Devonshire Infant and Junior Academies

Admissions arrangements 2026 - 27

Victoria Academies Trust

Admission Policy for

Devonshire Infant and Junior Academies

Statement of intent

At Devonshire Infant and Junior Academies, we welcome all pupils, irrespective of faiths, cultures, disabilities, race or family background. We follow guidance as set out in Sandwell LA admissions authority admissions authority which comply with the provisions laid out by the Department of Education – "Admissions Code of Practice "(December 2021), Equalities Act 2010, the School Admissions Appeals Code October 2022, Human Rights Act 1998 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all school places are allocated and offered in an open and fair way.

Admission numbers:

Devonshire Infant Academy

REC	YR 1	YR 2
90	90	90

Devonshire Junior Academy

YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	YR 6
90	90	90	90

We follow procedures in line with Sandwell LA admissions guidance who manage our admissions. See http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/27055/sandwell_schools_admission_booklet_2019-2020

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of Devonshire infant or Junior Academy being oversubscribed with school requests, the following order of priorities will apply to determine which applications will be offered a place:

1. Children who are in public care and children who were previously in public care but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order).

2. Children with a particular medical condition. Applications submitted under this criterion must be accompanied by a medical declaration form (ASU75M) signed by the child's general practitioner or consultant confirming the condition, detailing the child's needs and specifying why, in their opinion, the preferred school is the only or most appropriate to meet the child's needs. All applications under this criterion will be assessed by the local authority to decide whether the child's needs can be met most appropriately by the preferred school.

3. (a) Children having a brother or sister at the preferred school (not nursery) at the time of admission.
(b) For admissions to Devonshire Infant Academy, children having a brother or sister at the preferred school or at the linked Devonshire Junior Academy at the time of admission.
(c) For admissions to Devonshire Junior Academy, children having a brother or sister at the preferred school or at the linked Devonshire Infant Academy at the time of admission.
(d) For admission to Devonshire Junior Academy, children being on roll at the linked Infant school at the time of admission.

4. Children prioritised by distance measured in a straight line from a child's home** to the centre point of the school site.

In all cases, should the number of applicants exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated based on distance between home and school, as measured in a straight line from home to the centre point on the school site with priority being given to those living closest to the school.
NB. Children with a Statement of Educational Needs or an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP) (previously known as Statement of Educational Needs), naming a particular school will be admitted before all other applicants.

** Measured from the Local Land and Property Gazetteer address base for the property. In all cases, should the number of applicants exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated based on distance between home and school, as measured in a straight line from home to the centre point of the school site with priority being given to those living closest to the preferred school.

Applying for a School Place

Nursery

Devonshire Infant Academy has provision for 3 year olds. A separate form should be completed which can be obtained direct from the Academy.

Reception

Pupils wishing to join our Reception at the start of an Academic year need to apply online (www.sandwell.gov.uk) via Sandwell Admissions team. If you are requesting a Reception place in year then the application will still need to be made directly to Sandwell Local Authority of deal with admissions on behalf of the Academy.

Year 3 admission to Devonshire Junior Academy

As separate schools, all children wishing to move to Devonshire Junior Academy must submit an application during the Autumn term of year 2. Applications should be made online (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Other year groups and in year transfer:

Please follow Sandwell Local Authority in year transfer procedures (see link above)

Applications for Twins and multiple births

It is the policy of the Academies that when applications are made for twins or siblings that are in the same year group the pupils will not, if possible, be permitted to be in the same class – they will be allocated separate classes.

Applications for pupils with a medical condition:

The Academies will accept pupils with medical conditions. The Academy will need all the relevant information regarding the pupils condition and in some cases a care plan will be required before the pupil can be admitted. There may be some cases that the Academy is unable to meet the needs of a pupil in these cases the Academy may refuse the request for a school place.

In Year Fair Access Protocol (HTP protocol for Sandwell):

The Trust will participate in the above protocol; however, we will only accept pupils where we feel that we can meet the needs of the individual pupils.

Pupils with Statements or EHC plans:

We will accept pupils with statement / EHC plans providing that the Academy feels that we can meet the pupil's needs as set out in the EHCP or statement of SEN. Pupils with EHCP / statement should contact Sandwell's SEN team who will then process this request on the family's behalf. SEN will then request a place at the Academy giving the school a copy of the statement / EHC plan and a deadline by which the Academy needs to respond by. Children with an Education Healthcare Plan / Statement naming either Academy will be admitted before all other applicants.

Fraudulent applications

If the academies are advised that a place has been allocated to a pupil by using fraudulent information, then the academy has the right to withdraw the offer of a place.

Right to appeal

Parents have the right to appeal against the Academies decision to refuse an admission. Appeals will run in conjunction with the Sandwell LA appeals process, which can be found at

http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200303/school_admissions/2054/pupil_admissions_appeal

In Year applications:

All applications in year should be made through the Sandwell LA admissions procedures.

Some admissions authorities use other criteria when allocating places. For the purposes of clarity, Devonshire Infant and Junior Academies do not allocate places on the basis of faith, ability or aptitude.

How to contact Sandwell LA Admissions:

Annual Admissions:
annual_schooladmissions@sandwell.gov.uk

Mid-year Admissions:
midyear_admissions@sandwell.gov.uk

Appeals:
schoolappeals_admissions@sandwell.gov.uk

School Admissions Service
PO Box 16230
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury B69 9EX

0121 569 6765