

THE CROSSLEY HEATH SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY For entry September 2011

Responsibility: Governing Body
Date for Review September 2011
(Amended July 2009)

THIS POLICY IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CALDERDALE SECONDARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS BOOKLET

1.0 Introduction

1.1 In order to preserve the established character of the school, only boys and girls who attain the required standard in the prescribed arrangements for selection by reference to academic ability and attainment will be eligible to be considered for admission to the school.

2.0 Admission at 11+

2.1 For entry to year 7, the school operates a joint admissions process with the North Halifax Grammar School (NHGS). Parents must apply on the common preference form through the LA co-ordinated scheme.

2.2 The Published Admission Number for the two grammar schools will be 310, (at least 155 will be offered places at CHS and 155 at NHGS). Entry to the schools will be determined by academic ability and attainment, as identified by:

- (a) a nationally validated test in verbal reasoning, supplied by a recognised body such as NFER or the Centre for Research on Learning and Instruction, University of Edinburgh; (*see note 1*)
- (b) a test in Mathematics; (*see note 2*) and
- (c) a test in continuous writing in English.

The test in continuous writing will be completed by all pupils, but will only be taken into consideration in the case of the final places to be offered and for those pupils identified as 'reserves'

Note 1: the reasoning test is a predictor of future performance and as such does not rely upon material that will have been covered in the primary school curriculum. The results from the test are standardized and age-weighted.

Note 2: The test scores for mathematics are given a weighting equal to half the value of the verbal reasoning.

2.3 After the tests are completed pupils will be placed in a single list based on their performance in terms of aggregated scores in tests (a) and (b). Those with the highest score will be at the top of the list, which will therefore be an order of merit. Some 75% of places available (ie at least 116 at each school) will be offered to that same number of pupils who achieved the highest aggregate scores in tests (a) and (b). The final 25% of places will be offered on the basis of aggregate scores in all three tests. (The same method will be used to identify those pupils who will be offered places on a reserve list).

2.4 In accordance with the details outlined in the Calderdale Secondary Schools Admissions Booklet, the pupils identified in the order of merit, assessed as suitable for a Grammar School place and being capable of gaining full advantage from the type of education provided, will be notified to the LA. The LA will then allocate places according to the co-ordinated scheme.

2.5 If several pupils satisfy the first order criteria equally, then a range of supplementary criteria will be invoked, in this order:

- (a) children in public care;
- (b) proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearer accorded the highest priority (as measured by a straight line distance from the front door of the home or main entrance to a block of flats to the school's main entrance). If there is shared responsibility between parents, the home will be that place in which the child spends the majority of time in a school week when the school is in session.
- (c) Last place to pupils with siblings (to include step-siblings resident in the same household) presently attending the school (excluding those in their final year).

- 3.0 Applications for Casual Vacancies in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
- 3.1 Governors must retain and protect the character of the school and are obliged to honour the criteria of ability and attainment which have formed the basis of selection at 11+. Thus governors will ensure that any pupil who is admitted to the school in years 7-11 other than by selection at 11+, either:
-would have passed the selection tests if they had been taken,
Or
-if the tests were taken but the pupil was not offered a place, that sufficient improvement has been made to warrant the offer of a place.
- 3.2 Parents who wish their children to be considered for entry to the school in Years 7-11 inclusive should make a written application to Calderdale LA.
- 3.2 If there is a vacancy in years **7-8**, the applicants appropriate to the year in which the vacancy has arisen will be invited into school to take the most recent school tests in English, Mathematics, French (or equivalent MFL) and Science. The Year Group Leader (YGL) will meet with the prospective parents. The vacancy will be offered to the candidate who provides the strongest evidence of appropriate ability and aptitude. However, any candidate who has previously failed to qualify for a place at one of the Halifax Grammar Schools, regardless of their age when the test was taken, will only be considered for a place in Year 7 or 8 if there are no applicants on the list who did not sit the test and sufficient improvement has been made to warrant the offer of a place. Pupils may be placed on a waiting list which will be managed through the coordinated scheme.
- 3.3 Parents will be asked to give their permission for the school to approach the child's present school and to ask for an assessment of his/her ability.
- 3.4 On the basis of the judgement reached by the YGL and the Head Teacher, the pupil, if a single candidate, will be offered the available place if the criteria of ability and attainment appear to have been satisfied.
- 3.5 In the case of more applicants than available places, candidates will be tested, if possible and where practicable simultaneously, and the place/places will be offered to those who demonstrate the strongest ability in the areas tested. In the case of apparent equality of attainment, the criteria established under 2.5 will be invoked.
- 3.6 Applications from pupils who have not previously taken the selection tests at 11+ will be considered, alongside each other if necessary for entry into Years **7 and 8**.
- 3.7 For entry into Years 9, 10 and 11 applications will be treated equally whether or not the pupil has previously taken the school's selection tests. **Teacher assessment levels in Maths, English and Science will be taken into account. (It should be noted that the School operates an accelerated curriculum and a decision to accept a pupil is dependent on whether or not his/her course requirements can be met.**
- 4.0 Entry to the Sixth Form
- 4.1 Admission to A level courses is arranged on the basis of attainment in GCSE examinations in relevant subjects. At present the minimum requirement is 6 GCSE subjects at Grade C or above (***including English and Maths***), 4 of which should be at grade B, with a grade B in any subject being taken at A level. ***In the case of an A level subject that has not been studied at GCSE, a B in an agreed other subject.***
- 4.2 The school has a long tradition, continuing from the Crossley and Porter and the Heath Schools, of admitting sixth form pupils from other schools. External applicants will be invited into school to meet with the Post 16 Manager to discuss courses and options. If they meet the admissions criteria and there are places available, the Post 16 Manager will offer places to applicants who are considered to be capable of benefiting from the course offered. If there are more candidates than available places then the oversubscription criteria applicable in the lower school will be applied.
- 4.3 The Published Admission Number for external applicants into the 6th form will be determined by the number of Year 11 students staying on in Year 12, the retention from Year 12 to Year 13 and the physical capacity of the school, but will not normally be less than 20.