

# The North Halifax Grammar School

For entry September 2011

<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Admissions</b>
<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>Governing Body</b>
<b>Statutory Reference:</b>	<b>School Admissions Code</b>
<b>Date to be reviewed by Governing Body:</b>	<b>January 2011</b>

## **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 Crossley Heath School (CHS). 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 NHGS and 155 at CHS). Entry to the two 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;
- b) a test in Mathematics and
- c) a test in continuous writing in English.

The reasoning test (a) 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 standardised and age-weighted. The Mathematics test (b) is based upon the Key Stage 2 programme of study and the test scores for Mathematics are given a weighting equal to half the value of the verbal reasoning. The test in continuous writing (c) 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.

2.3 After the tests are completed, pupils will be placed in a single list based on their performance in terms of aggregated scores on tests (a) and (b). Those with the highest scores 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 achieve 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. The test in continuous writing will be completed by all pupils, but will only be taken into consideration in the case of the final 25% of places to be offered.

- 2.4 In accordance with the details outlined in the Calderdale Admissions to Secondary Schools 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 Local Authority (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. Distance will be calculated using a straight line measurement from the pupil's home to the closest designated school gate. Distances will be calculated using the LA's Geographical Information System (GIS). To ensure consistency, all measurements will be carried out by the LA's GIS system and no other method of measuring distance will be considered. Each property has a coordinate taken from Ordnance Survey ADDRESS-POINT data. This is the point which distance measurements will be taken from. If there is a 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.

### **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 into Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 other than by the selection procedure 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.
- 3.3 If there is a vacancy in Years 7-9 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. A member of the admissions staff will meet with the prospective parents.
- 3.4 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 or her ability.
- 3.5 On the basis of the judgement reached by the Sectional Leader and the Headteacher, the pupil, if a single candidate, will be offered the available place if the criteria of ability and attainment appear to have been satisfied.
- 3.6 In the case of more applicants than available places, candidates will be tested, if possible and where practicable simultaneously, and the place or places will be offered to those who demonstrate the strongest ability in the areas tested. In the case of an apparent equality of attainment, the criteria established under 2.5 (a) to (c) above will be invoked.

- 3.7 Subsequent applications from pupils who were not offered a place in the 11+ selection system will not normally be considered for entry into Years 7 and 8 unless Governors conclude that special circumstances exist. Pupils may be placed on a waiting list which will be managed through the co-ordinated scheme. Places will be offered based on performance in appropriate tests in English, Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages.
- 3.8 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, 8 and 9.
- 3.9 For entry into Years 10 and 11, applications will be treated equally, whether or nor the pupil has previously taken the school's selection tests.

#### **4.0 Admission into 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, which must include be four at grade B or above and C grades or above in English and Mathematics. Grades higher than C may be required for acceptance onto certain courses. Equivalent vocational qualifications may be accepted for entry into the Sixth Form.
- 4.2 External applicants meet with a member of the Sixth Form Leadership Team to discuss courses and options. If they meet the admissions criteria and there are places available in the Sixth Form, the Sixth Form Leader will offer places to applicants who are considered to be capable of benefiting from the courses offered. If there are more candidates than available places then the oversubscription criteria set out in 2.5 will be applied.
- 4.3 The Published Admission Number for external applicants into the Sixth Form will be determined by the number of Year 11 students staying on in Year 12 but will not normally be less than 20.