



Shaw
Education
Trust

Unsworth Academy Admissions Policy

Procedure Originator:	A Fair
Approved By:	Academy Council
Queries to:	A Fair
Review Interval:	Annual
Date of last review:	December 2025

Overview

Unsworth Academy is a non-selective, co-educational 11- to 16-year-old Academy, situated in South Bury. The Academy is part of the Shaw Education Trust. The purpose-built premises opened in 2019 and include specialist-teaching rooms for Art, Technology and Music. There is also a state-of-the-art Learning Resource Centre, as well as enviable sports facilities.

These excellent facilities enable us to offer a huge range of subjects, as well as an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities.

We are an Academy that demands and achieves the highest standards in all areas leading to a disciplined, safe, caring and inspiring environment where students achieve their maximum potential. We place great emphasis on the excellent relationships that exist between students and between staff and students. Unsworth Academy believes that students should leave equipped with the best set of exam results they are capable of and the skills and attitude needed to ensure they thrive in a rapidly changing world.

The planned admission number for the Academy for September 2026 will be 187.

Admissions

The Academy Council of Unsworth Academy, as the admission authority, will be responsible for determining who is allocated a place at the Academy in accordance with the Admission Policy.

Applications for a place at Unsworth Academy will be prioritised on the following basis:

1. Children in public care (Looked After Children) and previously looked after children. 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).
2. Children who will have an older brother or sister in the school in the previous September.
For this purpose, a brother or sister may be a full or stepbrother or a full or stepsister, living at the same address, at the time of admission.
3. Other children.

Where there are spaces available but a greater number of preferences, students will be offered places in the order detailed above.

Tiebreaker

If the number of applicants assigned to one of the above oversubscription criteria exceeds the number of remaining places, a tiebreaker will be used to allocate those remaining places amongst that group of applicants. The tiebreaker will be home to school distance in a straight line. The distance will be measured using the Local Authority's computerised mapping system, which measures from the address point of the home property to the address point of the school as defined by Bury Council's LLPG (Local Land and Property Gazetteer).

Our mission:

Unsworth Academy is fully committed to inspiring its students to achieve academic excellence, good character and resilience. This will enable our students to be instrumental in contributing to and shaping British Society in an internationally competitive world.

Application Process

Unsworth Academy is part of Bury local authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. Applications forms and guidance notes are available to download from www.bury.gov.uk or collect in person from the Local Authority.

The closing date for application forms is 31st October

Bury LA will write to the families of all applicants on 1st March giving details of the school to which the pupil has been allocated.

Any Applications received after the closing date will be processed as a late application. Late applications received after the closing date may result in parents/carers not being offered a place at their preferred school. Where possible these applicants will be sent an offer letter on 1st March after all on time applicants have been offered a school place.

Withdrawal of Offer

Parents will be asked to respond directly to the LA. If they do not respond within deadlines set by the LA's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme the offer of a place will be withdrawn. Parents will also wish to note that any offer of a place will be withdrawn where either the application is subsequently found to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading and results in a child with a stronger claim being denied a place (DfE Admission Code 2015 2.12).

Applications for children of multiple births

If one child from a multiple birth (i.e., twins, triplets etc) is given a place at Unsworth Academy then all children from that multiple birth will be offered places.

Appeals

Should a parent or career wish to appeal they should write to the admissions department at Bury LA. Appellants are recommended to lodge their appeal against the refusal of a place by 31st March to ensure that their appeal is heard in the main batch of appeals.

Appeals will be heard by an Independent Appeal Panel.

The determination of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.

Waiting Lists

Waiting lists will be maintained by Bury Local Authority on behalf of Unsworth Academy (the Admission Authority)

The Waiting List for Year 7 will be held until the end of the Autumn Term.

The waiting list is open to any parent for his or her child's name to be placed on the list following either an unsuccessful application or an unsuccessful appeal and must enter the list via school admissions.

A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. Where places in the Academy become vacant, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Fair Access Protocol

In accordance with the requirements of the School Admission Code, the school has signed up to the In-Year Fair Access Protocols held by the Local Authority. Should a vulnerable child within the Protocol require a place at Unsworth Academy, the child will be admitted immediately or will move to the top of the waiting list, as determined by the IYFAP panel.

In-Year Admissions

In-year admissions are requests for places in any year group received by the LA or the Academy outside the ordinary admissions process for Year 7 (i.e. including applications for Year 7 after the beginning of the autumn term).

Parents/carers will be required to contact the LA when enquiring about an In-Year school place as part of its overall role in coordinating admissions. The LA will then ask the Academy's Governing Body whether a place is available, and the LA will then notify parents/carers of the outcome.

If the application is not successful, parents/carers have the right to appeal the decision to an Independent Appeal Panel.

Legislation and statutory requirements.

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

[School Admissions Code](#)

[School Admission Appeals Code](#)

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.



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