

Reviewed: Feb 2023
Review period: Annual

Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School



Sixth Form Admission Policy 2023 Entry

Sixth form admissions policy

Admissions to the Sixth Form includes BRGS Year 11 students who fulfil the criteria below and students new to the school. The number of places available to students for Sept 2023 is 250. The published admissions number, which applies to students requiring admission from other schools is 70 for Year 12. All BRGS students who fulfil the criteria are offered places.

Offers are made to students which are conditional on them achieving a minimum standard in GCSEs within the previous two academic years prior to the 1st September 2023. Students must achieve a minimum of two GCSEs at grade 6 or above, plus a further two GCSEs at least grade 5. Students must have a minimum of grade 4 pass in English Language and Maths (these can make up the four grades required above) as well as meeting any subject specific requirements for the subjects that they wish to study. These are updated annually and are published on the school website in advance of applications being made.

Students with an education, health care plan, naming Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School Sixth Form will be admitted.

Oversubscription criteria

Where eligible applications exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated according to the following priority order:

1. Looked after children or a child who was previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement order, or special guardianship order or those children who appear to the school to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (see note 1).
2. Students who attend another Rossendale School (see Appendix A for list of schools).
3. Students who attend another school within the Lancashire LEA
4. All other students who live nearest from home to BRGS (see note 2)

Notes

1. 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society (see Section 23ZZA(8) of the Children's Act 1989 inserted by Section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act).

This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangement orders are defined Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangement orders replace residence orders and any residence orders in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989, which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

2. BRGS measures the distance to the school by a straight line from the home to the main door of the school.

Tie-breaker

If the distance between home and school is the same, which includes the same geographical property reference (such as a block of flats) the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be offered a place.

Address

The address given must be where the child and parents live permanently. It should not be the child minder's, grandparent's or other relative's address. If parents share custody of a child, the school may request to see the court order, child tax credit letter, child benefit letter, medical card or other evidence to establish where the child is resident for the majority of the time during the weekdays. If there is joint custody for the child, the address of the parents receiving the child benefit is used. If a child is resident with friends or relatives for reasons other than guardianship, the friend or relative's house will not be considered as a permanent address.

Parents will be required to provide current copy of council tax as proof of residence at the permanent address. We may seek other means of evidence as proof of residence at the permanent address if required.

Please note:

- The School may subsequently withdraw a place if false, incorrect or misleading information has been provided, which has led to the offer of a place or has advantaged the applicant in the priority order to oversubscription. Parents must inform the school of any changes to their address or circumstances.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date will be considered. Students making late applications should understand that their application will only be considered after all other applications that have met the deadline. Late applicants should be aware that no place may be available and they may be placed on a waiting list.

Waiting list

Details of students refused admission will be kept on the waiting list. The school maintains the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Multiple births

If children of multiple births (twins and triplets) require admission in the same year group and there is only a single place left within the published admission number, the school will offer places above the published admission number.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents / students may seek a place outside of their normal age group, for example, if a student is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Parents / students who wish to seek admission at BRGS Sixth Form outside the student's normal age group (whether they are currently placed in a lower year group than their chronological age or are already of college age), must submit a written request to the school for admission out of the normal age group.

The school will make a decision on the request before the provisional offer date if at all possible. If the request is agreed, the application will be processed as normal.

If the request for admission outside the normal age group is refused, the parents / student must decide whether they wish to pursue an appeal or accept any other offer of a place from another admission authority or, in the case of a student who was seeking admission to a higher year group, the parents / student may make a further application the following year for admission into BRGS Sixth Form with their chronological cohort.

To enable the School to consider if the request for admission outside the normal age group is in the best interests of the student concerned, the School will consider:

- Parent's / student's views.
- Information about the student's academic, social and emotional development.
- Where relevant, the student's medical history and views of the medical professional.
- If the student was born prematurely, what age group would the student have fallen in, if the student had been born on time.
- Views of the headteacher.

It is for parents / student to decide the professional evidence they wish to submit in support of their application for admission outside the normal age group. However, there is no expectation on parents / student to provide the professional evidence that they do not already have. The college will consider all requests regardless of whether any professional evidence is submitted. The supporting information could include:

- Any evidence from a health or social care professional who is involved in the care or treatment of the student, for example speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, social worker or paediatrician.
- The view of the headteacher of the school that they currently attend and any records of the student's development and progress.
- What can the year group in which a place is sought offer that their chronological year group would not?

The school will make their decision based on the circumstances of each individual case, and in the best interests of the student concerned. The school will inform the parents / student of their decision on the year group the student should be admitted to and will provide the reasons for their decision.

Parents / student have a statutory right to appeal to an independent appeal panel against the refusal of a place at a college for which they have applied. As the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a student should be admitted to a particular college, the right of appeal does not apply if they are offered a place at the college but it is not in their preferred year group. However, they may make a complaint to Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School about the decision not to admit outside their normal age group.

In-year admission

In-year admission is the process of applying for admission into an existing year group within college. It does not refer to Year 11 to Year 12 transfer in September. The school will deal with any requests on an individual basis.

Right of appeal

Any applicant refused admission has a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel against the decision of the Admission Authority (School Governing Body) under the terms of the Education Act 1998. The Admissions Authority will establish arrangements for appeals against non-admission.

Further Information

Please note that admission into the Sixth Form does not guarantee a place on any particular course. The school reserves the right to make the final decision about availability of courses.

The minimum academic requirements are set out in the Sixth Form prospectus. Please see our website.

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Reviewed Feb 2022

Appendix A – List of secondary schools in Rossendale

Alder Grange High School
All Saints Catholic High School
Haslingden High School
The Valley Leadership Academy
Whitworth High School