



WREKIN

**WREKIN COLLEGE
ADMISSIONS POLICY**



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Wrekin College is a selective co-educational School. Our aim is to ensure that the pupils we admit will flourish with the style of education we offer. We admit pupils who are able to thrive in a School where talents and character are valued equally alongside academic ability. We are a mainstream School and we admit pupils who can access our curriculum and yet may have additional needs, including those who speak English as a second language.

Admissions Policy - Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- to ensure compliance with the School's charitable purposes. Wrekin College is a mainstream school for pupils aged 11 – 18. All applications to the School are treated equally.
- to promote and support an ethos which is based upon our Christian values and welcoming ethos. Our ethos acts as a foundation upon which the whole community and learning environment is built.
- to support a school in which every child can, with reasonable adjustments, access a mainstream curriculum, and can thrive academically, socially, behaviourally and emotionally within a mainstream setting.
- to ensure compliance with the School's responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.
- to identify and admit children who will contribute to and benefit from the ethos and activities of our school community as well as those who will benefit from and support our strong pastoral care and holistic academic education.

We expect that all our pupils attend the School's regular chapel services, which are fundamental to our ethos. Pupils of all faiths and none are warmly and equally welcome within our community and reasonable adjustments will always be made to ensure that all pupils feel safe and comfortable within our school environment.

Assessments and Entry information

Pupils entering the school at any stage are required to undertake an entry test. This can take a variety of forms, but all new pupils will sit a Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR) test (except EAL overseas). For prospective pupils of all ages, a reference and an academic transcript is requested from their previous school.

The school requires all parents to give a clear and fair assessment of the physical, mental, pastoral and emotional needs of their child prior to entry. This is the case for every new pupil joining the school.

We offer a mainstream curriculum in KS3 which leads our pupils into a broad range of GCSEs in KS4. A levels and BTECs are offered in the Sixth Form. It is imperative that our pupils should be able to access and thrive in our mainstream environment. We expect our pupils to gain pass grades or above at GCSE and to be able to pass A level/BTEC Level 3 in the Sixth Form.

Pupils who do not perform to a satisfactory standard on the entry tests, yet may benefit from a Wrekin College education, are invited to come into school to spend some time with the Head of Support for Learning. This gives the pupil an opportunity to show what their talents are and for the school to see if there is any underlying reason (for example, dyslexia) why they did not perform well on the day of their test. It often transpires that the pupil had an 'off day' and a place can then be offered. Consideration will always be given to particular circumstances as well as to children who have siblings already in the school or those with other family connections.

In a competitive situation, entry will be determined by balancing factors (such as numbers of boys/girls, boarding/day pupils) and date of registration.

The normal entry requirement for the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) is a minimum of six pass grades at (I)GCSE. Some pupils may not achieve that level of success but will be allowed into the Sixth Form if we believe that they will cope with the subjects they have selected to study. Pupils who wish to join Wrekin in the Sixth Form are asked to achieve the minimum entry requirements but are considered on merit after their results are known. Pupils should consider taking subjects in the Sixth Form in which they attained a good grade at GCSE. Pupils' eligibility to study a particular A Level or BTEC course in the Sixth Form is determined in consultation with the relevant Head of Department.

Overseas Applications

Pupils from overseas are considered based on their school reports, a meeting with one of our Admissions team (often these meetings are online) and the results of any public examinations they may have taken.

Pupils for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL) are expected to take an English placement test before a place is offered at Wrekin. EAL pupils are expected to be proficient enough to cope with the level of courses they are taking, or to have a good chance of reaching sufficient proficiency before sitting examinations in externally-assessed courses, such as GCSEs or A levels/BTECs. Further admissions requirements for overseas applicants are outlined in Appendix I of this document, and these should be read alongside the Educational Guardianship policy (for overseas pupils at Wrekin).

Scholarships and Exhibitions

At 11+, 13+ and 16+ academic, music, drama, art, sport and DT scholarships and exhibitions are awarded after examinations or assessments. These are competitive but are awarded purely based on potential ability. If in a particular year no-one meets the necessary standard, then no award is made. Sixth Form Academic Scholarships are considered after subject-based and general interviews and an offer may be made asking for a certain number of grades 7, 8 and 9 at (I)GCSE.

First Form (Year 7) Entry

At 11+ prospective pupils undertake an entry test comprising mathematics, English and NVR papers. The entry test takes place in the November before their entry in the following September. Those who perform well in those tests are invited to come and sit a further set of examinations, from which they may be awarded an academic scholarship. This examination consists of further mathematics and English papers and the pupil is also interviewed by the Head. Those interested in awards for art, DT, music, dance, drama or sport, or in a Pendle award, undertake additional assessments. Other entry test sessions are arranged for those who become interested in applying for a place later in the year.

A modified set of entry tests is used for overseas pupils for whom English is not their first language, along with a videoconference interview or visit with the Head.

Second Form (Year 8) Entry

Any pupil wishing to enter Second Form will take an entry test similar to that taken for entry at 11+.

Third Form (Year 9) Entry

The 13+ entry test is taken in the November before a pupil's entry the following September. Pupils elect (with advice from their current school) to sit either standard entrance tests or academic scholarship exams (both comprising mathematics, English and NVR papers of an appropriate level). Potential academic scholars are also interviewed by the Head. If pupils are already sitting Common Entrance Exams at their current school, then we are happy to accept CE exam results as an alternative to Wrekin's own entrance tests. Those interested in awards for art, DT, music, dance, drama or sport, or in a Pendle award, undertake additional assessments.

Other entry test sessions are arranged for those who become interested in applying for a place later in the year.

Fourth or Fifth Form (Years 10 or 11) Entry

Whilst GCSEs are purportedly two-year courses, a number of subjects at Wrekin start teaching some GCSE content during the Third Form, making entrance into the school into the Fourth, or especially the Fifth Form, only possible if there is a close match between specifications already started and those being offered at Wrekin. Entrance from the start of the Fourth Form can usually be accommodated reasonably straightforwardly; pupils interested in starting at Wrekin later than this within the GCSE courses are subject to the school being able to provide sufficient support that does not jeopardise the performance of the pupil significantly. Early discussions with the Deputy Head (Teaching and Learning) and with the Heads of Department of the relevant subjects are crucial to the success of such transitions. Sometimes a reduced curriculum is offered to ensure that a good quality of results can be achieved. Each case is considered on its individual circumstances. In addition to the NVR test and references, in some cases pupils may be required to take entrance tests in maths and English.

Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) Entry

Prospective 16+ entrants may apply at any point during (term time of) Year 11 and all take the NVR test. When their (I)GCSE results are released pupils are asked to provide details and proof of their performance to the school. Pupils wishing to be considered for an Academic Scholarship should apply by the November before their entry the following September. Candidates will be invited to attend for interview. Pupils will be set a task in two subjects of their choosing and submit their work ahead of their interviews – one with each of the relevant Heads of Departments and one with the Head.

Those interested in awards for art, DT, music, dance, drama or sport, or in a Pendle award, undertake additional assessments. Other entry test sessions are arranged for those who become interested in applying for a place later in the year.

Support for Learning

Wrekin College admits pupils with different learning needs. These needs are sometimes met with additional lessons from our Support for Learning (SfL) department. Our entry assessments are used to help identify additional learning needs and we would expect all new applicants to the school to supply appropriate reports, references and assessments to help us consider a new pupil's level of need.

Exam Access Arrangements

Any pupils who require extra time or other access arrangements for entrance examinations should declare this on their Admissions forms. Confirmation will be sought of the candidate's normal way of working from their current school.



Additional Requirements for Overseas Applicants

Appointment of Educational Guardians

All international students enrolled at Wrekin (no matter their length of stay) must have an appointed Educational Guardian who is a resident in the United Kingdom and is approved by the school. It is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to appoint an appropriate Educational Guardian before their child is enrolled at Wrekin College. For further details, please refer to Wrekin's Educational Guardianship policy.

Communication regarding Medical and Other Needs

1. Parents must communicate all medical requirements for their children to Wrekin College via the Admissions forms during the enrollment process and before their child travels to the school. Wrekin College reserves the right to suspend a pupil's attendance at the school (thereby requiring the Educational Guardian to take care of the child) if we are unable to support their medical needs due to a failure in disclosure by parents. Parents should also, therefore, ensure Educational Guardians are aware of their child's medical needs. Please note: medical needs include any mental health needs for which a child has seen a doctor or been on medication.
2. For children on any medication or with specific medical needs, parents additionally must declare in writing (prior to the advent of travel to the school):
 - a. The exact prescription of medications being taken by their child (in English);
 - b. That their child is fit (physically and mentally) to travel internationally;
 - c. That their child is fit (physically and mentally) to study in the UK;
 - d. That their child is fit (physically and mentally) to board at Wrekin College;
 - e. Just prior to the point of travel, the exact quantity and names of the medications their child will be travelling with;
 - f. Any changes to their child's prescription(s) over their time at Wrekin College (directly to the Head Nurse in the Health and Wellbeing Centre, once the child has started at the school).
3. Parents must also declare on the Admissions forms any other specific needs or modifications required for their child while attending school as a boarding student (including any factors affecting their diet, their physical fitness (including their ability to move around campus), their mental fitness, their ability to board (including sharing a room with other boarding students), and any educational needs). Wrekin College reserves the right to suspend a pupil's attendance at the school (thereby requiring the Educational Guardian to take care of the child) if we are unable to support their other

specific needs due to a failure in disclosure by parents. Parents should also, therefore, ensure Educational Guardians are aware of any other specific needs for their child.

4. If a pupil's grasp of English is shown to be below that which allows them to adequately access their curriculum, Wrekin College will require them to take extra English as an Additional Language (EAL) lessons, at cost to the parents/legal guardians, until sufficient improvement has been made.

Visa and Immigration Requirements

For applicants who do not hold a UK passport or settled/pre-settled status, any offer of a place is strictly conditional upon the pupil meeting all current UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) requirements. As a licensed sponsor, Wrekin College will issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) only once a firm offer has been accepted and all admissions criteria, including the payment of the required deposit, have been met. Please note that the ultimate responsibility for securing and maintaining a valid Child Student Visa rests with the parents or legal guardians.