



## **Admissions Policy**

Values Academy is an independent school which operates across two sites in Birmingham and Nuneaton. It is an alternative to mainstream education for young people aged 11-19 who are at risk of social exclusion due to a co-morbidity of disorders or social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

### **The Aims of this Policy**

- To ensure compliance with the School's charitable purpose
- To set selection criteria and procedures that are consistent with this charitable purpose and that are fair to applicants.
- To identify students whose academic and other abilities will enable them to benefit from the opportunities the schools have to offer and to contribute to the school community.

### **Equal Treatment**

We welcome students from all ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds.

Values Academy is committed to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality for students, staff and others using school facilities.

All students are given every opportunity to achieve the highest standards by:

- taking account of their varied experiences and needs
- offering a broad and balanced curriculum
- having high expectations for all students

The school complies with all current legislation concerning discrimination and promotes best practice in equality of treatment. This policy accords with the Equality Act 2010, further details of which can be found on the Gov.uk website

### **Disability**

We will do all that is reasonable to ensure that the school's culture, policies and procedures are made accessible to children with disabilities. When a disability need is made known to us we will consult with parents and make reasonable adjustments to our admissions procedures to enable a student, if he/she is able, to satisfy our admission requirements.

### **Procedures**

Our admission procedure includes:

- An interview
- Assessment of needs; educational, emotional and behavioural
- Academic baseline assessments

## **Admissions Timetable**

Depending upon the needs of the students we can offer a four- week assessment period which is offered at the discretion of the School Principal.

## **Interviews /Visits**

Interviews are conducted by a senior member/s of the school staff. In all cases the interview will explore matters such as the applicant's interests, attitude to school, personal qualities, ability to contribute to the school community, support available at home and any relevant connection with the school.

The interview does not include questions that imply racial or religious bias and is conducted in an objective manner.

## **Referral process**

Values Academy welcomes students who have often experienced difficulties in education and in their lives outside school. Many of our students may have disengaged from education, becoming disenfranchised. This includes young people with special educational needs, including those with a statement of special needs or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Values Academy prides itself on being able to offer support to young people with specific disorders including those on the autistic spectrum and to those who experience social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Values Academy can receive referrals from many avenues including referrals from the Local Authorities who are required to name the school in individual children's statements or EHC plan.

Individual students decide for themselves whether to attend Values Academy, but referrals come from a variety of places:

- SEN (special education needs) offices
- Local Authorities
- Secondary schools
- Social Services
- Children's homes
- Youth Offending Teams

If entry to the school is granted, previous school history is requested from the applicant's previous school. Comments are invited on the student's academic ability, co-curricular interests, personal characteristics and family background and circumstances. When appropriate, examination results/predicted grades are requested.

## **Applicant's Age**

School places are offered to students regardless of if they are behind or above their standard year group, if we consider, as a matter of professional judgement, that this would be in the best interests of the student and of the school.

## **Special Circumstances**

We recognise that an applicant's performance may be affected by particular circumstances. If there are such circumstances, we may request further information, such as a medical certificate or an Educational Psychologist's report.

The school should be notified of any special circumstances before entry to the school.

## **Responsibility for Admissions**

The School Principal is responsible for admissions and the operation of this policy. The selection criteria and interview procedure are determined and reviewed from time to time. Documents supporting each application for admission, together with selection and interview notes are retained by the schools until an applicant is no longer of school age, whether or not the applicant is offered a place.

## **Students from non-EU countries**

It is the responsibility of the parents and/or carers to obtain the necessary child student visa for their child to be able to study in the UK.

## **Duties of the School Selection Process**

The pre-conditions for admission are that:

- The applicant is of the appropriate age and sufficient maturity.
- The applicant enjoys satisfactory general health.
- The applicant's learning difficulties and other special needs (if any) can, in the opinion of the School Principal, be managed within the school's normal provision.
- The previous school of the applicant reports satisfactory attitudes and conduct.

The academic criteria for selection are:

- Satisfactory initial assessment
- A positive interview.

Values Academy is looking for well-rounded students and all the above criteria will be taken into account when considering applications.

The applicant's skin colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin, religious faith, area of residence or socio-economic group will not be taken into account when assessing a student for admission to Values Academy.

## **The Offer of a Place**

Referring bodies and parents/carers are informed in writing whether or not a place is being offered after the student has completed an initial assessment period. The school is not obliged to state its reasons for rejection of an applicant, however, useful assessment data will be shared.

## **Siblings**

Values Academy will consider to admit siblings of current students, so long as any special circumstances (such as learning difficulties or special needs) can be catered for at the school.

**Disclosures**

Parents/carers must disclose, as soon as possible, any particular known or suspected circumstances relating to their child's health, allergies, disabilities or learning difficulties.

**Additional Factors**

School procedures relating to the Admission Register and government guidance (September 2016) 'Children Missing in Education' are found in an internal document 'Procedures relating to Children Missing in Education' and is also covered in the Safeguarding Policy.

**Review Date: June 2022**