

**Valley Park School**

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Type of School: Secondary, Academy, All Ability, Mixed

Age Range: 11-18 Day Pupils

Specialisms: Arts (Performing and Expressive)

**Published Admission No: 240**

**LA No: 886 DCSF No:4249**

Number of Applications for Yr 7 entry September 2015: 1035

Number of places offered 3 March 2015: 240

**Expected number on roll: 1470**

To access general information about the school, including annual school achievement and attainment tables, recent school inspection reports and uniform policy, please contact the school or visit the school's website.

For further information on our process of entry by aptitude or to obtain an application form please contact the school directly or visit our school website.

Open Evening: Thursday 24 September 2015

Open Morning Tours: Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

(Tours must be booked by appointment on or after the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015– times to be advised)

**Oversubscription Criteria**

Before applying the oversubscription criteria, children with a statement of special educational need which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly. If the number of preferences for the school is more than the number of places available, places will be allocated in the following priority order –

(A) Children in Local Authority Care – a child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act. This applies equally to children who immediately after being looked after by the local authority became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. (As defined by Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or Section 8 or 14A of the Children Act 1989)

(B) Health and Special Access Reasons – Medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in

particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents'/guardians' physical or mental health or social needs mean that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the school.

(C) Children who can demonstrate a special aptitude in either Music, Art or Performing Arts. Up to 24 places (10%) per year will be awarded on the basis. Prior to application students will be invited into the school to have their aptitude assessed by a panel composed of teachers at the school and external advisors. Aptitude in the three areas of specialism will be determined as follows.

#### **Music**

Aptitude in Music will be determined by performance to the panel and any one or combination of:

- I. That he/she has tuition in a musical instrument
- II. That he/she has no formal training but is musical and would like to pursue the subject
- III. Success in any music examination

#### **Art**

Aptitude in Art will be on the basis of a portfolio of artwork to be examined by the panel.

#### **Performing Arts**

Aptitude in performing Arts will be determined by performance to the panel and any one or combination of:

- I. That he/she is a member of a dance/drama organisation
- II. That he/she has no formal training but is a talented performer and would like to pursue the subject

Up to 8 places per year will be awarded in each of the 3 subjects. If there are more than 8 applicants who meet the criteria in any one subject then applicants will be ranked and places offered in rank order.

If there are fewer than 8 applicants meeting the criteria in any one subject then more places will be distributed to the other subjects.

(D) Children who at the time of application have a sibling on the roll of the school and who will still be on roll at the time of the sibling's admission. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

(E) Children of staff who work at the school full time with at least two years continuous employment by the school or where the school reasonably considers a

member of staff has been recruited for a position for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

(F) Children who live nearer to Valley Park School than to the nearest alternative secondary school as measured in a straight line from a designated point at their home address to a designated point in Valley Park's grounds, compared with the straight-line distance from a designated point at their home address to a designated point in the nearest alternative secondary school's grounds:

**If more children apply who meet this criterion than there are places available; places will be offered to those meeting this criterion who live closest to the school.**

(G) Nearness of children's homes to school - we use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using Ordnance Survey address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by Ordnance Survey. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody.

**[Note:** The nearest alternative secondary school is defined as the school closest to the applicant's home address, where the school is maintained/ state-funded, non-denominational, co-educational and not wholly selective. This excludes independent schools (other than Academies), church and other faith schools, single-sex schools and grammar schools.]

If the last pupil to be offered a place within the school's published admission number (PAN) is a multiple birth or same cohort sibling, any further sibling will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the intake number above the school's PAN. The PAN will remain unchanged so that no other pupil will be admitted until a place becomes available within the PAN.

Requests for admission outside of the normal age group should be made to the Headteacher of each preferred school as early as possible in the admissions round associated with that child's date of birth. This will allow the school and admissions authority sufficient time to make a decision before the closing date. Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request to defer their application, however where provided it must be specific to the child in question. This might include medical or Educational Psychologist reports. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional, however, failure to provide this may impede a school's ability to agree to deferral. Parents are required to complete an application for the normal point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined.

Deferred applications must be made via paper CAF to the LA, with written confirmation from each named school attached. Deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications for the cohort in the following admissions round, and offers will be made in accordance with each school's oversubscription criteria.

**Supplementary Form Required: YES – if applying for a special aptitude place.**

Waiting lists will be maintained up to January 2016 and will be ranked according to the above oversubscription criteria.

## Sixth Form Admission Arrangements

### **Admission to Year 12:**

All offers of a place in Year 12 will be made on condition of students meeting the school entry requirements laid out below:

- a minimum of 5 A\* - C grades (or equivalent) including the minimum entry requirements specified by the subjects of their choice
- a supportive reference confirming suitability for AS/A2 and BTEC study and the preferred subject choices.

To be considered for entry, students must complete the area electronic application procedure by the date specified by the school (check the website for details). Applications received after this deadline will be placed on a waiting list. Students will then be invited to visit the school and discuss the suitability of their choice of course with the Head of Sixth Form.

Priority will be given to Children in Local Authority Care – a child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act. This applies equally to children who immediately after being looked after by the local authority became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. (As defined by Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or Section 8 or 14A of the Children Act 1989)

### **Admissions Process Year 12**

Students applying for a place in Year 12 will be invited to attend the Sixth Form Open Evening, an annual event at the school held at a specified date in the Autumn term. Applications for Year 12 must be completed using the area electronic application procedure, by the date specified by the school (check the website for details).

For internal applicants, the Head of Sixth Form will seek feedback from subject teachers to check suitability for students' course choices. Each student will attend a consultation meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss their chosen learning pathway and ongoing studies within the school. All offers of a place in Year 12 will be made on condition of students meeting the school entry requirements above.

For external applicants, a request will be made to their previous school to check estimated grades thus ensuring suitability for AS/A2 and BTEC study and their preferred subject choices. Students will be invited for a consultation meeting as appropriate. Preferred learning pathways and course choices will be discussed. Following the consultation stage, a letter will be sent to the applicant confirming the offer requirements regarding a place in Year 12.

All offers of a place in Year 12 will be made on condition that students meet the school entry requirements above.

Students holding conditional offers will have their place confirmed following receipt of GCSE results in the summer. Guidance will be given to students who wish to consider a change of subject following receipt of GCSE results.

**Admission to Year 13:**

The majority of students in Year 12 continue with their studies into Year 13, dependent upon the entry criteria outlined below. All offers of a place in Year 13 will be made on condition of students meeting the school entry requirements laid out below:

- All students wishing to complete their advanced level studies in Year 13 must achieve a D grade or better in each of their AS/A2 subjects of study following receipt of the summer results. For those studying a BTEC then students must have completed their assessed pieces of work for Year 12 to their targeted grade.

**Admissions Process Year 13**

Following receipt of summer AS/A2 examination results students who have met the entry requirement above are automatically offered a place in Year 13 to continue their studies. BTEC students will be offered continuation into Year 13.

Students who do not meet the entry requirement into Year 13 will be given guidance about a change of pathway and relevant courses available.