

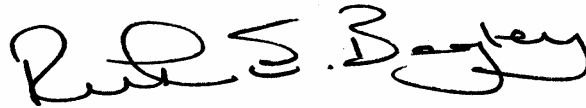
Public Document Pack

Date of issue: 1st July, 2008

MEETING	ADMISSIONS FORUM
DATE AND TIME:	WEDNESDAY, 9TH JULY, 2008 AT 4.00 PM
VENUE:	MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	KEVIN BARRETT (01753) 875014

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

NOTE TO MEMBERS

This meeting is an approved duty for the payment of travel expenses.

AGENDA

PART 1

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
	Apologies for absence.		

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
1.	Appointment of Chair.		
2.	Appointment of Vice-Chair.		
3.	Declarations of Interest.		
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 24th April, 2008.	1 - 6	
5.	Matters Arising.		
6.	Grammar School Admissions.	7 - 18	
7.	Buckinghamshire Admission Arrangements. (See also colour plans enclosed.)	19 - 20	
8.	Primary School Admissions.		
9.	Dates of Future Meetings.		

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

Minicom Number for the hard of hearing – (01753) 875030

ADMISSIONS FORUM – Meeting held on Thursday, 24th April, 2008.

Present:-

Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

Gill Bodman – Western House Primary School

Foundation Schools

Italo Cafolla – Castlevew Primary School

John Campbell – Langley Academy

Parent Governor Representatives

Mohammed Din – Ryvers Primary School

Local Education Authority

Councillors David Maclsaac (Chair) and Patrick Shine

Also present under Rule 30:-

Clare Pyper (Strategic Director of Education and Children's Services)

Tony Browne (Head of School Services)

Tony Madden (School Organisation Advisor)

Kevin Barrett (Democratic Services Manager)

Apologies for Absence:- Maureen Ball, Hilda Clarke, Kate Makinson, John McAteer and Kevin Marsh (NUT)

PART I

10. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th March, 2008 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

- The addition in the first paragraph on page 2 of the concern expressed at the last meeting that some local people had been unable to secure a place at the Langley Academy for their children.
- Clarification that the localised over-subscription referred to in the second paragraph on page 3 referred to the Chalvey and Cippenham areas in particular.

11. Grammar Schools Admissions

As requested at the last meeting, Mr Browne had circulated statistical information setting out secondary school admissions data including

applications from Slough residents for schools within and outside of Slough; the preferences expressed by parents for schools both within and outside of the Borough; and information on the home boroughs of pupils attending Slough grammar schools highlighting the numbers travelling into the town from outside of the Borough. Tabled figures also highlighted the number of preferences expressed by the parents of Slough and non-Slough pupils for grammar schools and the number of offers made by the grammar schools.

Members expressed their concern at the current situation whereby, overall, over half of the pupils at the Slough grammar schools did not live in the town. Members asked whether this situation was mirrored in any other authorities with grammar schools and it was noted that Slough fared worse than other comparable Boroughs due in large part to the fact that the Slough grammar schools did not give any preference to local residents. Mr Browne undertook to provide information for the Forum on the situation in Buckinghamshire.

The meeting discussed the best course of action to pursue this matter and, in particular, the introduction of a voluntary code whereby the grammar schools gave some priority to Slough residents in their admission arrangements. At the present time, admission was dictated purely on the basis of the 11+ results and the grammar schools perceived this arrangement as being equitable as the most talented pupils gained admission. However, Slough parents perceived this as being unfair as local children who had achieved the necessary pass mark were not all gaining places in the grammar schools because of the large number of applications from outside of the town.

Mr Din noted the frustration of some 60 Slough parents whose children had achieved the pass mark of 111 but had been unable to secure a place at one of the grammar schools.

Gill Bodman commented that because of the grammar schools situation, choosing a secondary school for their children was an extremely difficult and confusing exercise for many Slough parents and she herself found it difficult to explain the complex arrangements to parents of children at her school.

It was noted that any change in the current arrangements could not be compelled although an objection could be made to the Adjudicator. Clair Pyper reported back on a recent meeting with head teachers where she had passed on the Forum's concerns. It had been agreed with the heads to undertake work in a number of areas including:-

- A short term piece of work to give preference to Slough residents at the grammar schools.
- A longer term piece of work on the impact of the admissions procedures with secondary school heads.
- A more general review of school places in Slough and, in this regard, a presentation had been made to the Cabinet on 14th April outlining the current position and the work required to meet current demands.

It was proposed to bring in specialist help to undertake some of the work and make recommendations to the authority. The head teachers were in

agreement to work together on these issues. In addition, the local MP, Fiona Mactaggart had spoken to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, with a view to Slough being granted an extension on the current admission arrangements deadline for September, 2009 to enable changes to take place in the current admission arrangements. Without the Minister's agreement, it would not be possible to make any changes until the 2010 admissions round.

Clair Pyper also commented that there would be a meeting next week to scope the work that was required and a group of heads would be meeting to work on this. The outcomes of the work would be reported back to the Forum in due course.

Reference was also made to the point raised at the last meeting whereby it was noted that the Consortium application form was inappropriate and contrary to current guidance as it asked parents to express a first, second and third choice. Mr Browne commented that he had spoken to the grammar school heads and they had agreed that only one school should be named on the form where the child would take a test. However, the procedure document that explained the testing process was still considered to be inappropriate and he had suggested some changes and was currently waiting to hear their response. Forum members expressed their continuing disquiet with the current arrangements which were believed to be contrary to Government guidelines.

The view of the Forum was that there should only be the Common Application Form which was used by all admission authorities and that all admissions arrangements should be run by the local authority.

Mr Campbell from the Langley Academy was welcomed to the meeting and invited to outline the admissions arrangements for the new school. He commented that some 450 children had taken the non-verbal reasoning test to attend the Academy. Based on the results of that test, students had been organised into nine ability groups and places allocated to the school based on distance from home to school within each group so that there was a truly comprehensive intake from an approximately one mile radius of the school. The Forum welcomed this arrangement which was seen as being ideal in ensuring that local children attended the school. In response to a question, Mr Campbell stated that although he was unaware exactly how many children had not secured a place at the school, he was aware that there were about 50 appeals.

Mr Madden commented more generally on the issue of insufficient secondary school places in the town, outlining the action being taken by the authority to create additional capacity. He circulated a copy of the Slough School Places Plan 2008/12 for the Forum's information and it was agreed that copies should be circulated to those Members not present at the meeting.

Resolved - That the current position be noted and that the Forum be kept fully advised of progress in the work being undertaken in respect of the grammar school admission arrangements.

12. Primary Schools Admissions

Details had also been circulated of primary school admissions data for September, 2008 showing the preferences submitted by parents and the places allocated. All children had been allocated a place at a primary school in the town.

Following the discussions at the last meeting, Mr Browne reported back on the response to the representations made by the Forum. With regard to the point raised about St Anthony's admission arrangements whereby they did not give priority to children with a statement of educational needs naming that school, the School had now complied with this requirement following the Forum's representations. With regard to the point raised concerning in-year admissions to grammar schools, Mr Browne had written to the three grammar schools concerned suggesting a new form of wording but was still awaiting a response.

With regard to Priory School and the priority given to the children of staff in respect of the nursery admissions policy, it was noted that this related to non-statutory education. However, the Forum's view was that this was an issue of equality and a letter should be sent to the governing body of the school requesting them to bring the policy into line with other nursery policies across the town. It was agreed to write to Priory School in the terms indicated.

With regard to the non-response from the grammar schools, it was decided that Mr Browne should send a follow-up letter on the point previously raised.

Clair Pyper raised a more general issue in respect of nursery school admission policies and suggested that the policies currently in place should be looked at by the Forum to ensure that they were equitable across the Borough. However, it was agreed that the work required in respect of the secondary and grammar schools should take priority.

Resolved – That letters be sent to Priory School and the three grammar schools in the terms indicated.

13. Appeals Procedures

It was noted that it had been agreed at the last meeting that an audit should be carried out into the appeals procedures of all foundation and voluntary aided schools to ensure that they were robust and undertaken in accordance with the current Code of Practice. It was noted that this work was not an immediate priority and would be undertaken in due course. It was suggested that the information collected should also include statistical information about the outcomes of the various appeals processes.

Resolved – That the current position be noted and that the work be undertaken in due course.

14. Looked After Children

Clair Pyper also suggested that the position of Looked After Children (LAC) should be considered across the town. LAC should be given priority in their local schools and she sought the Forum's agreement to make a formal request to schools to give priority in their oversubscription criteria to LAC in their area and this was agreed.

Resolved – That the Director write to schools in the terms indicated.

15. Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in the first week of July and that a programme of dates for the 2008/09 academic year should be drawn up by the Clerk in consultation with Mr Browne.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.00 p.m. and closed at 5.55 p.m.)

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Grammar Admission Arrangements 2009/2010 School Year

Admissions Policy

Herschel Grammar School - ADMISSIONS POLICY

- 1. The school's standard admission number is 120.
- 2. Pupils will be admitted at the age of 11 by reference to their ability and aptitude which will be determined by their performance in entrance tests consisting of Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning tests set by the National Foundation for Educational Research. The procedure for application and testing will be published by the school each year.
- 3. Where the number of pupils gaining 111 or more in the tests exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated (subject to paragraph 4) according to the following criteria:
 - (i) rank order of performance in the admission tests.
- 4. In the event of one or more eligible pupils being tied for the final place or places, priority will be decided according to proximity to the school by a suitable walking route as measured from the main gates closest to the school's reception office to the front door of the applicant.
- 5. A waiting list will be held for all those pupils who score 111 and above but who may not be offered a place initially due to oversubscription. This waiting list will operate for one month after the commencement of the academic year.
- 6. No child will be admitted to the school, other than at the start of Year 7, unless there are available places and:
 - (i) they are transferring from another grammar school, or
 - (ii) they have **not** already taken the 11+ test, reside in the area (as defined by 10 below) and are successful in the school's entrance examination.

Any pupil who has taken the 11+ test will not be permitted to re-sit an entrance examination for Herschel Grammar School whilst at statutory school age.
- 7. The maximum number of places in the Sixth Form is 250. The intended number of students admitted from outside the school is 30. There are a variety of Sixth Form courses on offer each with different entry requirements. Full details of these are published annually in the Sixth Form prospectus and applicants should contact the school for information. A supportive school report in the form of a letter from the current Headteacher will be required.
- 8. The school will establish arrangements for appeals against non-admission, which will be independent of the school.
- 9. The school will publish details of admissions and appeals arrangements every year.
- 10 The 'area' for Herschel is defined with a parental or legal guardian address in the following districts: Slough; Burnham; Farnham Common; Farnham Royal; Windsor; Iver; Iver Heath; Datchet; Colnbrook.

June 2008

Langley Grammar School

Admissions Policy - 2009 entry

1. The school's standard admission number is 120 but the planned admission number for September 2009 is 145.
2. Pupils will be admitted to the school at the age of 11 by reference to their ability which will be determined by their performance in entrance tests consisting of Verbal Reasoning and Non Verbal Reasoning tests set by the National Foundation for Educational Research. The procedure for registration for testing and application will be published by the school every year in a document 'Admissions procedure for 11+ entry'.
3. Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated according to rank order of performance in the admission tests, subject to paragraph 4.
4. In the event of one or more eligible pupils being tied for the final place or places, priority will be decided according to the following criteria:
 - (i) proximity to the school by a suitable walking route as measured from the main double entrance gate of Langley Grammar School to the front door of the candidate's house.
5. A waiting list will be held for all those pupils who score 111 and above but who may not be offered a place initially due to over subscription. This waiting list will operate until 30 September of 2009.
6. Admissions after the initial year of entry will depend upon the availability of a place, and suitability of a pupil for a grammar school education as determined by admission tests. This includes admission to the Sixth Form where the relevant admission test will be performance in GCSE examinations or equivalent.
7. The maximum number of places in the Sixth Form is 300. The intended number of students to be admitted from outside the school is 20. There is a variety of Sixth Form courses on offer each with different entry requirements. Full details of these are published annually in the Sixth Form Prospectus and applicants should contact the school for information. A supportive school report from the current Headteacher will be required.
8. The school will establish arrangements for appeals against non-admission, which will be independent of the school.
9. Details of admissions and appeals arrangements will be published by the school every year.

June 2008

Slough Grammar School Admissions Policy 2009-2010

1. The school's planned admission number for September 2009 is 145.
2. The school will give priority to children in public care as required by the Admissions Code.
3. As a Grammar School, the school is not required to fill all the places if pupils do not meet the admissions criteria. Pupils will be admitted to the school at the age of 11 by reference to their ability and aptitude, which will be determined by their performance in entrance examinations consisting of Verbal Reasoning, Non Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics tests set by the National Foundation for Educational Research.
4. The Governors will buy, supply and run a corresponding test to that run by the three consortium Grammar Schools, having regard to the statuses of Slough Grammar School, i.e. Language College and Science College. The test will be run on an appropriate Saturday (or Saturdays) in November 2008.
5. The required minimum score in the tests is 111. Where the number of pupils gaining 111 or more in the tests exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated (subject to what follows below) according to the rank order of performance in the admission tests.
6. Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 requires the school to admit a child with a Statement of Special Education Needs which names the school. In cases where pupils have written evidence of special educational needs (from a recognised professional in an appropriate discipline) the governors may take account of the pupil's circumstances in deciding; (i) the appropriate arrangements to be made to enable such pupils to take the test and; (ii) whether to offer the pupil a place should they have failed to reach 111 on the entrance examination. In all such cases, the school will seek to make arrangements in conjunction with the Local Authority.
7. In the event of one or more eligible pupils being tied for the final place or places at the school, priority will be decided according to the following criteria:
 - (i) children in public care (Looked After Children). These children **must** always rank first, in accordance with the school's mandatory duty under para 2.7 of the School Admissions Code of Practice;
 - (ii) proximity to the school as normally measured from the main gate of the school to the front door of the child's main or principal home (and/or the front door of a flat) by the easiest walking route or easiest route by public transport.
8. In the event of under subscription, the governors may admit pupils strictly according to their rank order in the test and the tie break rules set out in paragraph 6 above. This does not replace a parent's formal right of appeal against refusal of a place.
9. Admissions after the initial year of entry will depend upon the availability of a place and suitability of the pupil for a grammar school education as determined by admission tests. This includes admission to the Sixth Form where the relevant admission test will be performance in GCSE examination or NARIC verified equivalent.

10. In relation to the Sixth Form, the school gives priority to pupils who are already pupils at the school. As with all applicants, they must meet the entry requirements specified by the school for their preferred courses. The planned admission number for Year 12 for applicants who are not existing pupils is 150. There are a variety of Sixth Form courses on offer, each with different entry requirements. Full details of these are published annually in the Sixth Form Prospectus and the school website. Applicants should contact the school for further information. Academic references will be taken up from the current school.
11. The school will establish arrangements for appeals against non-admission, which will be independent of the School and will follow local Admissions Forum guidance and the new Code of Practice.
12. Details of admissions and appeals arrangements will be published by the school every year by 15th April.
13. The Admissions Committee for the Governing Body will publish decisions about admissions and non-admissions to Slough Grammar School annually.

Reviewed June 2008

ST BERNARD'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2009

NUMBER

The Planned Admission number for admission at age 11+ for the academic year beginning September 2009 is 120.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Governing Body is the Admissions Authority for St. Bernard's which is a Roman Catholic, Voluntary-Aided, Co-educational Grammar School. The Governing Body will, therefore, give priority in the consideration of applications to baptised Roman Catholic children who have a written reference from their Roman Catholic priest. The criteria set by the Governing Body are designed to preserve the character of the School. This policy is decided after consultation with the Diocese of Northampton, the Local Authority and other relevant bodies.

ADMISSIONS

The Governing Body will consider for admission those children who have gained a mark of 111 or above in the Slough 11+ Consortium tests. Where the number of pupils gaining 111 or more in the tests exceeds the number of places available, the Governors will apply their oversubscription criteria.

Where there is written evidence of special education needs (from a recognised authority specialising in the needs of the child) the Governors will ensure that the tests are accessible for children with disabilities and special needs.

The Governing Body will give priority, to relevant looked after children (within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) at the time of their application and who will still be looked after when they are admitted to school.

There is, however, no guarantee of a place, even for those children who have qualified for admission, if there are more applications than places available.

OVER-SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

For Admissions to the Planned Admission Number i.e. at Age 11+:

Should places be oversubscribed, the Governing Body will consider children for admission following the criteria set out below:

1. Roman Catholic children, in respect of whom the Governing Body has a written recommendation from their Roman Catholic Priest.

2. Children of other Christian denominations

In the event of there being vacancies after all the Roman Catholic children have been considered, the Governing Body will consider admitting children of other Christian denominations whose parents wish to obtain an education for their children in a Roman Catholic atmosphere, and in respect of whom the Governing Body has a written recommendation from their Minister of Religion.

3. Children of Other Faiths

In the event of there being vacancies after all the children of other Christian denominations have been considered, the Governing Body will consider admitting children of other faiths whose parents wish to obtain an education for their children in a Roman Catholic atmosphere, and in respect of whom the Governing Body has a written recommendation from their Minister of Religion.

In the event of there being vacancies after all the above have been considered, the Governing Body will consider admitting other children.

If necessary, the Governing Body will determine an order of priority within the above categories based, firstly, on the child's score in the Selective Tests and, secondly, on proximity to the school, by a suitable walking route as measured from the main double entrance gate of St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School to the front door of the candidate's house.

WAITING LIST

The school will keep a waiting list of the names of applicants who have qualified for admission but have not been allocated a place, ranked in descending order according to the above criteria. The placing of a child's name on the waiting list does not remove the right of appeal. Parents will be informed if their child's name has been placed on this list.

The waiting list will be in operation from the day the original places are allocated until the end of September 2009.

APPEALS

Appeals against a decision of the Governing Body should be addressed to the Clerk to the Governors within **14 days (10 working days) from the date of notification of the decision regarding admission**. These appeals will be considered by an Independent Appeal Committee set up in accordance with the 1998 Schools Standards and Framework Act before which parents are entitled to appear.

FOR ADMISSION TO OTHER SCHOOL YEARS

In the event of there being vacancies in other school years, the Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher, will consider admitting students who have demonstrated their suitability for education in a Selective School, and their intention to respect the Roman Catholic ethos of the School. Should applications for places in these years be oversubscribed, the Governing Body will consider children in order of priority following the criteria listed above.

No pupils will be admitted to the school, other than at the start of Year 7, unless there are available places and:

- (i) they are transferring from another grammar school, or
- (ii) they have **not** already taken the 11+ test, or
- (iii) they are successful in the school's entrance examination relevant to their year of entry.

Any pupil who has taken the 11+ test will not be permitted to re-sit the entrance examination for St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School whilst at statutory school age.

The maximum number of places in the Sixth Form is 250. The intended number of students admitted from outside the school is 20. There are a variety of Sixth Form courses on offer, some with different entry requirements. Full details of these are published annually in the Sixth Form prospectus and applicants should contact the school for information. A supportive school report in the form of a letter from the current Headteacher will be required.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Applications for admission to St. Bernard's should be addressed to the Admissions Secretary at the school.

Approved by the Governing Body 8 April 2008

The Herschel Grammar School, Langley Grammar School and St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School Consortium of Grammar Schools

Admissions procedures for the 11+ entry for 2009

This admissions procedure applies to Herschel Grammar School, Langley Grammar School and St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School. The term 'the Consortium', as used in this set of procedures, relates only to the testing procedures of the three grammar schools: Herschel Grammar School, Langley Grammar School and St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School. There is no charge related to registering to take the 11+ test for the Consortium of Herschel Grammar School, Langley Grammar School and St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School.

Applications for the 11+ test

- Parents of candidates wishing to take the 11+ test must complete a registration form, obtainable from the grammar school at which they choose to sit the test and will name as their highest preference of any of the Consortium Grammar Schools on their Common Application Form. The registration form is sent to the grammar school where the candidate wishes to be tested.
- Candidates who attend a Slough Primary school will sit the 11+ test on the first Thursday in November. Candidates who attend other Primary schools will sit the tests on the Saturday of the same week, in the Consortium grammar school where they have registered for the test.
- Early in December 2008 the results of the tests will be posted to the parents/guardians of the candidates. The letter will give the candidate's standardised score. If the candidate has reached the standardised score of 111 or above, he/she is eligible to be considered for a place at the grammar school in the Consortium, which has been named as the highest preference of the Consortium Grammar Schools on their Common Application Form.

Appeals for candidates who score below the pass mark of 111

- If the candidate has scored 110 or below, then he/she is not eligible for consideration for a place at any of the named grammar schools in the Consortium, that have been listed on the Common Application Form. The letter will inform parents/guardians of their right of appeal if they have named one of the Consortium grammar schools on their Common Application Form. These procedures are published jointly for Herschel Grammar School and Langley Grammar School. There is a separate procedure for St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School.

Eligibility for a place in a Consortium grammar school

- Candidates who include St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School on the Common Application form and registration form must provide supplementary faith background information.

- There is no guarantee of a place at a grammar school in the Consortium, even for those pupils who have qualified for admission, if there are more applications than places available.

Offers of places

- All offers of places are made by the candidate's local authority at the beginning of March 2009.

Appeals for candidates who score 111 and above

- All candidates above the standardised mark of 111 have a right of appeal to a Common Independent Appeals Panel if they are not successful in being offered a place. The Common Independent Appeals Panel hears the cases separately for Herschel Grammar School and Langley Grammar School. St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School has its own Independent appeals procedure.

Late applications for registration to do the 11+ test

- If a candidate's registration form for testing is handed in after the closing date but before the test date, then it is up to the Consortium grammar school named on the registration form to set an alternative date for testing.
- If a candidate's registration form is handed in after the Consortium 11+ tests have been taken, then an alternative date will be set by the grammar school concerned.
- There will be no retesting of any candidate who has sat the 11+ test for entry to Year 7 for the Consortium grammar schools.
- Candidates who wish to enter Year 7 in September 2009 at a Consortium grammar school must have sat the Consortium's 11+ tests.
- Pupils applying for 'in year' entry between Year 7 and Year 11 to the Consortium of grammar schools, will be subject to tests set by the individual grammar school and they must not have sat the Consortium 11+ tests.

Final version June 2008

**The Herschel Grammar School, Langley Grammar School and St Bernard's
Catholic Grammar School Consortium of Grammar Schools**

Notification of important changes to the 11+ testing procedure for the 2009 entry

The 11+ test for entry to the Herschel, Langley and St Bernard's Catholic Grammar Schools will change for the 2009 entry. The new test will be taken in November 2008 for pupils who wish to be considered for the 2009 entry.

The new 11+ Test for the 2009 entry

There will be a Non Verbal Reasoning (NVR) test and a Verbal Reasoning (VR) test. Each test will last 50 minutes. As previously, the tests will be set by NFER.

What is the change from the 11+ test taken for the 2008 entry?

There will no longer be a Mathematics test. The length of the NVR test has changed from 20 minutes to 50 minutes.

Why has a change been made?

The NVR test provides a measure of reasoning ability that is relatively unaffected by verbal skills. The NVR test specifically identifies ability towards science, engineering and mathematics. This is a more all round indicator for high potential in these fields than a specific mathematics test. The test also helps to identify high ability in pupils where English is not their first language.

As a result, the Mathematics test has been dropped and the NVR test will be made slightly longer in order to provide the proper testing base for NFER.

Another advantage is that some pressure will be taken off pupils as they will only sit two papers and they will be tested over a shorter period of time.

How does this affect preparation for the 11+ examination?

Pupils will only now have to prepare for two papers, not three. We recommend, with NFER, familiarisation with the NVR and VR papers six weeks prior to the examination in November. Parents can help their son or daughter with this practice by purchasing practice papers from shops like WH Smiths.

How can I find out information about the 11+ examination dates for the 2009 entry?

Look at the websites for the three grammar schools:

www.herschel.slough.sch.uk

www.langley-grammar.slough.sch.uk

www.st-bernards.slough.sch.uk

You can contact the Admissions secretary at each of the schools if you require any further information.

Final version
6 June 2008

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Definitions BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Admission authority - when referring to a community or voluntary-controlled school this means the County Council. When referring to a foundation or voluntary-aided school, this means the governing body of that school.

Community schools - for these schools, the County Council is the admission authority, which sets and applies the admission rules.

Foundation schools - the governing body of each foundation school sets and follows the admission rules. All of the foundation schools are working together with us to give each child one offer of a school place. We will make offers of school places on behalf of the governing body.

Voluntary-controlled schools - these are generally faith schools for which the County Council is the admission authority.

Voluntary-aided schools - these schools are faith schools and are managed by the Church of England or Catholic diocese. The governing body of the school sets and follows the admission rules. All the voluntary-aided schools are working together with us to give each child one offer of a school place. We will make offers of school places on behalf of the governing body.

Admission number - the number of children to be admitted to a school. This number is published and agreed beforehand and normally we should not allocate (offer) more than this number. This is listed on the school's entry in the school index at the back of this guide. This number depends on the amount and type of accommodation available at the school and is worked out using instructions set out by the Department for Education and Skills. If we receive more applications than there are places available at a school, we will offer the places using the admission rules set out on page 16.

If you are applying for a place at a voluntary-aided or foundation school, you will need to read the summary of their admission rules in the back of this book or contact the school for a full copy of their admission rules as they may be different from the rules published on page 16.

Admission rules - the rules we (or the governors of a foundation or voluntary-aided school) use to decide the order in which children are offered school places. Sometimes these are called the 'admission criteria'.

Appeals - your opportunity to ask for an independent panel to consider the admission authority's decision not to offer your child a place at the school you want, a transfer appeal. You may also appeal against your child not qualifying for a grammar school – this particular sort of appeal is a selection appeal and happens during January and early February before the school places are allocated in March.

Buckinghamshire - the area dealt with in this booklet is the county of Buckinghamshire, but not the borough of Milton Keynes. The contact details for Milton Keynes and other neighbouring authorities are at the back of this booklet.

Casual admission - any application for a school place that we receive after 1 September of the normal admission year (Year 7) or in future years. Please see pages 4 and 22 for details about 11+ testing deadlines.

Catchment area - an area set out around each school that is served by the school. The admission rules give priority, but **not a guarantee** of admission, to children who live within the catchment area of the school and whose parents register a written preference for the school by the deadline. We will consider children who live outside the catchment area of their preferred school if there are any places left after we have met the needs of the catchment area. We follow the admission rules no matter whether a child lives inside or outside Buckinghamshire. The catchment areas are shown on maps and described according to postcodes. These are in a pocket inside the back cover.

Exceptional medical, educational or social applications - if you want us to consider your child under Rule 6 (exceptional medical, educational or social needs), you **must** include supporting evidence from an independent professional person who is aware of the situation and supports your reasons for preferring a particular school for your child. This person might be a doctor, a health visitor or an education welfare officer or other professional aware of your case. Educational professionals (for community or voluntary-controlled schools) or the governing body (for foundation or voluntary-aided schools if this is one of their rules) will decide which children will be considered under Rule 6 before

Admission rules for community and voluntary-controlled schools

If a school receives more applications than it has places available, we use admission rules to decide, in a fair and consistent way, which children we should offer the places to.

For each school you list we will work out, from the information in your application, which rule we will consider your child under. For example, we will check whether your child has any brothers or sisters, (siblings) at the schools or decide whether we will look at your application within the 'exceptional' rule (Rule 6).

We have defined some words in **bold** to help you understand what we mean. You can see the definitions on pages 10 to 13.

Rule 1

Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school.

Rule 2

Children in **public care** for whom the Local Authority decides that the school is the most appropriate.

Rule 3

Children **living** in the **catchment area** of the school.

Rule 4

For those specialist schools only that admit under this category: Children who demonstrate an aptitude for the **subject specialism** of the school. The number of children admitted in this category will be up to 10% of the **admission number** of the school. (This rule currently only applies to admission to Princes Risborough School)

Rule 5

Siblings of children in Years 7 to 10 who are on the roll of the school at the time the allocations are made.

Rule 6

Children who have **exceptional medical, educational or social** needs supported by

written evidence from a doctor, social worker, educational welfare officer or other appropriate person.

Rule 7

Once the above rules have been applied, then any further places will be offered in distance order, using the distance between the family's **normal home address** and the school's nearest entrance gate, offering the closest first. We use the **shortest appropriate route**.

Where a school can take some, but not all, of the children who qualify under one of these rules, we will give priority to children by taking account of the next rule (or rules) in the numbered list. For example, if all the children who qualify under Rule 2 can be offered places but there are too many children who qualify under Rule 3, we will use Rules 4, 5, 6 and 7 to rank all the children qualifying under Rule 3 and decide who can be offered a place.

Voluntary-aided and foundation school admission rules

For each of the schools you plan to list when you make your application, you should read the school's prospectus carefully or check their website. If the school is a foundation or voluntary-aided school, this is important **because they may use different rules to allocate their school places**. They may also want you to complete a **supplementary form** and send extra information. On our website and at the back of this book you can find the supplementary forms for St Bernard's Catholic School and Waddesdon Church of England School. These are the only schools in Buckinghamshire that need supplementary forms to collect extra information so they can apply their admission rules.

We have enclosed a summary of their admission rules on pages 34 to 37.