

Madeley Academy



The Case for the Admission Authority of Madeley Academy

Admissions September 2025

Admissions Policy for Madeley Academy

Madeley Academy welcomes children of all abilities and children with physical disabilities. The published Pupil Admission Number (PAN) into Year 7 is 180 for admission in September 2025. If the Academy does not receive 180 applications, every applicant will be offered a place. However, if the Academy is oversubscribed, all children who apply for a place at the Academy will be invited to attend a non-verbal reasoning assessment which will last for one hour and will be held at Madeley Academy. Children cannot “fail” the assessment.

Following the assessment, children will be placed in one of five ability bands based upon their score. The assessment results will be used to ensure that the Academy admits the full range of ability of applicants, with 36 students in each ability band being offered a place. The first children to be placed in the ability bands will be:

1. Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

Children in Public Care (Looked after Children) will be given highest priority for admission within each band. Looked after Children are children who are in the care of a Local Authority or provided with accommodation by a Local Authority. This also includes looked after children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, became subject to a child arrangement or special guardianship order. Looked After Children previously in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted are also included in this group.

2. Siblings

These are children that who will have on the day of admission, a brother, sister, step brother, step sister, half-brother or half-sister in Years 7-10 living as a family at the same address who attend the Academy.

3. Exceptional Health Reasons

Those children that have exceptional health reasons where there is written medical evidence that admission to the Academy is essential for their well-being will also be given priority.

All remaining places will then be filled by those who live closest to the Academy with up to 36 in each band.

Parents/guardians need to be aware that preferences relating to the ranking and the naming of Madeley Academy on the Local Authority’s Preference Forms are taken into consideration by the Local Authority. Applicants can select up to four schools in order of preference.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will be admitted where the Academy is named as the appropriate placement. The admission of children in this category is dealt with by a separate procedure in collaboration with the Local Authority.

Distance from the Academy

If the Academy is oversubscribed and after the allocation of places to students who are EHCP, looked after or previously looked after, siblings and those with exceptional health reasons, distance to the Academy will be used combined with banding, to decide who will be offered places. From within each of the five bands, the applicants that live closest to the Academy (not their ranking within the band) will then be given priority for admission. Banding will be decided as described above. Distance is calculated in a straight line from the centre point of the home address to the centre point of the Academy. Home address is classified as the permanent residence where the applicant is living at the time of the offer and there must be evidence it is not temporary or for the purposes of gaining advantage to seek admission. The Academy may ask for proof in such cases where it may be suspected that unfair advantage is being sought by applicants on the issue of residence. Where a child lives separately with each parent for part of the week the address where the child spends the majority of the week will be classified as the home address for the purposes of admissions.

Offers

Those who are offered a place at the Academy will be informed by a letter posted on **3 March 2025**. Offers of admission to those on the Waiting List will be made if a suitable place becomes available. Those not offered admission will be informed by a letter posted on **3 March 2025**. They will have been offered a place at an alternative school by the Local Authority.

Waiting List for Admission to Year 7

If the Academy is oversubscribed, unsuccessful applicants will be placed on the Waiting List. If vacancies arise, those on the Waiting List will be offered a place using the Academy's Over-subscription Criteria. The Waiting List will be maintained until 31 December 2025. The Academy will then write to parents remaining on the Year 7 Waiting List to determine if they wish to remain on the list should a place become available. In January 2026, the Waiting List is then reconstituted following parental responses. The reconstituted list will then be maintained and places will be offered as they come available in accordance with the Academy's Over-subscription Criteria.

Late Applications

The policy on late applications for Madeley Academy is in line with Telford and Wrekin's Children's Services arrangements.

Appeals

Further details about Appeals and Rules of Admission can be viewed on the Academy's website: www.madeleyacademy.com

The Case for the Academy

For admission to Year 7 to the Academy, more applications were received than the number of places available. The following criteria were applied:

Banding of Children

Following the NFER Non-Verbal Reasoning Assessment, children were placed in one of five ability bands based upon their score. The assessment results were used to ensure that the Academy admits the full range of ability of applicants with 36 students in each ability band being offered a place.

Prejudice of Resources

The Academy Organisation

- Madeley Academy is absolutely committed to serving the local community and to delivering an education that enables students to maximise their potential
- Madeley Academy is sponsored by Thomas Telford School
- The Academy's Funding Agreement sets out that the Admission Number is 180 students. The Governors and Sponsors hold the view that 180 is not only the optimum number, but the maximum number in each year group that Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 can accommodate without having an impact on other students at the Academy

The 180 Limit

The Governors believe that 180 students should be the limit for this year group due to the following factors:

- The Academy was built with the specification of 180 as the limit in each year group. Admitting more students would inevitably increase congestion, impede teaching and have a detrimental effect on the way in which groups can be organised
- The Academy offers a wide range of subjects and teaches within the guidelines of the National Curriculum

- Madeley Academy makes effective use of the space available operating with a high teaching area occupancy rate of 95% in non-specialist teaching areas. It would be detrimental to students and staff to increase this by raising admission numbers

Group Sizes

The Academy believes that its success in moving the Academy forward is due to the way it has organised its curriculum and teaching groups to provide teachers and students with the resources, time, space and support needed to make progress. Any additional numbers, even one student, would have a detrimental effect on the balance that produces this success.

The impact of one additional student would have significant implications for resourcing as it could necessitate refurbishment of specialist areas, cost implications incurred with the purchase of additional desks, chairs etc. This could require whole teaching areas to be redesigned.

Teaching Resources

Teaching is targeted to ensure, so far as possible, that students are able to maximise their full potential. This is achieved in the following ways:

- Contracting teachers to work longer hours
- Longer school day giving students more learning time
- Focus on Special Needs, particularly in Years 7 and 8
- Frequent feedback, reporting to parents and target-setting

It is necessary to put a limit on student numbers to ensure teachers are able to function effectively and to avoid compromising the quality of education offered to other students.

Literacy and improving standards of students who enter the Academy is a priority to ensure that students with lower abilities are able to access the complexity of the secondary school curriculum. As an Academy, significant teaching resources are used to achieve this. The decision to use our resources in this way reflects our sense of responsibility to the community.

Appeals

The Admission Authority states that to admit an individual child outside of the application of the above criteria would:

1. Have an adverse effect on the balance of intake
2. Prejudice the education of all students admitted to the Academy in the year group. The Academy is a purpose-built school and has been designed to accommodate students in a variety of learning areas; teaching rooms, and independent learning areas. To increase the number of students would have serious consequences on the education provision for all other students as the Academy is designed to accommodate a set number of students throughout Years 7-13. If further students were admitted to the Academy there might be a lack of classroom availability within teaching rooms, independent learning areas or the specialist areas of Technology, Science, PE and Performing Arts
3. Not adversely affect the provision of Secondary Education for the child as the Admission Authority of Madeley Academy works closely with the Admission Authorities of Telford & Wrekin Local Authority and is informed that every individual child has been allocated a place in an alternative Secondary school.