

The Avon Valley School
and
Performing Arts College



Admission Arrangements

2026/2027

Admission to The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College

The Governing Body of The Avon Valley School, being the admissions authority for the School, wish to inform all relevant parties of the following arrangements for the academic year 2026/2027. The school's admissions arrangements are part of the Warwickshire County Council's Coordinated Scheme.

Agreed Admission Number

The standard admissions number for Year 7 at The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts is 220. Of these places, a maximum of 10% will be offered to those students who have the highest level of aptitude in the Performing Arts as measured by The Avon Valley Performing Arts Selection Process (see Appendix 1)

Children with Statements of Special Educational Need

The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College will admit applicants that name Avon Valley School and who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education and Health Care (EHC) Plan first. Such applicants do not form part of The Avon Valley School's oversubscription criteria. The number of places that remain for allocation will be reduced by the number of such applicants admitted.

Admissions Criteria

Applications are welcome from the whole of the Eastern Area as defined by the Local Authority.

In the event of oversubscription, the following criteria will apply: -

1. Children in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
2. Children living in the priority area who will have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission.
3. Children who have been successful in The Avon Valley Performing Arts Selection Process, up to a maximum of 22 children.
4. Where the child is the son/daughter of a permanent member of staff at the school who has been employed for a period of more than two academic years at the time when the application is made.
5. Other children living in the priority area.
6. Children living outside the priority area who will have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission.
7. Other children living outside the priority area

Priority Areas

The priority area for this school can be viewed on the Warwickshire County Council website at:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mapsecondaryschools>

Within these criteria, first priority is given in order of distance between the child's home and school (shortest distance = highest priority). Distance will be calculated by straight line measurement from

the address point location coordinate of the applicant's home address (as set by Ordnance Survey) to the centre point ('centroid') of the school in question. (The centroid is a predetermined point set by Warwickshire County Council and all distances are subject to changes which may occur with updates of mapping data).

Aptitude for Performing Arts

The school is designated as a having a specialism in the Performing Arts. Therefore, up to **22** places will be available to children who demonstrate aptitude in a selection process to be conducted in September/October of the year before transition to secondary school (i.e.: when the child is in year 6).

To qualify for one of the 22 places, children must achieve a minimum standard in the selection process.

- Should fewer than 22 children apply for these places, or achieve the minimum standard, the unfilled places will be allocated in accordance with the standard admissions criteria.
- In the event of equal ranking, places will be allocated in accordance with the distance criterion
- If a child is not allocated one of the 22 specialist places, the application will still be considered in accordance with the school's admission criteria as above.
- An applicant for a place under Avon Valley School's Performing Arts Aptitude Selection Process will be required to attend the selection process at Avon Valley School. The results of this selection process will determine the offer of places under criterion 3 of the over subscription criteria.
- The Avon Valley School's Performing Arts Aptitude Selection Process will be administered on Friday 10th October 2025.
- Applicants will be informed of the outcome of Avon Valley School's Performing Arts Aptitude Selection Process in writing before 21st October 2025.

Applications to take part in the selection process must be made by 3.10 pm on Monday 29th September 2025, using the application form which is available on the school website NB: Parents who apply for their child to sit the aptitude test are still required to make an application for the school using the Warwickshire preference form.

Exclusion

Pupils who are permanently excluded from school are referred to Area Behaviour Management Panels in order that consideration can be given as to the appropriateness of a return to mainstream school. On the recommendation of the Behaviour Management Panel, schools may offer places to previously excluded pupils even though the school is full in the year group.

Definitions Applicable to all admission criteria

- **Looked After Children in Public Care:**

i.e. Children in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority (under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989). A 'looked after child' is only considered as such if the local authority confirms he or she will be in public care when he or she is admitted to a school.

- **Definition of sibling/brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission:**

Sibling refers to a brother or sister, a half brother or sister, an adopted brother or sister, a step brother or sister, or 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 child.

A sibling connection will not be accepted if the original place was obtained using fraudulent or false information.

- **Definition of Home Address:**

Where the child normally resides / sleeps when they attend school. Addresses involved in child-minding arrangements, whether with professional child-minders, friends or relatives, are excluded.

Where a school place is allocated on the basis of an address which is subsequently found to be different from the child's home address that place can be withdrawn. This includes situations where the address used to allocate a place changes prior to the place being taken up.

There is also an expectation that a child will be resident at the address used to allocate a place from the start of term and will continue to reside at that address for a reasonable period of time. All circumstances surrounding the application will be taken into account in deciding whether or not this requirement has been met.

Short-term house moves which occur only to secure a school place and which are considered fraudulent or intentionally misleading may therefore result in the place being withdrawn.

- **Postal Address File (PAF)**

The address point location coordinate of the applicant's home address as set by Ordnance Survey.

- **Flats/ Apartments:**

Applications made from the same multiple dwelling sharing a single Postal Address File (PAF) / Other applications where the distance from home to school is identical

Where required, individual priority for such applicants within a particular criterion will be set by random allocation (lottery). The draw will be carried out independently of the school.

- **Separated Parents**

Where a child lives with two parents in separate addresses the qualifying address will be that where the child spends (i.e. sleeps) the majority of the school week. If the child spends exactly equal amounts of time in the two addresses, the parents themselves will need to nominate which address they wish to be the child's main address for school admission purposes.

- **Twins, Triplets etc.**

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.) it is normally our policy to admit the other twin etc. too, even if that means going above the admission number.

The multiple births must all be born in the same academic year for this to apply. It does not apply to "conceptual twins", etc. born in different year groups.

Admissions above PAN

Looked After Children in Public Care i.e. Children in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority (under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989).

Except where a child is placed in an emergency, no care placement should be made without the education element being satisfactorily arranged. Where the placement has had to be made in an emergency, and education has not been secured, or where educational provision breaks down, then local authorities must secure an educational placement within 20 school days.

Moves of care placement can occur outside the normal admissions round when many schools are full. To avoid delays necessitated by the local appeals procedure Community and Controlled schools are being asked to admit, without appeal, looked after children from within their priority area even though their admission limit has already been reached or exceeded.

If the school is full in the year group another place can be offered provided that:

- no other applicants have been refused places in the same year group – wherever they live
- the child is living or moving into the school's priority area (evidence required)
- the admission will not breach the class size limit for infants
- the school is willing.

Applications for children to be taught out of year group

In some situations, parents applying for a school place may wish to request that their child is admitted to a school outside of their normal year group – for example if they are moving from overseas and their child has not been educated in the English school system. In such situations parents should make this request on the application form.

Waiting Lists

- Any child who is refused a place at this school will be automatically added to the school's waiting lists. Waiting lists will be held by Warwickshire's Admissions Service.
- Waiting lists are compiled in strict priority order against the published oversubscription criteria. Offers will be made from the waiting lists as vacancies arise. A child's position can move both up and down the waiting list as other students are added to the list. Late applicants are not penalised when added to waiting lists, and the amount of time a child has been on a school's waiting list is irrelevant.
- Waiting lists will be held until the end of the Autumn term. Parents / Carers will be responsible for contacting Warwickshire's Admissions Service should they wish for their child to remain on the waiting list and will be required to complete a new in-year application form.

Appeals Procedure

Any parent whose child is refused a place at this school has the right to appeal the decision. Appeals are administered by Warwickshire County Council and can be lodged at:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals>

In-Year Admissions

Parents should apply directly to Warwickshire County Council which coordinates in-year admission arrangements.

In-Year Fair Access Protocol

The Avon Valley School participates fully in Warwickshire's In-Year Fair Access Protocol.

Consultation

Governors recognise their duty to consult annually with the Local Authority and with other schools within the Local Authority regarding admissions arrangements, at which time this policy will be reviewed.

Appendix 1

The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College

Selection Procedure for students based on Aptitude in the Performing Arts

The Avon Valley School is a specialist Performing Arts College and as a result of this is able to select 10% of students based on their aptitude in one or more of the three Performing Arts disciplines of Dance, Drama or Music.

A student with aptitude is one who is identified as being able to benefit from teaching in the Performing Arts subjects of Drama, Dance or Music or who demonstrates a particular capacity to succeed in one or more of these subjects. Through a workshop the school will assess whether the applicants have an aptitude for a subject by determining whether they demonstrate a particular capacity to learn or to develop skills in the Performing Arts, and can benefit from the particular expertise and facilities at the school.

There will be workshop assessment in all three disciplines including a formal listening exercise in Music. The assessment will be objective, have a distinctive subject focus and will not discriminate against applicants in any way, including on the grounds of ethnic origin, disability or family background. The assessment will only assess aptitude in the three disciplines of Music, Dance or Drama and not ability or aptitude in any other subject.

Up to twenty-two students will be selected on their aptitude in any one discipline or a combination of the three disciplines

Students will be required to attend a practical workshop-based session at the school. These will be held on the following date and applicants will be allocated a time to attend:

Friday 10th October 2025.

Due to the nature of the assessment, which is partially done through group auditions, it is not possible for students to be assessed separately after these dates.

The subject areas will be assessed in four common ways:

- Performance
- Composition
- Appreciation
- Personal Skills

Assessment criteria have been written for each subject area but these and the tasks will be given on the day and not in advance to prevent prior training or coaching of applicants. Students applying for musical aptitude should prepare a short piece to perform on any instrument (including voice).

Quality and fairness will be assured with a specialist teacher from the school leading the workshop assessment whilst another specialist teacher observes and assesses.

If you feel that the assessment has been conducted unfairly in any way, you may address your complaint in the first instance to:

The Chair of the Admissions Committee, c/o The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College, Newbold Road, Rugby, CV21 1EH.