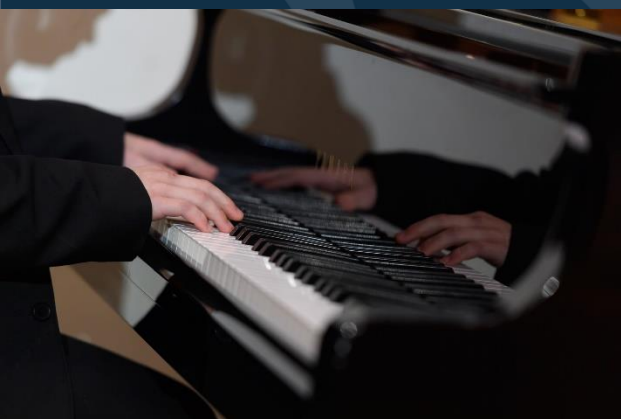




THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL
AND PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Performing Arts Admissions for 2027 Entry Application Pack

AMBITION RESPECT CARE



Welcome to The Avon Valley School & Performing Arts College!

Choosing the right secondary school is a significant and exciting step for both parents and children, marking the beginning of a new adventure. We are delighted that you are considering us for this important journey!

We are a vibrant and supportive community. Everything we do is guided by our core values of **ambition**, **respect**, and **care**, which truly form the DNA of our school. From our classrooms to our extracurricular activities, our values foster a positive and inclusive environment where every child feels valued, supported, both personally and academically, and inspired to chase their dreams and make a difference in the world around them.

Why Choose Avon Valley School?

A Nurturing Community

Our dedicated staff and supportive culture ensure that every student feels a strong sense of belonging, making the transition to secondary school a truly warm and welcoming one.

Academic Excellence

We are committed to providing a first-class education, unlocking the potential of every student through engaging and challenging learning experiences. Our aim is for students to enjoy their school days while being equipped with the essential skills and knowledge for life.

Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

We pride ourselves on our supportive and nurturing environment. Our robust pastoral care system ensures every student feels valued, heard and supported in their personal and social development, creating a truly positive school experience.

Values in Action

Our core values of ambition, respect, and care are lived daily by our students and staff. This strong foundation builds character, resilience, and a deep understanding of what it means to be a responsible and compassionate member of the community.

Beyond the Classroom

Academic achievement is important to us, and we are proud of our students' success. But life at AVS is about so much more. We also place great value in encouraging all students to participate in the many social, cultural and sporting clubs, performances and activities that we offer. We believe that this encourages good social skills and the development of lifelong learners.

Performing Arts

As a Performing Arts College, creativity and expression are at the heart of our school. While we offer specialist places for aptitude in performing arts, all our students benefit from an enriched curriculum that fosters confidence, collaboration, and self-expression through music, drama, dance, and more. This vibrant environment allows talents to flourish across all areas of school life.

In 2024, our dedication to the arts was nationally recognised when AVS won Best School Show at the National Schools Theatre Awards. In 2026, we not only opened the National School Theatre Awards ceremony but again won best School Show. This was an incredible achievement that reflects the hard work, passion and teamwork of our students and staff.

I encourage you to visit, to see how our values and culture flow throughout the school, and the pride that our staff and students have at being part of Avon Valley School. I'm confident that you'll discover Avon Valley is a warm, welcoming place where your son/daughter can really thrive.

Blake Francis, Headteacher

AMBITION, RESPECT, CARE

Frequently Asked Questions about the Application Process

1. *Why can The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College choose 10% of its intake based on potential and/or aptitude in the Performing Arts Subjects?*

In December 2015, the Governors of The Avon Valley School & Performing Arts College elected to change the admissions process to allow 10% of its student intake in Year 7 to be selected on their aptitude in the Performing Arts. This facility exists as part of the legislation surrounding specialism in schools. It is logical that students who have the greatest potential and aptitude in these areas receive the full benefit of the above and so designated schools can select 10% of their intake.

2. *How many children is 10% of The Avon Valley School's intake?*

Up to 22 students will be selected on their aptitude in any one discipline or a combination of the three disciplines.

3. *How do I apply for my child to be part of the 10% for September 2027?*

To apply for one of the Performing Arts specialist places at the school, please complete the online application form via the following link (*If you have any problems opening the link, please copy and paste the link into your browser*):

<https://forms.gle/FJsUaWpT7kbLG25G9>

Please note: The telephone number and email address you provide on the application form will be used for communication on the next stages.

If you have any questions about the Performing Arts application form, please contact Kathy Watts at the school: kwatts@avonvalleyschool.uk.

Deadline for Performing Arts Applications: 3.30pm on Monday 28th September 2026

An acknowledgement will be sent via email to confirm receipt of the application.

Any applications received after Monday 28th September 2026 will not be considered.

4. *How will I know if my child has an audition?*

All students who have submitted an application by the deadline of **Monday 28th September 2026** will be invited to audition. Details of the audition day will be sent out after the closing date.

You will also need to submit an application with your Local Authority for a secondary school place.

If you live in Warwickshire, please use the following link: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-secondary-school-place>

If you live outside of Warwickshire, you will need to submit an application with **your** Local Authority and state Avon Valley School as your choice. The Local Authorities then co-ordinate admissions.

The deadline for the Warwickshire Local Authority form is **31st October 2026 (please check your local authority deadline if outside of Warwickshire).**

5. Where and when are the auditions?

Auditions will take place on **Friday 9th October 2026** and applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process in writing before **23rd October 2026**.

6. What happens if I cannot make the auditions?

We strongly advise that all applicants attend their audition. If you are unavailable on **Friday 9th October 2026** because of a prior commitment, please let us know as soon as possible.

7. What will my child have to do at the auditions?

Students arrive at school for 9.30am and the selection process will run until 3.00pm. Students will need to bring a packed lunch and plenty to drink.

The audition process consists of practical group workshop assessments led by the **Performing Arts Staff from The Avon Valley School**, who will be present throughout the day. Students will have their aptitude assessed across **all three disciplines** (Music, Dance, and Drama), which includes a formal listening exercise in Music. These assessments are designed to be objective and subject-specific, ensuring no discrimination based on ethnic origin, disability, or family background.

Please note: Students will only be assessed on their aptitude in the three disciplines of Music, Dance and Drama. There is no assessment of any other subjects.

In addition to the group workshops, students must **select one discipline** (Dance, Drama, or Music) for a **one-and-a-half-minute solo performance**. Students should prepare a piece to perform. If applying for musical aptitude, they should prepare a short piece to perform on their chosen instrument or voice.

This performance will be evaluated by subject specialists, in the chosen area of Dance, Drama or Music, and videoed by technicians for review.

There may be other staff and student prefects present during workshops to help. They do not participate in the decision-making process. To maintain a professional environment, **parents and other students are not permitted** to observe the auditions.

8. How will I know if my child's application/audition has been successful?

You will be informed in writing of your child's 'ranked' position before **23rd October 2026**. However, you will not know if your child has been allocated to The Avon Valley School until the Local Authority designates all the school places on Offer Day, **1st March 2027**.

9. How can I find out how my child performed at the auditions?

Each child that auditions will have a feedback sheet completed at the time of audition, and all practical work will be videoed. If you would like feedback after you have received your child's 'ranked' position, please email Kathy Watts, kwatts@avonvalletschool.uk, and this will be provided to you. You will not however (for legal reasons) be able to watch or look at the records of other candidates.

10. What criteria will be used to judge my child's performance, composition and appreciation skills during the audition?

Students with an aptitude for the Performing Arts (Drama, Dance, or Music) are those who show a strong capacity to succeed in these disciplines, and who would highly benefit from specialised teaching in these subjects. This evaluation considers not only their current ability but also their potential to grow, develop, and succeed in the future.

The subject areas will be assessed in four common ways:

- Performance
- Composition
- Appreciation
- Personal Skills

Assessment criteria have been written for each subject area. These and the tasks will be given on the day, and not in advance, to prevent prior training or coaching of applicants.

Quality and fairness will be assured with a specialist teacher from the school leading the workshop assessment whilst another specialist teacher observes and assesses.

If you feel that the assessment has been conducted unfairly in any way, you may address your complaint in the first instance to the Chair of the Admissions Committee, via the PA to the Headteacher, Kathy Watts, kwatts@avonvalleyschool.uk.

11. *Will my child be disadvantaged if they have not had lessons outside school or completed external exams?*

No. The school is looking to enable all children with potential to excel in their chosen area.

To apply for a place for September 2027 entry, use the QR code below:



