



Engineering  
Academy

# Proposed Admissions Arrangements 2025/26



# Proposed Admissions Policy from 2025/26

## Policy Review

Document Title:	Proposed Admissions Policy
Date of review:	October 2023
Date of Next Review	January 2024
Committee responsible for review:	Leadership & Finance
Chair of Committee	Richard Billingham

## Amendments from previous policy conducted November 2023

- Significant Change: Year 9 admissions oversubscription criteria changed from Nodal points to Banding.
- Consultation period November 2023 – January 2024

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Aston University Sixth Form and Engineering Academy will be nationally recognised as a centre of excellence in providing the very best academic and technical education for successful and rewarding careers in Engineering, Science Health and Business.

### **OUR AIMS:**

1. Provide every student with a personalised pathway through and beyond the UTC providing them with **'Knowledge for Life and Skills for the Future'**.
2. Ensure high aspirations and expectations of all our staff and students' professional and personal development challenging **"What makes them different"**.
3. Working with students to develop and foster our key values of employability that equip students for future success (**AUEA 7 Rs**).
4. Develop and deliver a challenging and innovative University and employer-led curriculum contextualised to the STEMM business world.
5. Nationally lead outstanding **diversity and social mobility** of students progressing into STEMM Employment, Apprenticeships, or Higher Education.

# **THE ADMISSION OF PUPILS TO THE ASTON UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING ACADEMY BIRMINGHAM**

## **GENERAL**

1. This Annex may be amended in writing at any time by agreement between the Secretary of State and the Academy Trust.
2. Except as provided in paragraphs 2A to 3 below The Academy Trust will act in accordance with, and will ensure that an Independent Appeal Panel is trained to act in accordance with, all relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education (“the Codes”) as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with equalities law and the law on admissions as they apply to maintained schools. For this purpose, reference in the Codes or legislation to “admission authorities” shall be deemed to be references to the governing body of the Academy Trust.
  - 2A The Academy Trust is permitted to determine admission arrangements (subject to consultation in accordance with the School Admissions Code) that give priority for admission (but not above looked after children and previously looked after children<sup>1</sup>) to other children attracting the pupil premium, including the service premium (“the pupil premium admission criterion”). Where an Academy Trust exercises this freedom it will provide information in its admission arrangements of eligibility for the premiums.
  - 2B For the purposes of applying the pupil premium admission criterion only, sections 1.9(f) and 2.4(a) of the School Admissions Code do not apply insofar as they prevent admission authorities from giving priority to children according to the financial or occupational status of parents or using supplementary forms that ask for:
    - a) any personal details about their financial status; or
    - b) whether parents are serving in the armed forces (of any nation), stationed in England, and exercising parental care and responsibility for the child in question.
3. Notwithstanding the generality of paragraph 2 of this Annex, the Academy has opted out of the coordinated admission arrangements operated by the LA in whose area the Academy is situated by notifying the LA in writing no later than the date of determining its admissions policy for the Academy. However, the Academy Trust still works in collaboration with with LA admissions team, remains open to scrutiny and coordinated consultation arrangements. The Academy also must participate in the local Fair Access Protocol.

<sup>1</sup> *As defined in the School Admissions Code. Previously looked after children are to be given the same highest priority as looked after children from September 2013 under the Code.*

4. Notwithstanding any provision in this Annex, the Secretary of State may:
  - a) direct the Academy Trust to admit a named pupil to the Aston University Engineering Academy on application from a LA. This will include complying with a School Attendance Order<sup>2</sup>. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the Academy Trust.
  - b) direct the Academy Trust to admit a named pupil to the Aston University Engineering Academy if the Academy Trust has failed to act in accordance with this Annex or has otherwise failed to comply with applicable admissions and equalities legislation or the provisions of the Codes.
  - c) direct the Academy Trust to amend its admission arrangements where they fail to comply with the School Admissions Code or the Admission Appeals Code.
5. The Academy Trust shall ensure that parents and 'relevant children<sup>3</sup>' will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Academy Trust. The Independent Appeal Panel will be independent of the Academy Trust. The arrangements for appeals will comply with the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.

### **Relevant Area**

6. Subject to paragraph 7, the meaning of "Relevant Area" for the purposes of consultation requirements in relation to admission arrangements is that determined by the local authority for maintained schools in the area in accordance with the Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999.
7. If the Academy does not consider the relevant area determined by the local authority for the maintained schools in the area to be appropriate, it must apply to the Secretary of State by 1 August for a determination of the appropriate relevant area for the Academy, setting out the reasons for this view. The Secretary of State will consult the Academy and the LA in which the Academy is situated in reaching a decision.

### **Requirement to admit pupils**

8. Pupils on roll in any predecessor maintained or independent school will transfer automatically to the Academy on opening. All children already offered a place at any predecessor school will be admitted.
- 2 *Local authorities are able to issue school attendance orders if a child is not attending school. These are legally binding upon parents. Such an order might, for instance, be appropriate where a child has a place at an Academy but his/her parents are refusing to send him/her to school. The order will require a parent to ensure his/her child attends a specified school.*
- 3 *'relevant children' means:*
  - a) *in the case of appeals for entry to a sixth form, the child, and;*
  - b) *in any other case, children who are above compulsory school age, or will be above compulsory school age by the time they start to receive education at the school.*

9. The Academy will:
- a) Subject to its right of appeal to the Secretary of State in relation to a named pupil, admit all pupils with a statement of special educational needs naming the Academy;
  - b) Adopt admission oversubscription criteria that give highest priority to looked after children and previously looked after children<sup>4</sup>, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code.

### **Publication of Admission Arrangements**

10. The AUEA Governing Board shall each Determination Year publish the Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham's agreed admission arrangements by:
- a) Copies being made available without charge on request from the Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham;
  - b) A copy being uploaded to the Academy's website
11. The published admission arrangements will set out:
- a) The name and address of the Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham and contact details;
  - b) A summary of the admission policy, including full oversubscription criteria and any arrangements for post-16 admission;
  - c) Pupil Admission Number for KS3 Entry and KS5 Entry
  - d) Arrangements for hearing appeals

### **Proposed Changes to Admission Arrangements**

12. Subject to paragraph 13, once the Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham's admission arrangements have been determined for a particular year and published, the AUEA Governing Board will not make any change to such arrangements unless there is a major change of circumstances and the following procedures have been followed:
- a) The AUEA Governing Board has consulted in line with the requirements within the School Admissions Code.
  - b) Following such consultation, the AUEA Governing Board has applied to the Secretary of State to approve the change setting out:
    - I. The proposed change;
    - II. Reasons for wishing to make such a change;
    - III. Any comments or objections to the proposal from those consulted; and
    - IV. Following such application, the Secretary of State has provided his consent to the proposed variation.

13. The AUEA Governing Board shall following the prior written agreement or direction of the Secretary of State vary the Academy's admission arrangements where such changes are necessary to ensure compliance with the relevant provisions of admissions law or the Codes as they apply to maintained schools. Such changes may be made at any time.
14. Any changes to the Academy's admission arrangements brought about through the variation processes in paragraphs 12 or 13 above must be published on its website [www.auea.co.uk](http://www.auea.co.uk) and where possible included as part of the LA coordinated consultation process and LA website.
15. Records of applications and admissions to the Academy shall be kept by the AUEA Governing Board for a minimum period of ten years and shall be open for inspection by the Secretary of State.

## **PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING PUPILS**

### **Admission Number(s)**

16. The AUEA Governing Board has the following agreed admissions numbers for the Academy for the year 2025-26.  
  
80 places for Year 9  
170 places for students in Year 12 (250 Capacity)
17. In any specific year, the AUEA Governing Board may set a higher admission number than the Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham's agreed admission number for an applicable year group.

### **Consideration of Applications for Year 9**

18. The Academy will band across the ability range of applicants for admission to the Academy.
  - I. All applicants will take a test <sup>4</sup> with a verbal, non-verbal and quantitative aspect. This is not a pass/fail test. Based on their mean CAT scores in the test <sup>5</sup>, all applicants will then be placed in one of five ability bands <sup>6</sup>.
  - II. The highest ability students will be placed in band 1 and the lowest ability in band 5.
  - III. 50% Male and 50% Female Students will then be selected from each band based on the This will ensure that a fully comprehensive intake from the most able to the least able are offered places.

**4** *It is anticipated that this will be The Cognitive Abilities Test 3 produced by GL Assessments comprising a verbal, non-verbal and quantitative aspect. However, the Academy reserves the right to use another test provider or test.*

**5** *The mean result attained by an individual on the test.*

**6** *The ability group into which an applicant is placed on the basis of their Mean score.*

- IV. There will be multiple dates for the banding tests in November 2024. All applicants will be invited to the fair banding test.
- V. The boundaries of each band reflect the national range of abilities and are as follows:

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Total
Test Mean Result	Above 116	106-115	96-105	84-95	Below 85	
% Of students in each ability band	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	100%
Number of Male places available in each ability band	8	8	8	8	8	40
Number of female places available in each ability band	8	8	8	8	8	40

- 19 Invitations to sit the Fair Banding test will only be sent to those applicants that have applied directly to AUEA by 31st October 2024.

### Oversubscription

- 20 Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs where the Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham is named on the statement and application received via Birmingham SENAR service.
- I. Looked After Children in the care of a local authority; These applicants will be included in the band in which they fall.
  - II. The remaining places in each band will be allocated by random allocation.
  - III. TIE-BREAK: If, after consideration of the oversubscription criteria is needed, a tie breaker will be via random allocation for each band.
  - IV. If there are the same number or fewer applicants from any band than places available, then all applicants will be offered a place. Any unfilled band places will be offered to those applicants in other bands using random allocation.
  - V. Applications from sets of twins or other children from multiple births will be
  - VI. treated as individual applicants; this may result in one child being allocated a place under random allocation and another not.
- 21 Applicants who sit the Fair Banding test prior to 31<sup>st</sup> January deadline will be considered for admission first.
- 22 Any late applicants may be offered an additional banding test. However if this is not possible, or for those that choose not to sit the Fair Banding test will be classed as 'non-banded' and will be ranked in order of priority (after all the

banded applicants) with the level of priority then determined with reference to the 'non-banded oversubscription criteria set out below

- I. Distance between home address and the nodal point nearest to that address for 50% female students and 50% Male students.
  - II. Distance will be calculated according to a straight line measurement between the applicant's home and the nodal / measuring point (as the crow flies).
  - III. In the event that a tie break situation occurs for the distance criteria, a random allocation tie break will be used.
  - IV. The nodal points have been selected to allow access to the Academy for pupils living in a wider area than that local to the school. Railway stations have been selected as the nodal points for their obvious links to engineering, to allow a good geographical spread of points and to encourage pupils to use public transport when travelling to school. There is one nodal point in each of Birmingham's six area networks.
  - V. The points selected are Hall Green Station, Moor Street Station, Perry Barr, Stechford Station, University Station and Wylde Green Station.
23. We will prepare guidance for parents and relevant children about how the appeals process will work and provide them with a named contact who can answer any enquiries they may have about the process.

#### **Post 16 admission criteria**

24. The Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham operates a sixth form for a total of 600 students. 300 places overall will be available in Year 12 (the Year 12 'capacity').
25. The Pupil admission number (PAN) for Year 12 is 220 external places.
26. This is the number of places which will be offered on an annual basis to eligible external applicants. If fewer than 80 of the Academy's own Year 11 pupils meet entry criteria and progress into Year 12, additional external pupils will be admitted until Year 12 meets its capacity of 300.
27. The Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham has places for up to 500 students in the 16-19 age range who meet the minimum eligibility criteria of:
28. Admission of pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs will occur where the Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham is named on the statement and application received via Birmingham SENAR service and the student meets the required academic ability for that course. Where required additional assessments and means of reasonable adjustments will be considered.

#### **Elite and Academic Pathway**

- I. Excellent reference from your current school including attendance
- II. Average GCSE Grade<sup>7</sup> 6
- III. At least a Grade 5 in English and Mathematics
- IV. Any Specific Subject Entry Requirements as outlined in prospectus and website

- a. A Level Mathematics, Biology, A Level Chemistry and Physics at least a Grade 7/A
- b. A Level Further Mathematics at least a Grade 8/A

Professional + A Level Pathway

- I. Excellent reference from your current school including attendance
- II. Average GCSE Grade <sup>7</sup> 6.5
- III. At least a Grade 5 in English and Mathematics
- IV. Any Specific Subject Entry Requirements as outlined in prospectus and website

Professional Pathway

- I. Excellent reference from your current school including attendance
- II. Average GCSE Grade <sup>7</sup> 5.5
- III. Any Specific Subject Entry Requirements as outlined in prospectus and website.
- IV. At least a Grade 5 in Mathematics and Grade 4 English

Technical Pathway T Levels

- I. Excellent reference from your current school including attendance
- II. Average GCSE Grade <sup>7</sup> 6
- III. At least a Grade 5 in English and Grade 6 in Maths and Science subjects
- IV. Any Specific Subject Entry Requirements as outlined in prospectus and website.

Oversubscription

- 29. Where courses are oversubscribed preference will be given to students based on the following criteria
  - I. Looked After Children in the care of a local authority; These applicants must meet the pathway entry criteria.
  - II. Existing Year 11 pupils at the Academy will be given priority for that course.
  - III. Students with the highest GCSE grades in that subject/related subject.
  - IV. In the event that a tie break situation occurs, this will be decided by earliest date of application.
  
- 30. External pupils will be offered alternative course options according to course availability. There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for unsuccessful applicants.

<sup>7</sup> Average GCSE grade is based on Best 8 GCSE grades to include 2 x English, Maths and minimum of 2 x Science GCSE grades

### **Operation of waiting lists**

31. Where in any year the Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham receives more successful applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the first term after the start of the school year. This will be maintained by the Academy Trust and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list.
32. Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

### **Appeals**

33. Aston University Engineering Academy will ensure that parents and relevant children will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of Aston University Engineering Academy. The arrangements for appeals will comply with the School Admission Appeals Code. The determination of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.

### **Arrangements for admitting pupils to other Year Groups, including to replace any pupils who have left the Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham**

34. In conjunction with the local authorities in year admissions and Fair Access AUEA Governing Board will consider all such applications has a place available, admit the child unless one of the permitted reliefs applies. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria shall apply. Parents whose application is turned down shall be entitled to appeal.
35. Students entering mid-year are subject to fair access protocol.  
  
And if the year group applied for has a place available will co-ordinate admissions for in-year applications and for applications for year groups other than the normal point(s) of entry. This will not affect Academies' right to determine which applicants have priority for admission.
36. Subject to any provisions in the Birmingham LA's fair access arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the AUEA Governing Board will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child unless one of the permitted reliefs applies. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria shall apply. Parents whose application is turned down shall be entitled to appeal.
37. Students entering mid-year are subject to fair access protocol.