



*Believe, Succeed, Together*

## Admissions FAQ (2019 Cohort)

### 1. How many places are available through the preferential admissions (school specialism) route?

10% of the Academy's Published Admission Number (PAN) i.e. 22 places in total.

### 2. How do I apply for a preferential admissions (school specialism) place?

You must complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and return it to the Academy by the **3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018**. SIFs received after this date, will not be considered.

### 3. Who do I send the completed SIF to?

The SIF is in a Word format so can be downloaded and e-mailed to the Coordinator for Admissions, [Admissions@eastwood.southend.sch.uk](mailto:Admissions@eastwood.southend.sch.uk) or posted to: Admissions, The Eastwood Academy, Rayleigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 5UU.

### 4. If I complete a SIF, do I still need to complete a Single Application Form (SAF)?

The SIF, in itself, is **not** an application form. You still need to complete a Single Application Form (SAF) which is accessed via the Southend Borough Council website – [www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk).

If you intend to apply for a preferential admissions (school specialism) place, you must click 'yes' in the relevant box on the SAF.

### Preference Reasons

In order to support your application for a place at **The Eastwood Academy** you can select the appropriate reasons below. You will have the opportunity to tell us in your own words of any additional reasons, or more about your selected reasons, on one of the next pages.

Please see oversubscription criteria in the [Secondary Admissions Booklet](#)

I believe my child lives in this school's catchment  Yes  No/Not Applicable

I am selecting this school because Secondary is a child of a member of staff currently working at this Preference school  Yes  No/Not Applicable

I am selecting this school because my child has an aptitude for the school's specialism(s)  Yes  No/Not Applicable

## 5. Can my child undertake aptitude tests for both P.E and Performing Arts?

Yes – the tests are held on different weeks – refer to Q9. Please note the Academy only offers preferential admission places for Physical Education/Sports and Performing Arts.

Preference Reasons: Specialisms

You have indicated that you are selecting **The Eastwood Academy** because Secondary has an aptitude for the schools specialism(s). Please select one or more specialism(s) reflecting Secondary's aptitude(s):

- Physical Education or Sport
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Design Technology or IT
- Other

If my child does not get a place in this school on their ability or aptitude I would still like them to be considered for this school.  Yes

## 6. What do the tests entail?

### Performing Arts

Candidates wishing to be assessed based on drama and vocal aptitudes will take part in a musical theatre workshop. Candidates wishing to be assessed based on aptitude on a musical instrument will prepare a short performance recital. Candidates may elect to attend one or both of these tests, which will occur on separate days.

As part of your information pack you will be asked to fill in a short form detailing the relevant performance experience of the candidate, together with a passport-sized photograph that will allow the assessors to identify candidates during the workshop. This information will assist assessors but will not form a part of the judgements made, which are made based on a candidate's aptitude rather than previous experience.

#### *Drama and Vocal Workshop*

Candidates will be taken through a two part workshop by subject specialists. The first part will be drama-based and will lead to the performance of a duologue, the script for which will be sent along with your information pack so that candidates may familiarise themselves with the text. Candidates will be allocated roles on the day and paired at random, allowing us to assess aptitude and as such we are not asking for a rehearsed performance to be prepared in advance.

The second part will involve a vocal warm up and rehearsal of a short ensemble song, allowing candidates to demonstrate their aptitude as a chorus member and, by delivering a short solo section, to assess their strength as a solo singer. The song to be learnt will also be sent in advance but, again, this is to allow candidates the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the material rather than to rehearse a finished performance. Candidates will be scored separately in each of the two parts and only their highest score will be used to determine their rank.

### *Music – Instrumental Recital*

Candidates will be expected to prepare a 3 minute piece of solo music on an instrument of their choice, with or without accompaniment. If an accompaniment is required, they may bring an accompanist to the audition or backing track on audio CD. USB sticks, mobile phones and MP3 players will not be accepted and the track to be played should be the only track on the CD provided. The Academy will provide the following instruments/equipment: piano; electronic keyboard (61 keys); drum kit (please advise if left-handed); or guitar/bass amp as well as a CD player and monitor speaker. If a candidate plays an instrument requiring set up or tuning, they should arrive with sufficient time to do so before their audition.

#### *Aptitude*

The aptitude test is divided into 3 criteria. Candidates are awarded an aggregate score out of 100 which is converted into a ranked position.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Accuracy &amp; Fluency</b>	<b>Control &amp; Technique</b>	<b>Expression &amp; Interpretation</b>
<b>Mark</b>	30	30	40

### **Physical Education**

#### *Sports*

The sports in which assessment is available are: Athletics, Swimming, Basketball, Football, Hockey and Netball.

#### *Fitness*

Fitness is assessed using a Bleep Test. This a multi-stage fitness test in which candidates must do shuttle runs in time with the bleeps until the bleeps get too quick to complete a full shuttle run. It is a maximal test which means it will take candidates to their fitness limit. The shuttle runs are done in time to bleep sounds on a pre-recorded device. The time between the recorded bleeps decreases every minute as the level goes up.

#### *Aptitude*

The aptitude test is divided into 3 criteria. Candidates are awarded an aggregate score out of 100 which is converted into a ranked position.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Proficiency</b>	<b>Fitness</b>
<b>Mark</b>	30	30	40

### **7. Who is responsible for assessing the aptitude of candidates?**

For standardisation purposes, two Academy staff will assess every candidate. Following discussion, a consensus will be reached regarding the aggregate score out of 100.

For quality assurances purposes, a person independent of the Academy will assess the aptitude of a representative sample of candidates.

## **8. Can my child submit any supporting documents or other material as part of the aptitude test?**

Candidates can provide any relevant documents or material in support of their aptitude test but they will not form part of the aggregate score out of 100.

## **9. What is the schedule/timetable for the aptitude tests?**

*Performing Arts*

Week commencing **10<sup>th</sup> September 2018**.

*Physical Education*

Week commencing **17<sup>th</sup> September 2018**.

## **10. What if my child is ill or injured on the day of the aptitude test?**

Please inform the Academy as soon as possible. An alternative date may be offered within the scheduled week (refer to Q9).

## **11. What if my child arrives late for the aptitude test?**

All reasonable efforts should be made to attend on time.

## **12. How will my child be informed of his/her chance of obtaining a preferential admissions (school specialism) place?**

Parents will be sent a letter in advance of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

The letter will include:

- The candidate's ranking in respect to the 22 places (Performing Arts and PE) available.

## **13. What is the historical chance of my child obtaining a preferential admissions (school specialism) place?**

There are only 22\* places available. Data from the last 4 years (below) shows the lowest ranking aptitude place of the pupil which secured a place through the Specialist School Place route.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Lowest Ranking Aptitude Place</b>	32 <sup>nd</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>

\*The number of places available has increased incrementally as a result of the PAN increasing from 168 -220.

## **14. My child received a ranking of 23<sup>rd</sup>. What is their chance of obtaining a preferential admissions (school specialism) place?**

There are only 22 places available through the preferential admissions route. If one of the pupils with a ranking of 1-22 declines a place, this becomes available to the pupil who is ranked 23<sup>rd</sup>. Only pupils ranked from 1-22 can be sure of a place through the preferential admissions (school specialism) route.