

BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Admissions Policy for 2010 Entry

GENERAL

Bournemouth School for Girls is a Grammar School with Foundation status. It is a single sex non-denominational school for girls aged 11 to 18.

Only girls who attain the required standards in the prescribed arrangements for selection by reference to high ability and aptitude will be eligible to be considered for admission to the school. Selection is by means of entrance tests other than where stated below.

NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS

The school's published admissions number (i.e. the maximum number of pupils admitted each September at age 11) is 162.

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Admission to Year 7 (normal point of entry):

Admissions arrangements for entry to Year 7 are coordinated in conjunction with the Bournemouth Admissions Forum and the Local Authority. For admission to Year 7 girls must have reached the age of 11 years on or before 31st August in the year of admission.

In exceptional circumstances, a girl may be considered for early entry provided she has been educated in an older year-group for at least one full academic year. In such circumstances, clear and unequivocal evidence must be provided to the school, at the time of application, that her acceleration has the support of the pupil herself, her parents/carers, the primary school's Link Educational Psychologist and SEN/Gifted & Talented Inspector and that there is agreement that accelerated transfer will promote the girl's academic and social development.

APPLICATIONS

The appropriate application process is dependant on the applicant's normal place of residence. Application for entry cannot be made directly to the school.

Bournemouth Residents:

An application for a place for a girl who is resident in Bournemouth must be made online or on the single Bournemouth application form, a copy of which is available from the girl's current Bournemouth primary school or from the Bournemouth Local Authority. Application forms must be returned by the closing date to the Local Authority at the address shown on the application form.

The closing date for applications will be that published by the Bournemouth Local Authority.

Other applicants (i.e. those residing outside the Borough of Bournemouth)

All other applicants must apply online or using the single application form provided by the Local Authority which covers the area in which they live. Applications for Bournemouth School for Girls must be returned to the 'home' Local Authority in good time for that Local Authority to pass the application information to Bournemouth Local Authority by the Bournemouth Local Authority closing date for applications.

All applicants

Please note: late applications will not be considered at the first allocation of places until all applications received on time have been dealt with.

Details of the entrance tests will be sent to parents after the closing date for applications. These tests will take place on one Saturday in November (or at a date decided by the local Admissions Forum) for all pupils who have applied to the Local Authority by the closing date. On the day of testing, pupils will take Reasoning, English and Mathematics tests.

DECISION PROCESS

Following the tests each girl will be placed in one of three bands:

- A. Candidates who achieve the following selective scores will be eligible for admission.
 - i) Verbal Reasoning test – the selective score is that achieved by the 150th girl in the Verbal Reasoning test
 - ii) Mathematics – the selective score is that achieved by the 150th girl in the Mathematics test
 - iii) English – the selective score is that achieved by the 150th girl in the English test.
- B. Borderzone candidates are those who achieve the selective score in two of the three elements (Reasoning, English and Mathematics) or whose total score is within 3% of the aggregate of the qualifying selective scores of the three tests.
- C. Other candidates are not eligible for admission.

Pupils placed in the borderzone (Band B) are considered by the Admissions Panel, which will take into account the entrance test results and any additional evidence provided by the current Headteacher with reference to ability and aptitude in deciding which girls are eligible for admission. Pupils' current Headteachers are contacted for information on all borderzone candidates unless parents have requested otherwise in writing to the Admissions Panel.

The Admissions Panel also considers, under the borderzone arrangements, any pupils who fall below the borderzone, but whose current Headteachers believe to be worthy of special consideration. In these cases, Headteachers will be asked to provide evidence to support this request for special consideration.

Eligible girls are those within Band A and those from Band B accepted as eligible by the Admissions Panel.

In early March, the pupil's home Local Authority will send to all applicants who have applied by the published closing date details of the outcome of their application.

OVER-SUBSCRIPTION

A school is legally required to admit an eligible child with Special Educational Needs where there is a statement issued by a Local Authority naming that school. Therefore, where a school has a number of children being admitted with a Statement naming the school, this will reduce accordingly the number of places available, as expressed by the Published Admission Number.

In the event of the number of girls eligible for admission as a result of the selection arrangements exceeding the planned admission number, the following criteria will apply, in the order set out below, to decide which girls to admit:

- i. Eligible girls who are "looked after" (as defined by s.22 Children Act 1989);
- ii. Eligible girls who are placed in Band A, in rank order to be determined by the Admissions Panel;
- iii. Eligible girls from Band B accepted by the Admissions Panel, in rank order to be determined by the Admissions Panel.

In the event that two or more eligible girls are of equal ranking for the last place in any of these criteria, then priority will be given to the pupil whose ordinary residence is nearest to Bournemouth School for Girls, measured by a straight line on a map from the ground floor level of the pupil's ordinary residence to the front door of the school. If all distances are equal, for example a flat in a block of dwellings with the same front entrance, a lottery will be used to determine the allocation.

ADMISSION OUTSIDE THE NORMAL POINTS OF ENTRY

Although the usual ages of admission are 11 and 16, suitably qualified pupils may be admitted between these ages when there are vacancies. No borderzone is used for admission outside the normal points of entry – applicants are required to demonstrate that they are of the standard to warrant automatic entry to the school. Entry to Years 7 to 11 is by means of assessment tests carried out at the school. The school will not accept applications from pupils previously tested by the school and who did not meet the standards required for admission.

Testing for admission outside the normal points of entry is carried out as soon as practicable after the application is received by the school. The 10 secondary schools in Bournemouth, together with Bournemouth Local Authority, operate an In-Year Fair Access Protocol which is reviewed by the Admissions Forum on a regular basis.

ADMISSION TO THE SIXTH FORM

The published admission number (in addition to any girls already in Year 11 at the school) is 40. All pupils in the Sixth Form are required to have achieved six GCSEs (including Mathematics and English) at grades A*-C, preferably with an A*, A or B in the subjects chosen at Advanced Level or in a related subject. A separate booklet giving information about the Sixth Form is available on request.

WAITING LISTS

The school operates a formal waiting list for pupils wishing to attend the school and who have met the qualification requirements laid out above. The school will fill any vacant places from the waiting list using the oversubscription criteria set out above. The waiting list does not give priority either to those that have been on the waiting list the longest or to those that applied after the closing date.

Waiting lists for main entry years will cease on 31st December 2010. Previous applicants wishing to continue on a waiting list must re-apply to the school between 1st and 31st December 2010. Waiting lists for all other year groups will cease at the end of the academic year 2010/11. Applicants will be required to re-apply (in August 2011) for admission if they wish to continue to be considered for a place. The school will review waiting lists whenever a place becomes available.

APPEALS

Parents whose application for their daughter to be considered for admission to the school is unsuccessful have a right of appeal. In the first instance, they are invited to contact the school to discuss their dissatisfaction. If they remain dissatisfied, they will be given details of the formal appeals procedures and the relevant forms to complete.