16+ Admissions Policy

Approved by Governors March 2014
Sidney Stringer Academy Admissions Policy for 16+

Aim:

It is our aim when considering applications is to accept students onto a course of study which will suit their learning style and encourage them to flourish academically. Judgements and offers will be made based upon an appropriate level of prior academic achievement. **We expect all students at Sidney Stringer to have a positive attitude to, and aptitude for, learning.**

Admissions Policy:

The Post 16 Provision at Sidney Stringer Academy can support up to 300 students in years 12, 13 and 14.

Admission to a course will depend upon availability of places as well as a student’s prior attainment at GCSE.

The Academy operates a sixth form for a maximum of 300 students.

Taking into account choices for AS and BTEC Levels of study, applications will be refused where the Academy considers the size of teaching sets to be detrimental to the education of the group and where it is not financially or educationally desirable for the Governors to alter the balance of the Academy’s staffing or to appoint additional staff.

All applicants who have been offered a place must attend the 16+ induction programme (‘A Week in the Life’) which is held at the end of the summer term and the September induction days. Should a student fail to attend these without notification and a valid reason, the Academy reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place in the Sixth Form.

Sidney Stringer Academy is a full time education provider and, under the Raising of the Participation Age introduced in 2013, the minimum hours a student must study to be classed as being in ‘full time education’ is 600 learning hours. In **2015-16** students must remain in education or a job with training until their 18th birthday however the compulsory school leaving age remains at 16. This does not mean that students automatically transfer from Key Stage 4 into Key Stage 5 and it is an expectation that all students will follow the application process if they wish to progress to study with us.
Entry Criteria for Courses:

Our policy is to ensure that students accepted into the Sixth Form can be placed on appropriate courses where they are likely to succeed. For this reason the following entry criteria apply to the courses offered:

**A Levels and Vocational A Levels:**

- *We expect that once students have been accepted on to a course that they will have a positive, self-motivated approach to learning.*
- Students are accepted onto 16+ courses on the basis of their GCSE and BTEC performances. To follow A level or vocational A Level courses, students must have 5 or more GCSEs at C to A* in a mixture of subjects, to include English and Maths.
- They must also meet the subject specific entry requirements (see 16+ prospectus)

**Level 3 Courses (BTEC)**

- *We expect that once students have been accepted on to a course that they will have a positive, self-motivated approach to learning.*
- For students to study BTEC Level 3 courses they will need to have achieved 5 or more GCSEs at C to A*, or a Level 2 BTEC First Qualification at a merit grade or above.

For both of the above pathways, individual subjects may have their own, subject-specific, requirements for entry; these are outlined fully in the prospectus each year.

**External Students:**

The Academy will admit up to 20 students from outside Sidney Stringer into Year 12. Entry requirements for courses are the same as those for internal candidates.

For successful external applicants, a formal written acceptance of the offer will be required by the date indicated in the offer letter. Should a student fail to accept the offer by this date the school reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place in Sixth Form.

External applications received by the closing date will be considered before all subsequent external applications. Late applications from external applicants will only be considered if places become available in all subjects requested at the time of receiving the application. This date can be found in the 16+ prospectus.
**Allocation of Places:**

If Sidney Stringer Academy Sixth Form is oversubscribed (and where students meet the admissions requirements and where there are spaces on courses that the applicant wishes to take), the allocation of places will be offered in the following order of priority:

a) Children who, at the time of admission, are in the care of a local authority or are provided with accommodation by the authority (looked after children). Also children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order.

A looked-after child is defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

b) Children who live in the catchment area* served by the school, who have a brother or sister at the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission. The definition of brother or sister includes step-brothers, step-sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same permanent address.

c) Other children who live in the catchment area* served by the school.

d) Children living outside the catchment area* served by the school with a brother or sister who currently attends the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission. This criterion applies to all children who live outside the school catchment area but have a brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, adopted brother or sister who already attend the school requested and who will continue to do so on the date of admission and live at the same permanent address.

e) Children of staff working at the school, with two years’ service at the time of application. Staff refers to any person employed by the Governing body of the school, or if employed by another organisation who works wholly or mainly in the school. (see the academy admission policy for further details)

**Appeals Process:**

If an applicant is refused a place at Sidney Stringer Academy Sixth Form, there is a right of appeal to the Appeals Panel. Applicants wishing to appeal should do so, in writing, to the Appeals Clerk at the Academy.