject-Specific Entry Requirements

5.1 In addition to the minimum entry requirement of five GCSE 4 grades, students must meet the minimum entry requirements for the course they wish to study:

- For Chemistry, a separate grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry, or Combined Science grade 76, with a grade 6 in Maths and a Grade 5 in English Language is required.
- For Physics, a separate grade 6 in GCSE Physics, or Combined Science grade 76, with a grade 6 in Maths and a Grade 5 in English Language is required.
- For Biology, a separate grade 6 in GCSE Biology, or Combined Science grade 76, with a grade 5 in Maths and English Language.
- For Mathematics, a minimum of grade 7 at GCSE Mathematics is required.
- For Further Mathematics, a minimum of grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics is required.
- For English Literature, a minimum of grade 6 in English Literature is required.
- For English Language, a minimum of grade 6 in English Language is required.
- For Economics, a minimum of grade 5 in Maths and grade 6 in English Language.
- For Psychology, a minimum of grade 5 in Maths, Science, and English Language is required.
- For Spanish and French, a minimum of grade 6 in the relevant language is required.
- For Government and politics, a minimum of grade 6 in English Language is required.
- For Business Studies, a minimum of grade 5 in Maths and English Language.
- For Philosophy, a minimum of a grade 5 in English Language is required.
- For History, a minimum of a grade 5 in English Language is required.
- For Sociology, a minimum of grade 5 in English Language is required.
- For Criminology, a minimum of grade 4 in English Language is required.
- For PE, a minimum of grade 6 in a GCSE PE-based subject and a grade 4 in Maths and English Language.
- For Applied Sport, a Level 2 Pass or grade 4 in GCSE PE is required.
- For Geography, a minimum of a grade 5 in English Language and Maths is required.
- For Drama, a minimum of grade 4 in English Language or English Literature is required. GCSE drama or Level 2 BTEC performing arts is desirable but not essential. Practical suitability is undertaken in the first few weeks of the course.
- For all creative subjects, including Fine Art, D & T, Fashion and Textiles and Graphics a minimum of a grade 5 in another creative GCSE is required. For D&T a minimum of a grade 4 in Maths is required.
- For Dance, a minimum of a grade 4 in GCSE dance or an equivalent is required. Practical suitability is undertaken in the first few weeks of the course.
- For Music, a minimum GCSE Grade 4 in Music (or equivalent at BTEC Level 2). Practical suitability is undertaken in the first few weeks of the course.

- For Computer Science, a minimum of a grade 5 in Maths is required.
- For Applied Science, a minimum of grades 44 in science is required with a grade of 4 in Maths and English Language.
- For Childcare and Education (single), a minimum of a grade 4 in GCSE English and Maths. We may also offer a place on successful completion of the Level 2 Certificate, an introduction to Early Years Education and Care. A DBS check will also be required.
- For Childcare and Education (level 3), a minimum of a grade 4 GCSE in English and Maths. We may also offer a place on successful completion of the Level 2 Certificate, an introduction to Early Years Education and Care. A DBS check will also be required.
- For Music, a minimum of grade 5 in English Language or Literature and Mathematics. GCSE music / ABRSM Grade 5 Theory. Must be able to read standard musical notation. The ability to perform at least at grade 4 standard on an instrument or voice is desirable. Must be prepared to take regular voice / instrumental lesson.

6. Appeals

6.1 The school uses the Local Authority Admission appeals independent panels. Parents/carers and students can appeal jointly (or separately) against a decision refusing a student admission and, where they appeal separately, the appeals will be heard together by an independent appeals panel which will comprise of a clerk, and at least 3 people from the following categories:

- Lay people (someone without personal experience in the management of any school or provision of education in any school (except as a school governor or in another voluntary capacity)).
- People who have experience in education, who are acquainted with educational conditions in the local authority area.

6.2 Our appeals process will follow DfE statutory guidance and more information on how to appeal can be found on the school's website - admissions section.

6.3 The appeals process will allow appellants at least 20 days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and lodge their written appeal.

6.4 Appellants will receive at least 10 school days' notice of the appeal hearing and all parties will be given reasonable deadlines to submit additional evidence, for admission authorities to submit their evidence, and for the clerk to send appeal papers to the panel and parties.

6.5 Decision letters will be sent within five school days of the hearing.

6.6 An appeal must be submitted in writing to the Local Authority.

7. Re-Entry for Repeated Years

7.1 Readmission to Wickersley Sixth Form after Year 13 will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

7.2 If a pupil wishes to return to Wickersley Sixth Form after Year 13, they must submit a formal request to the Headteacher and the Head of Sixth Form.

7.3 Returning Sixth Form pupils must adhere to all principles and expectations outlined in Sixth Form Behaviour and Intervention Policy.

Policy approved by Wickersley Partnership Trust: January 2027

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