

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.