



Admissions Policy (Day places)

For entry in September 2021

ADMISSIONS POLICY (DAY PLACES) 2021

The admissions policy for The Royal Grammar School follows the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for Secondary Schools in the Area of Buckinghamshire County Council Local Authority unless stated. This will be referred to as The County Scheme. The County Scheme is available on the Buckinghamshire County Council website www.buckscc.gov.uk or click [here](#) for a link. Parents wishing to apply to the school should also read this policy in conjunction with the Parents' Guide "Moving up to Secondary School", which is published by the County Council in May of each year. Please note that RGS also offers boarding places for qualified boys. Please see our Admissions Policy (Boarding) for information.

1.0 ADMISSION NUMBERS

The Planned Admission Number for Years 7 – 11 is **182** day places and **10** boarding places.¹

For Year 12, there will be **30** additional places for students who have fulfilled the entry requirement, in addition to students from the school's own Year 11 who have fulfilled the entry requirement.

2.0 11+ ADMISSION (YEAR 7 IN SEPTEMBER 2021)

Boys are eligible to be considered for admission to the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, in Year 7 if they meet the required qualifying score of 121 in the Buckinghamshire Secondary Transfer Test (STT) or have been deemed qualified by a Selection Review Panel (or, in exceptional circumstances, an Admissions Appeal).

Boys sit two test papers in September of the year prior to proposed admission. Boys sit both papers on the same day. Each test paper is approximately 60 minutes in length including an introduction and practice examples. The STT assesses verbal, non-verbal and mathematical skills. The child's scores in each of the three skills areas are age-standardised to ensure boys are placed on an equal footing regardless of when their birthday falls in the year. The three age-standardised scores are then added together to give the child's Secondary Transfer Test Score (STTS). Boys need an STTS of 121 or more in order to automatically qualify for a grammar school place.

Registration for testing is automatic for boys who attend Buckinghamshire Primary schools unless the parent expressly withdraws their child from testing. In all other cases, including where boys attend independent schools in Buckinghamshire and non-Buckinghamshire Primary schools, an application for testing should be made to Buckinghamshire County Council, the Test Administrator for of all the Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools, by 25 June 2020. In addition, all applicants must notify their home Local Authority of their preference for the school prior to the closing date of 31 October 2020.

Parents of any child who does not achieve the qualifying score of 121 may apply for a Selection Review if they believe that their child would have met the qualifying score but for particular circumstances regarding their participation in the selection testing process. The Selection Review will be carried out by a panel comprising serving Secondary and Primary Headteachers, supported by a clerk. The Panel will consider each written application received and, where appropriate, will obtain advice from an Educational Psychologist prior to making a decision. The Selection Review process will take place before places are allocated and boys who are deemed qualified by the panel will be eligible for admission to any of the Buckinghamshire grammar schools.

After places have been allocated, parents will be entitled to make representations to an Independent Appeal Panel if their child has been refused admission because the school is full. The Royal Grammar School High Wycombe has contracted Buckinghamshire County Council to manage appeals on the school's behalf.

(An Independent Appeal Panel hearing will not ordinarily carry out a full review of a pupil's capacity to qualify in the Secondary Transfer Test as that process should have taken place at the Selection Review.)

¹ In the event of under-subscription for boarding places, vacant places may be converted to day places.

2.1 11+ Admission Over-subscription Criteria

Where eligible applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below to decide which student to admit.

Boys who qualify and who have a statement of Special Educational Needs that names the school will be admitted prior to the application of the over-subscription criteria.

1. Looked after and previously looked after boys.²
2. Boys living in the catchment area³ of the school who qualify for Free School Meals. Boys must be in receipt of FSM on the date that registration for testing closes (31 October).
3. Brothers of boys who are on the roll of the school at the time an application is made, and who are expected to be on the roll of the school at the time of the proposed admission.⁴
4. Boys living in the catchment area of the school.³
5. Sons of a member of staff where a) the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
6. Once the rules have been applied, any further places will be offered in distance order using straight line distance between the family's normal home address and the nearest pupil entrance to the school offering the closest first (adopted County scheme).

Where the distance criterion produces an absolute tie, each boy will be admitted.

2.2 Waiting List

If any vacancies arise between National Offer Day (1st March) and 31st October of the same year, first priority will be given to those on the waiting list managed by Buckinghamshire County Council through the County Scheme. Each child added to the waiting list will require the list to be ranked again in line with the published over-subscription criteria. From 1st November until the annual round of testing (January / February), a waiting list will be maintained by the Royal Grammar School for admissions into Year 7. If places become available during that period, or for the beginning of the following academic year, admissions will be handled in accordance with the Late Transfer Procedure outlined below.

If parents decline an offer of a place, they may subsequently re-join the waiting list. The boy's name will be added onto the end of the waiting list as extant at the time of the application to re-join. This will apply until the next round of testing, when such a candidate will need to be re-tested and the waiting list is then renewed.

² Looked after children are children in the care of local authorities as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, and in public care at the time of application to a school. Previously looked after children were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).

³ The catchment area of the school is defined in the County Scheme as illustrated on the County Council's website www.buckscc.gov.uk – it can also be found [here](#).

⁴ "Brother" means one of two (or more) children who have one or more parent in common, or any other child (including an adopted child) who lives permanently at the same address, and for whom the parent also has parental responsibility.

3.0 LATE TRANSFER PROCEDURE

Information: *The School has exceeded its planned admission number (PAN) in September 2020 (Year 7). As there are already 210 boys planned for this year group, we will not be scheduling a testing round for Year 8 commencing 2021.*

Admission to Years 9 and 10 (and to Year 7 from 1st November each academic year) will be handled in accordance with the school's Late Transfer Procedure. Only in exceptional cases will any place be offered in Year 10 starting after September, or at any time in Year 11, because of the nature of GCSE courses, even when the year group is below the Planned Admission Number.

3.1 Testing Criteria

The academic eligibility of candidates seeking admission under the school's Late Transfer Procedure will be assessed through curriculum-based tests in English and Mathematics for Years 7-10. Candidates will be required to achieve a minimum standard in each of the tests in order to be considered for admission, determined by a pass mark.

3.2 September Admission

Boys seeking admission to Years 9 and 10 at the start of the next academic year will need to apply to sit tests in the Annual Testing Round. This is organised by the school and will take place in January / February of the calendar year in which admission is sought in September. The deadline for registration for the tests will be the second Monday in January of the same year. Evidence of normal home address will be required.

3.3 Immediate Admission

Boys who have moved into the local area and are seeking admission into the school before the next Annual Testing Round may apply for immediate admission to Years 7, 8 or 9 and will be tested as soon as reasonably possible. Evidence of normal home address will be required.

3.4 Late Transfer Over-subscription Criteria

Where eligible applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below to decide which student to admit.

Boys who meet the minimum qualifying standard and who have a statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that names the school will be admitted prior to the application of the over-subscription criteria.

1. Looked after and previously looked after boys.
2. Boys with the highest aggregate score in tests taken who are in receipt of Free School Meals on the day of registration for the tests⁵. Where the aggregate score is an absolute tie, test results will be ranked in the following order: English then mathematics.
3. Brothers of boys who are on the roll of the school at the time an application is made, and who are expected to be on the roll of the school at the time of the proposed admission.
4. Sons of a member of staff where a) the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
5. Once the rules have been applied, any further places will be offered in distance order using straight line distance between the family's normal home address and the nearest pupil entrance to the school offering the closest first (adopted County scheme).

3.5 Late Transfer Waiting List

Boys who have qualified and have not been allocated a place may have their name placed on the waiting list. The waiting list will be ranked in accordance with the school's Late Transfer Over-subscription Criteria as detailed in 3.4 above. If an applicant qualifies but cannot be allocated a place because the school is full, qualification ends at the time of the next annual testing round. The applicant must then be tested again in the next Annual Testing Round.

⁵ Evidence of Free School Meals will be required.

4.0 SIXTH FORM (YEARS 12 AND 13)

4.1 Sixth Form Entry Criteria

Applications from external students should be made direct to the school using the application form for Sixth Form Admission, available on the school's website or on request to the school. Applications must be submitted by the first Friday in December of the year prior to that of the proposed admission. Evidence of normal home address will be required.

Minimum entry requirements (which are the same for both internal and external applicants) are GCSE grades as follows:

- 8 taught full GCSEs at grades 5-9 (taken in one sitting), **including English and Mathematics** at grade 5 or above and a total point score from the 8 GCSEs of a minimum of 50 points.
- In addition, candidates must meet the entry requirement for each course for which they have applied. Full details are provided in the 'Sixth Form Entry' booklet, which is revised annually, and available on the school's website or on request to the school.

4.2 Sixth Form Over-subscription Criteria

Where the number of eligible external applications exceeds the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below to decide which students to admit.

1. Students who are looked after children or previously looked after children.
2. Rank order of those with the highest aggregate score in their best eight GCSEs.
3. Those who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals as at the application closing date. Evidence of entitlement to FSM will be required.

If the GCSE points criterion does not produce a clear outcome (i.e. two students achieve precisely the same score), the place will be determined by random allocation supervised by a person independent of the school.

Any offer based on inaccurate information can be withdrawn. This could include, fraudulent or misleading applications, false claims to residence and failure to reply to an offer within the number of days specified in the offer letter.