

School Travel Plan

May 2023 to support the planning
application for the extension to the
Anderson Suite

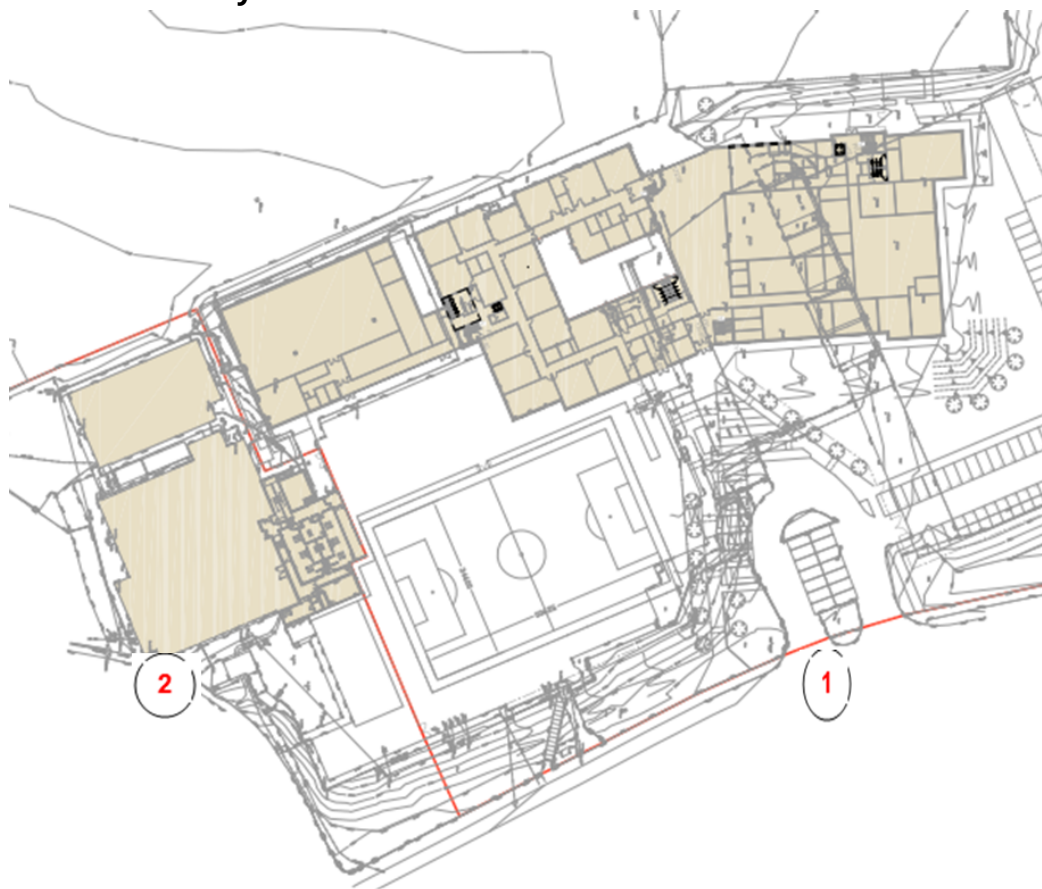
About the Academy

Wardle Academy is part of Watergrove Trust and is an 11 - 16 school located in the village of Wardle in Rochdale. It is part of the Pennine district in between Littleborough and Rochdale town centre. (See plan in appendix). It has a single site just off Birch Road which feeds from Halifax road. This is the only road into Rochdale from the area and carries traffic from Halifax, Todmorden and Ripponden. There are 1306 students on roll, of which 11 have special educational needs with a transport element to their statement. There is specific transport laid on to accommodate these students which is either mini bus or taxi. These arrive at the Watergrove car park each day in a designated area for ease of access. The school employs 188 staff of which 78 are teaching staff and 110 are support / catering / site staff. The current timetabled day is from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, However the building is typically open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm to provide for cleaning, maintenance, after school clubs and community let-ins.

Pupil Catchment Area

Catchment area is from the Pennine district of Rochdale. We currently have learners from as far as Todmorden and Whitworth. See Appendix 1 (Admissions Policy 2023-24)

Location and Layout



Entrances

The academy is located on the corner of Birch Road and Green Meadows and is completely fenced for security. There are essentially only two pedestrian points of access to our site:

- From the turning circle off Birch Road
- From Green Meadows

Current practice involves all students entering the academy from Birch Road and using the main pupil entrance.

Our school is particularly subject to vehicular congestion at the start and end of each day. The turning circle and main car park have 102 spaces including 5 disabled access spaces, there are 26 spaces including 2 disabled access spaces in the Watergrove Car Park, the main road is used as an overflow. Couple this with the number of parents who bring their children by car and the whole area around school becomes very busy. This is exacerbated by the public bus stop at the front of school which is often blocked by cars dropping off children.

We have taken measures to restrict parents' movements with cars but this has had limited impact. Thick yellow lines have been painted at the front of school, which are generally ignored and our requests to keep the turning circle free from traffic are, in the main, disregarded. Deliveries are directed to the back of the academy to the service yard.

We have 2 cycle shelters, one which holds 40 units and is secure and one that holds 8 units in the main car park.

Staff supervision is provided at the start and end of each day to monitor the entry and exit to school. The end of the day causes most congestion as most pupils will leave on, or just after 3.00pm. By this time the front of the school turning circle, car park, main road and the surrounding areas are packed with cars waiting to collect children. This is also where buses stop, which continues to be a cause for concern and adds to the bustle on a very narrow strip of pavement.

There are no dedicated school bus services. Students travelling to school on public transport use the 456 bus service, which travels from central Littleborough, Hollingworth Lake, Smithy Bridge Road and Birch Road. Students can also get the 589 or 590 bus service which covers Summit and Stansfield along Halifax Road and then walk up Birch Road to the academy. Details of bus timetables and a route map in appendix 2

There are no known official cycle routes near the school.

Why are we doing an STP

Travel to and from the Academy is hindered by the locations and the amount of traffic at the start and end of each school day. The problem is more acute at 3.00pm as there are many cars waiting to pick up students at the same time. Parking is an issue as the main road is lined with waiting parents causing crossing issues. School arranged trips and excursions can be problematic especially if they set off or return at the start/end of the school day.

Greater Manchester Transport have removed the previous school bus service, which means students now have to access the public bus services. Students now access the bus on the opposite side of Wardle Road, waiting with staff supervision until the bus arrives. Crossing is difficult due to the number of parked cars.

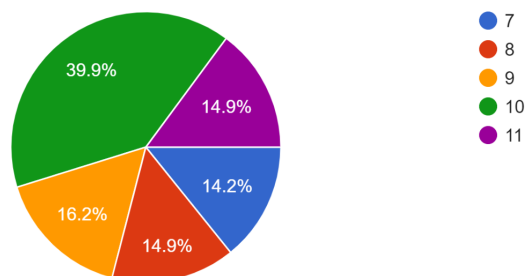
We are keen to explore other methods of travel to school and make safer existing methods. Walking is popular and students will often walk in friendship groups. We have a small number of students that cycle to school.

Consultation

Consultation took place in May 2023 with pupils and staff through a school travel survey.

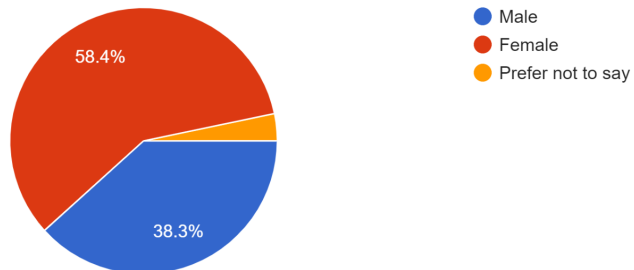
Students:

Year Group
303 responses



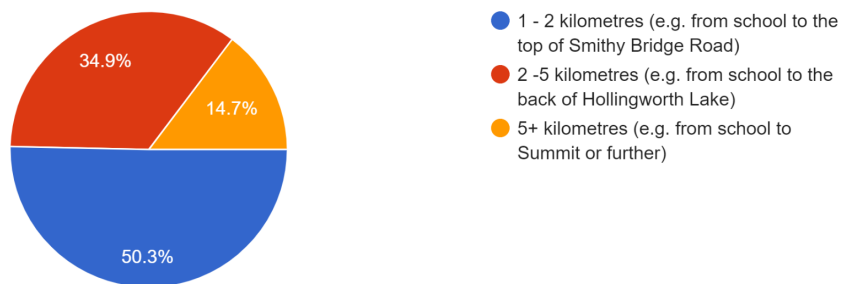
Gender

303 responses



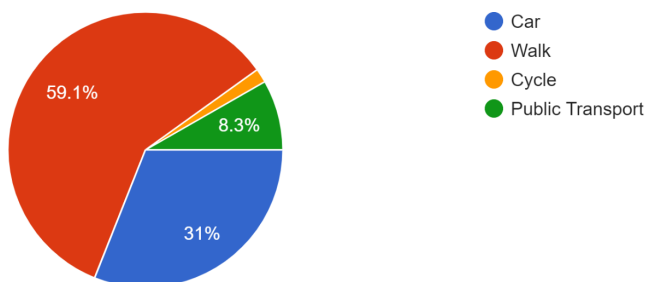
How far do you travel to school?

292 responses



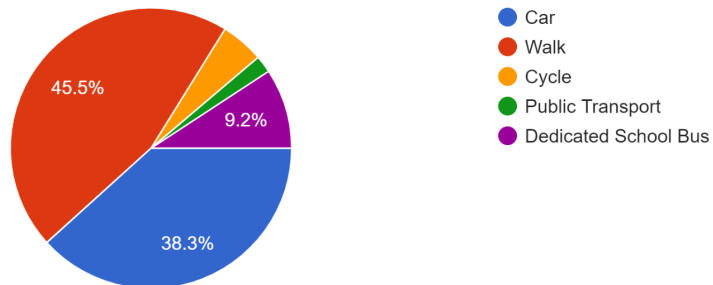
How do you currently travel to school?

303 responses



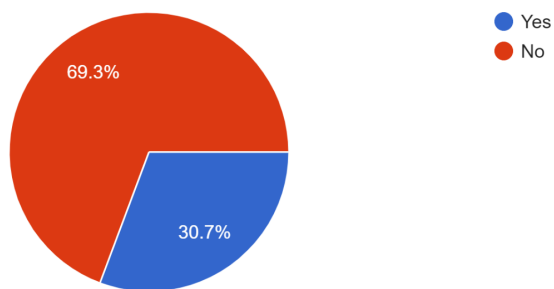
How would you like to travel to school?

303 responses



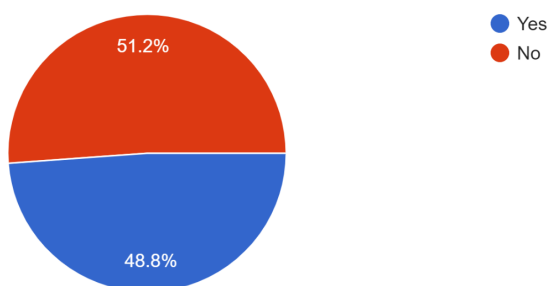
Do you car share with any other pupils?

303 responses



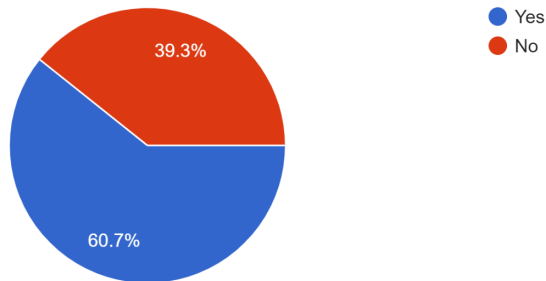
Do you own a bike?

303 responses



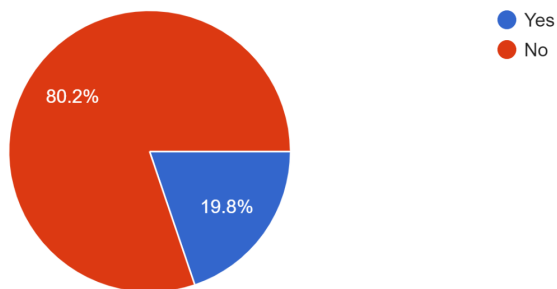
Have you had any cycle training such as Bikeability?

303 responses



Have you been involved in an accident or near miss on your way to/from school

303 responses



Are there any reasons which would discourage you from cycling?

Reason	Number
Busy Road	17
Embarrassment/Bullying	8
Effort	16
Distance	9
Weather	2
No bike	9
No bike lock	2

My bike may get stolen	6
People making fun	4
Because I wear a skirt	4
My friends do not cycle to school	4
Bike broken	6
Parental safety concerns	2
No cycle paths	1
Accidents	11
Boring	1
Don't like riding a bike	3
Don't have a bike	7
Can not ride a bike	3

Are there any reasons that would discourage you from getting public transport?

Reason	Number
Punctuality	4
Bullying	4
Confidence/Anxiety	16
Cost	11
Strangers	18
Effort	4
Distance	10
Safety	5
Overcrowding	21
People Vaping	3
Cleanliness	10

Reliability	7
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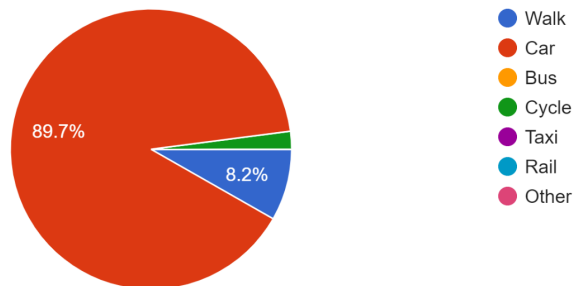
Are there any reasons which would discourage you from walking to school?

Reason	Number
Distance	25
Weather	17
Effort	23
Safety	7

Staff

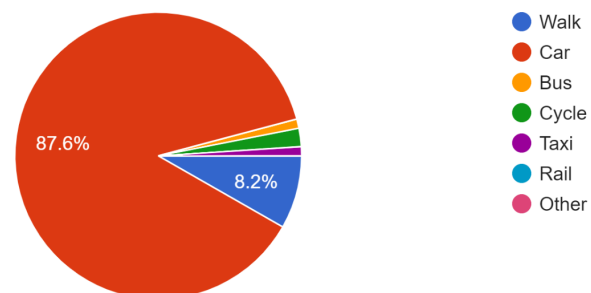
How do you usually travel to school?

97 responses

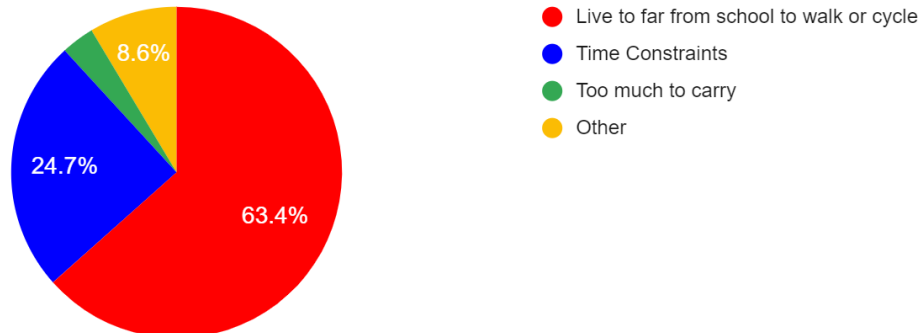


How do you usually travel home from school?

97 responses

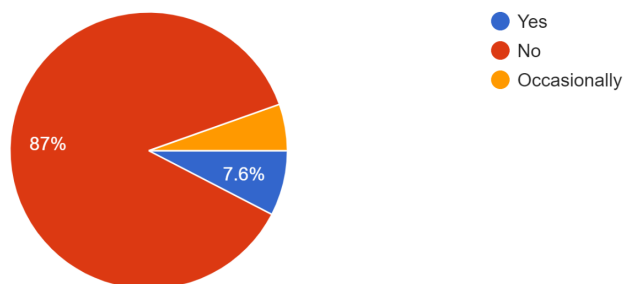


If you travel to/from school by car, what is the main reason for doing so?



If you travel to/from school by car, do you travel with other staff or students from school?

92 responses



Staff comments:

I have considered public transport e.g. trains or trams but it would take me about 2 hours each way.

Too little car parking spaces which cause others to block you in, this can become a pain at lunch if you can't leave, due to being blocked in.

I travel by car as I conduct home visits as part of my role. If I did not do home visits I would walk.

Sometimes I walk or cycle - probably should do it more.

I also sometimes get dropped off and collected

I often drop off husband or daughter at the station on the way to school

I would cycle to work but with going to different primary schools throughout the day I would struggle to get to them on time. Also, trying to park outside school when returning from different schools is very difficult as there is nearly always nowhere to park which then

occasionally makes me late for my lesson at Wardle.

My children are at a local primary school so I travel by car so that I can pick them up after school when my husband is unable to.

I would be happy to car share if we have any staff members coming in from Hebden Bridge/Mytholmroyd

I do both walk and use car but only travel in car if I need to be somewhere after work

Objectives and key targets

Objectives

Following on from the consultation outlined above, we have decided to focus on the following objectives:

- To continue to promote health and personal development of staff and pupils by encouraging increased levels of walking, cycling and public transport use.
- To review and try to improve the bus services to and from the school, accompanied by suitable encouragement for pupils to use this service in preference to using the car.
- Reducing congestions. Pollution, traffic danger and road casualty figures around the school.
- To engender a responsibility attitude in all members of the school community, towards the safety of themselves and others using the roads.
- To increase awareness amongst pupils, staff and parents about the environmental, safety, health and social consequences of their travel choices.

Key Targets

- To inform parents/carers and pupils of the Travel Plan by September 2023 and keep them updated
- To produce a staff database of travel routes to aid car sharing
- To continue to engage with TfGM to discuss bus routes and services
- To provide cycle training for as many pupil as possible
- To produce transition activities to educate new intake years into better travel arrangements.

Action Plan

Action	Target Date	People Involved	Indicators
Increase number of	Sept 2023	PTU/HOY/PLY	Road safety assemblies

students walking to school			form time activities
Educate students on benefits of sustainable travel	Sept 2023	PTU/Citizenship team team/HOY/PLY/ Form tutor	Citizenship SofW Possible links to Geog SofW form time activities
Investigate the installation of Electric Charging stations in staff car park	Sept 2023	PFI team/ZLO	
Engage with bus companies to refine services	Sept 2023	JAA/ACS/TfGM	New improved bus service Reinstate dedicated school bus service

Appendix 1 - Admissions Policy 2023-24

Introduction

This document sets out the admission arrangements of Wardle Academy. For the purposes of this policy, the Watergrove Trust is the admission authority.

Ethos Statement

Wardle Academy is committed to providing you with a transformational educational experience. Your journey will empower you to be personally and academically successful. We know that as a Wardle student you will make a positive impact on our academy, our community and the wider world.

‘The Wardle Way’ values guide all staff and students when we are at school. The values are easy to remember and we will make sure that you have opportunities every day to demonstrate your commitment to our values.

‘The Wardle Way’ is not only a set of values but also an expectation for how you will learn, behave and represent yourself and the Academy.

Process

1. Applications for admission to the school should be made using the Local Authority Common Application Form by the national closing date of 31st October 2022.
2. The Local Authority will inform parents of the offer of a place on behalf of the Watergrove Trust on the national offer date 1st March 2023 or the next working day.
3. Wardle Academy has an admission number of 240 pupils for entry into Year 7. The school will accordingly admit at least 240 each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 240 or fewer apply. The school will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school. Priority will then be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below.

Oversubscription Criteria

- 1. Looked After Children, Previously Looked After Children and Internationally Adopted Looked After Children (LAC, PLAC and**

IAPLAC)

A "Looked After Child" (LAC) 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A "Previously Looked After Child" (PLAC) is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after.

An "Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Child (IAPLAC) is a child who appears (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.

2. Social and Medical need

Priority will be given in exceptional circumstances to a small number of children (or in some cases a close relative of the child) whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend this school over any other.

Supporting evidence in the form of a letter from a doctor or social worker or other relevant qualified, independent professional, would be required. Medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school's legal obligations and does not guarantee that a child will be given priority as each decision will be made on the merits of the individual case.

3. Siblings

Siblings of pupils attending the school during the academic year to which the child would be admitted. 'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a step brother or sister, or other child living in the same household who, in any of these cases, will be living with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the school. This does not include a cousin or other relative.

4. Children eligible for the service premium

Children eligible for admission under this priority are those where:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces;
- one of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years;
- one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil is

in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)

5. Children from Trust primary schools

Children eligible for admission under this priority will attend a Watergrove Trust primary school at the time of application. These are currently;

- Kentmere Academy
- St. Andrews' C.E. Primary School & Nursery, Dearnley
- St. James' C of E Primary School, Wardle

6. Children from partner primary schools

Children eligible for admission under this priority will attend a partner primary school at the time of application. These are currently;

- [Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School](#)
- [Littleborough Community Primary School](#)
- [Smithy Bridge Foundation Primary School](#)
- [Stansfield Hall CE / Free Church Primary School](#)

**Our partner primary schools are defined by our well-established curriculum links.*

7. Children of staff

Children of all staff of the school will be considered where the parent has a permanent contract of employment. Their normal base of work must be at Wardle Academy, Birch Rd, Rochdale, OL12 9RD and their employment contract must have been in place for two or more years at the time of the closing date for application for admission.

8. Distance from school

Proximity to the school with those living closest to the school having priority calculated by:

Once places have been allocated using criteria 1 - 6, any remaining places are allocated on the basis of relative proximity and ease of access to the school but also other schools nearby.

Relative proximity is determined by:

- a) Measuring the shortest, suitable walking distance from the child's home to the centre of the main doors of Wardle Academy (Distance A).
- b) Measuring the shortest, suitable walking distance from the child's home to the main gate of the nearest alternate eligible school to the home address

other than the school that is being applied for (Distance B).

c) Distance B is then subtracted from Distance A to provide a figure known as the relative proximity calculation.

The relative proximity calculation provides the difference in distance that a child would have to travel to attend Wardle Academy and the nearest alternate eligible school to home that is not the school being applied for and, as such, establishes a priority ranking. If the relative proximity calculation is the same for one or more applications, priority will be given to the child who has further to travel to the school that is not the school that is being applied for. If after this it is still not possible to decide on who should be offered the place then any final place will be decided by the drawing of lots.

Tie-breaker

Proximity to the school. This will be measured by the shortest walking distance by road or maintained footpath or other public rights of way from the pupil's home, to the main entrance point of the school using a GIS computerised mapping system.

In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school (as can happen with families living in blocks of flats), random allocation by an independent responsible person at the LA will be used to decide which child(ren) will be allocated the remaining place(s) (in accordance with 1.34 and 1.35 of the School Admissions Code).

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date and before the Rochdale Local Authority admission meeting will be placed last in the criteria in which they fall unless the Watergrove Trust is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented the application from being submitted on time. Supporting evidence, including that provided by the required Supplementary Information Form, must also be supplied by the closing date for applications, unless it is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented it being submitted on time. In the absence of such supporting evidence, the allocation of place will be made on the basis of the application alone.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting on their schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and either agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows: With the application,

parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group (state which one), and the reasons for that request. Parents will submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, headteacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include :

information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;

- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

The Academy Admissions Committee will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, and the reason for any refusal. Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time.

Appeals Procedure

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appellants should submit an admission appeal within 20 days of the letter refusing your child a place at the school. For information on how to appeal, including the appeals timetable, please consult the school website admissions page.

<https://www.wardleacademy.co.uk/school-information/admissions/>

In-Year admissions

From time to time a place becomes available further up the school. The allocation of places is in accordance with the admissions criteria. Further information about In-year admissions can be found on the school website: www.wardleacademy.co.uk

Waiting Lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where, in any year, the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate.

A waiting list will be held by the school for all year groups with the following exception:

In Year 7 the waiting list until the end of the first term after the beginning of the school year, will be maintained by the Local Authority on behalf of Watergrove Trust, and it will be open to any parent to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application. After the first term school will manage the waiting list for Year 7.

Children's position on all waiting lists will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves it.

Definitions

School age

A full-time school place in year 7 is available for children from the September following their 11th birthday, etc.

Walking distances

Walking distances are calculated using the Rochdale GIS system which uses data supplied by Ordnance Survey (OS) to calculate the shortest walking distance between home and school.

The route is measured from the nearest point where the home address joins the OS Highways Network to the defined gate used by the school for admissions. The starting point (child's address) is identified using the easting and northing coordinates for the address as recorded in the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG).

If the school is located in Rochdale, the ending point is calculated to the defined main gate of the school used for admissions. If the school is located in another local authority area, the ending point is measured to the easting and northing coordinates recorded for the school in the DfE Get Information About Schools (GIAS) database.

In order to maximise safety, distances are measured along routes that have either street lighting or a pavement, or both, based on data held by Ordnance Survey unless these routes have been identified as being unsuitable.

Alternate Eligible School

Alternative Eligible School means the nearest (by walking distance) state funded mainstream, non faith, co-educational comprehensive secondary school other than Wardle Academy.

Shared parenting

In instances where a child lives part of the week with one parent and the other part with another parent; the local authority will consider the address where the child mostly wakes up on school days.

If responsibility for the child is shared equally and there are legal arrangements in place to support this; the Trust will accept either address agreed by each parent. If no such legal arrangement exists and parents cannot come to an agreement regarding which address is to be used, the local authority will consider the home address as the one at which child benefit is paid.

Address definition

The address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her parent or parents or legal guardians. Evidence may be requested to show the address, for example: to which any Child Benefit is paid or at which the child is registered with a medical GP together with recent utilities bill, council tax bill or tenancy agreement. This evidence will be used when reaching a decision on the child's home address for admissions purposes (including where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility for each part of the week). Parents should not assume that a place will automatically be allocated to their child.

Enquiries

Should be to the Admissions Department at Wardle Academy, Birch Road, Rochdale, OL12 9RD.

Appendix 2 Bus Timetables - link to TfGM website

- 458 - <https://tfgm.com/public-transport/bus/routes/458-rochdale>
- 456 - <https://tfgm.com/public-transport/bus/routes/456-stansfield>
- 590 - <https://tfgm.com/public-transport/bus/routes/590-halifax-town-centre>