

The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College

Specialist Performing Arts Admissions



Frequently Asked Questions about the Application Process

1. *Why can The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College choose 10% of its intake based on potential and/or aptitude in the Performing Arts Subjects?*

In December 2015, the Governors of The Avon Valley School elected to change the admissions process to allow 10% of its student intake to be selected on their aptitude in the Performing Arts. This facility exists as part of the legislation surrounding specialism in schools. It is logical that students who have the greatest potential and aptitude in these areas receive the full benefit of the above and so designated schools can select 10% of their intake.

2. *How many children is 10% of The Avon Valley School's intake?*

22 students in each academic year.

3. *How do I apply for my child to be part of the 10%?*

You can complete the application form that is available on the school website. **You must also submit the normal Local Authority form** (if you live outside of Warwickshire please complete the Local Authority Admission Form for your area and state Avon Valley School as your choice). When completed, the Performing Arts Application Form needs to be returned to The Avon Valley School and the Local Authority form needs to go to your Local Authority. The deadline for specialist 10% applications is Friday 27th September 2024 and for the Warwickshire Local Authority form it is 31st October 2024 (**please check your local authority deadline if outside of Warwickshire**) Any applications received after this date will not be considered. Other Local Authorities may differ.

4. *If I am out of the area can I still apply?*

Yes, you complete the application form for **your** Local Authority and return it to them. The Local Authorities then co- ordinate admissions.

5. *How will I know if my child has an audition?*

All applicants will be invited to audition. Selection will not be based on the application form alone. Details of the audition day will be sent out after the closing date.

6. *Where and when are the auditions?*

They will be held on Friday 11th October 2024 at The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College. If for any religious reasons your child is unavailable, please notify the school via your application form.

7. *What happens if I cannot make the auditions?*

We strongly advise that all applicants attend their audition. Conducting individual auditions at any other time will mean group and workshop participation skills cannot be adjudicated.

8. *What will my child have to do at the auditions?*

There will be a 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 and Drama and not ability or aptitude in any other subject. **Students applying for musical aptitude should prepare a short piece to perform on any instrument (including voice).**

9. *Who will be present at the audition?*

The auditions will be run by Performing Arts Staff from The Avon Valley School. Members of the Performing Arts Staff of The Avon Valley School will be present throughout the audition process. The one-and-a-half-minute performance will be watched by subject specialists in the chosen area of Dance, Drama or Music. The whole process will also be videoed by technicians. Parents and other students will not be allowed to sit in on auditions. Assisting staff and prefects, will also be present during the workshop sessions; these staff and students will not have a say in whether an audition has been successful.

10. *How will I know if my child's application/audition has been successful?*

You will be informed in writing of your child's 'ranked' position after the audition. However, you will not know if your child has been allocated to The Avon Valley School until the Local Authority designates all the school places on 1st March 2025.

11. *How can I find out how my child performed at the auditions?*

Each child that auditions will have a feedback sheet completed at the time of audition, and all practical work will be videoed. If you feel the need to see this after the school places are allocated you will be allowed to do so. You will not however (for legal reasons) be able to watch or look at the records of other candidates.

12. *What criteria will be used to judge my child's performance, composition and appreciation skills during the audition?*

It is important that parents and children understand that it is not only their level of aptitude for an area that is judged during the auditions but also their potential to develop and succeed in the future.

13. *Will my child be disadvantaged if they have not had lessons outside school or completed external exams?*

No. The school is looking to enable all children with potential to excel in their chosen area.