

Senior School Admissions Policy



The policy should be read in conjunction with policies regarding Equal Opportunities, Special Educational Need and Disability, Admissions Appeals and Pupil Withdrawal.

The Policy explains the process by which decisions are made. The final decision as to whom to offer places is at the sole discretion of the Headmistress.

Birchfield School currently provides education for children aged 4-14 years old. From September 2024 the school will be extended to provide education to age 16. **This policy applies to those seeking a place in the Senior Section of the school at or after age 11.** Those seeking a place for children aged 4-10 years (Reception to Year 6) should read the separate Pre-prep and Prep School Admissions Policy.

Pupils come to Birchfield from a wide area courtesy of excellent transport links and a fleet of our own minibuses. Further information about the school can be accessed via the school website: www.birchfieldschool.co.uk.

Admission to Birchfield Senior School is partially selective.

All pupils who seek a place whether presently at Birchfield Prep School or at another school must complete the Senior School Application Form.

Admission to Year 7 at age 11 years

Admission to Year 7 is open to:

- pupils on roll in Y6 in Birchfield Prep School (Internal applicants)
- pupils currently on roll in Y6 at another school (External applicants)

Priority is given to internal applicants subject to the conditions below. The remaining places will be offered to external applicants up to an expected maximum of 16 pupils.

Internal applicants:

A place will be available to any internal student who – in the opinion of the school:

- will benefit from the education that the school offers in Years 7-11;
- will maintain or improve our educational standards and make a positive contribution to life of the school;
- or has demonstrated exceptional talent in a particular activity that may benefit the school and other pupils.

Those requesting a place in Year 7 will undergo the same entrance test as external candidates simply to provide the school with a standard academic baseline for all pupils. Internal applicants will be considered for scholarships.

External Applicants:

If the school is over-subscribed, entrance will be on merit with pupils placed in a rank order determined by:

- **Either:** performance on an entrance test covering English, Mathematics, Verbal Reasoning. Places will be awarded to the highest scoring candidates.
- **Or:** exceptional talent in a particular activity that may benefit the school and the other pupils.
- **And:** Performance in an interview with the Headmistress (or a member of the Senior Management team) which suggests the pupil will maintain or improve our educational standards and make a positive contribution to life of the school.
- Receipt of a satisfactory statement of academic performance and social skills from their present school.

It is an expectation that parents support the ethos to which the school aspires.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available to both internal and external applicants.

- Academic Scholar: there will be a single Academic Scholarship of a £500- discount from the annual school fees to the highest performing pupil on the entrance assessment. This will continue each year subject to annual review of appropriate standards of work and behaviour being maintained.
- Scholarships with no monetary value are awarded on evidence of outstanding work in the disciplines of Art, Music, Performing Arts or Sport. These have significant kudos value for pupils, parents and staff.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The school allocates each pupil to their year group in accordance with their chronological age. We will discuss provision of special educational needs and facilities arrangements with families on an individual basis.

Parents are asked to disclose whether their child has a disability, special educational need or disability or medical condition at the time of application. In assessing any pupil or prospective pupil, the school may take such advice and require such assessments as it regards appropriate. The place will continue to be available provided the school can meet identified needs.

The school will be sensitive to requests for confidentiality.

Admission to the Senior School at any time other than Year 7

Applications are welcome at any stage in a young person's education. Please complete the Senior School Application Form. If a place is available, it will be offered provided the pupil meets similar criteria to those used for external candidates in Year 7:

- **Either:** For Years 7 & 8: satisfactory performance on an entrance test covering English, Mathematics, Verbal/Non-Verbal Reasoning.
For Years 9, 10 & 11: satisfactory performance on an assessment covering English and Mathematics as well as receipt of a satisfactory statement of academic performance and social skills from their present school.
- **Or:** exceptional talent in a particular activity that may benefit the school and the other pupils.
- **And:**
Performance in an interview with the Headmistress (or a member of the Senior Management team) which suggests the pupil will maintain or improve our educational standards and make a positive contribution to life of the school.

It is an expectation that parents support the ethos to which the school aspires.