

# THE RIPLEY ACADEMY

A member of the East Midlands Education Trust



## Admissions Policy 2026-2027



**We are Ambitious... We are Committed... We are Proud...**

**#nothingshortofremarkable**

Responsibility: Head of School

Date of next review: Autumn 2025

Approved: Governor's meeting Autumn 2024

## **The Ripley Academy Admissions Policy 2026-2027**

The Ripley Academy is an 11-18 school serving Ripley, Codnor and the surrounding area.

### **Entry at Year 7**

The Published Admission Number (PAN) is 120.

Students will be admitted at the age of 11 without reference to ability or aptitude.

Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan which names the Academy will be admitted before the oversubscription criteria are applied.

Where application for admission exceeds the number of places available, the criteria used by the Governors to allocate the available places are listed as follows in priority order:

- a) Children who are looked after, or who have been previously looked after, by the local authority, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021, which states admissions authorities must give highest priority to this group of children. Further details can be found under the 'Definitions' section in this policy.

Children who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. This also includes children who were previously looked after in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

- b) Children who permanently reside within the normal areas of Ripley Junior School, Waingroves Primary School, St John's C of E Primary School and Codnor Community Primary School at the time of application and admission to the school. Places will be allocated in the first instance to children who, at the time of admission, will have a sibling attending the school in years 7-11. Followed by those who do not have siblings currently at the school.
- c) Children attending Ripley Junior School, Waingroves Primary School, St John's C of E School or Codnor Primary School, but not living in the normal areas served by those schools.
- d) Children who live outside the catchment area at the time of the application and admission to secondary school. Places will be allocated in the first instance to children who, at the time of admission, will have a sibling attending the school in years 7-11. Followed by those who do not have siblings currently at the school.

When in the case of b, c & d above, choices have to be made between children satisfying the same criteria, those children living nearest to the school (measured by straight line distance) will be given preference.

## **Admission to The Ripley Academy Sixth Form including admission number for those admitted for the first time.**

The admission number for the Post-16 centre is 120.

The Ripley Academy Sixth Form offers 'A' level, GCSE and vocational courses.

Entry to Post 16 courses is dependent upon students achieving the academic requirements published in the schools Entry Requirements document found here: [The-Ripley-Academy-Sixth-Form-Entry-Criteria.pdf \(ripleyacademy.org\)](https://www.ripleyacademy.org/entry-requirements)

Students who have not gained a 4 grade or higher in GCSE English and/or mathematics will be required to continue these courses in the Sixth Form.

Priority in the first instance for entry into our Post-16 centre will be given to children with a statement of Special Education Needs or Education Health and Care Plan that names The Ripley Academy or John Flamsteed Community School.

### **Over-subscription for the Post-16 Centre**

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit:

- 1.0 Students who are looked after by a local authority, or who have been previously looked after, in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021, which states admissions authorities must give highest priority to the group of children, and who meet the academic entry criteria
- 2.0 Children who already attend John Flamsteed Community School or The Ripley Academy and meet the academic entry criteria.
- 3.0 Children who do not presently attend John Flamsteed Community School or The Ripley Academy and meet the academic entry criteria.

In the event of an over-subscription of the criteria, proximity to either school will be used with those living nearer being given priority. Distance measurements are to be made 'as the crow flies' from the home address to the main reception office of either school.

### **Definitions**

#### **A looked after child**

A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to a school.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

### **Residence**

This is defined as the child's permanent place of residence which is deemed to be the residential property at which the child habitually resides with the person or persons having parental responsibility for the child at the time of completion of the application form. Addresses of other relatives or friends will not be considered as the place of residence even when the child stays there for all or part of the week. Proof of permanent residence (minimum 12 months tenancy agreement in the case of rented accommodation) and other evidence from the court regarding parental responsibilities in these matters may be required. If a parent lives in rented accommodation within the catchment area yet still owns another property within 20 miles of the school, the address of the owned property will be taken as the place of permanent residency, even if it is rented out to a third party.

### **Brother and sister**

The Governors define brother and sister as being those children who share the same biological parents. This includes half-brother or half-sister or legally adopted child living at the same address as the child.

### **Parent**

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' to include; all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person by virtue of a court order; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or a young person by virtue of a court order.

### **Measuring distance**

For applications in the normal year of entry which are managed under the co-ordinated admissions arrangements distance is measured in a straight line from home to school (as plotted on the children's services department Geographic Information System) and the school Governors use this information to rank order applications.

For all other applications the Governors of the school use [www.freemaptools.com](http://www.freemaptools.com) to measure distance.

### **Catchment Area (Normal Area)**

This is our historical catchment area which has remained unchanged for many years and is comprised of the combined catchment areas of our family (linked) primary schools.

The **Normal Area Map** can be found on the Derbyshire website at:

<https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/school-details/profile.asp?DfES=5416>

### **Linked schools**

These are Ripley Junior School, Waingroves Primary School, St John's C of E Primary School and Codnor Community Primary School.

### **Coordinated admission scheme**

All applications for places in the normal year of entry are made on the Common Application Form. For entrance to the school in September 2026 the closing date of the coordinated admission scheme is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025, preceding admission to secondary school. Places are allocated on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

Further information regarding admission to secondary school may be found at:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>

### **Closing date**

This is the deadline for the application of the Common Application Form (CAF) as defined by the Local Authority in their co-ordinated scheme.

### **Late applications**

Late applications are those submitted after the closing date for the co-ordinated admissions scheme and will be dealt with in accordance with that scheme. Late applications will be considered up to the date specified in the coordinated scheme providing the applicant can evidence that they have moved into the area after the closing date for applications or can establish at the time of completing the form that there were exceptional reasons for missing the closing date. Examples include family bereavement, hospitalisation and family trauma. Supporting evidence may be required.

When the school is informed by the Local Authority that a place has been offered, the school will write to the parent(s) seeking written confirmation that they will take up the place. If this confirmation is not received within 14 days, the school will notify the Local Authority that the offer of a place should be withdrawn and offered to the child ranked highest on the waiting list.

### **Waiting list**

If, after the offer of places has been made, the school is over-subscribed, all unsuccessful applications will be placed on the waiting list which will be administered by the Governors of the school in partnership with the local authority for the duration of the co-ordinated admissions scheme. Your position on this waiting list will be determined by the school's published over-subscription criteria. The waiting list will remain open until December 31st in the year of admission and will be administered by the Governors of the school.

### **Independent Appeals**

Parents have the right to an independent appeals panel if you are not happy with the outcome of your application. Repeat applications in the same academic year will not be considered unless there is a significant and material change in circumstances and only then at the discretion of the Governors. Parents wishing to appeal should write to the Clerk to Governors, c/o The Ripley Academy within 20 school days of notification.

### **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group if, for example, the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. This also applies to parents of summer born children (1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August). When applying for a place, parents need to make it clear that they are seeking a place outside of the child's normal age group and they should clearly state why. Parents should supply any relevant supporting information such as the child's academic, social and emotional development, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional, and whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group. You will be informed in writing of the governors' decision with clear reasons for this decision. Parents have a right to appeal if their request is refused but not if a place is offered at the school but it is not the parents' preferred age group.

**Tie breaker**

In the event of the need for a tie breaker in any of the over-subscription criteria listed in this policy, random allocation will be used. If a child is offered a place as a result of random allocation yet also has a sibling of the same age seeking a place and residing at the same address, the sibling will also be offered a place.

**Withdrawing an offer of a place**

Any offer of a place found to be made on the basis of inaccurate information can be withdrawn. Such examples would include fraudulent applications, intentionally misleading applications, a false claim to residency in the catchment area and the failure of a parent to respond to an offer.

**Admissions outside the coordinated scheme/including in-year entries**

All applications made outside of the normal year of entry can be made directly to the school and will be administered by the Governors. In the event of a place being available in the appropriate year group an offer of a place at the school will be made. If no place is available, the parent will be informed of this along with the right of appeal for the refusal of a place

**Fair access protocol**

As part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with the Local Authority the school may accept hard-to-place pupils onto the school roll from time to time in accordance with the in-year Fair Access agreement. These are special cases arranged at the discretion of the Headteacher, outside the boundaries of this admissions policy and are not automatic even if places are available