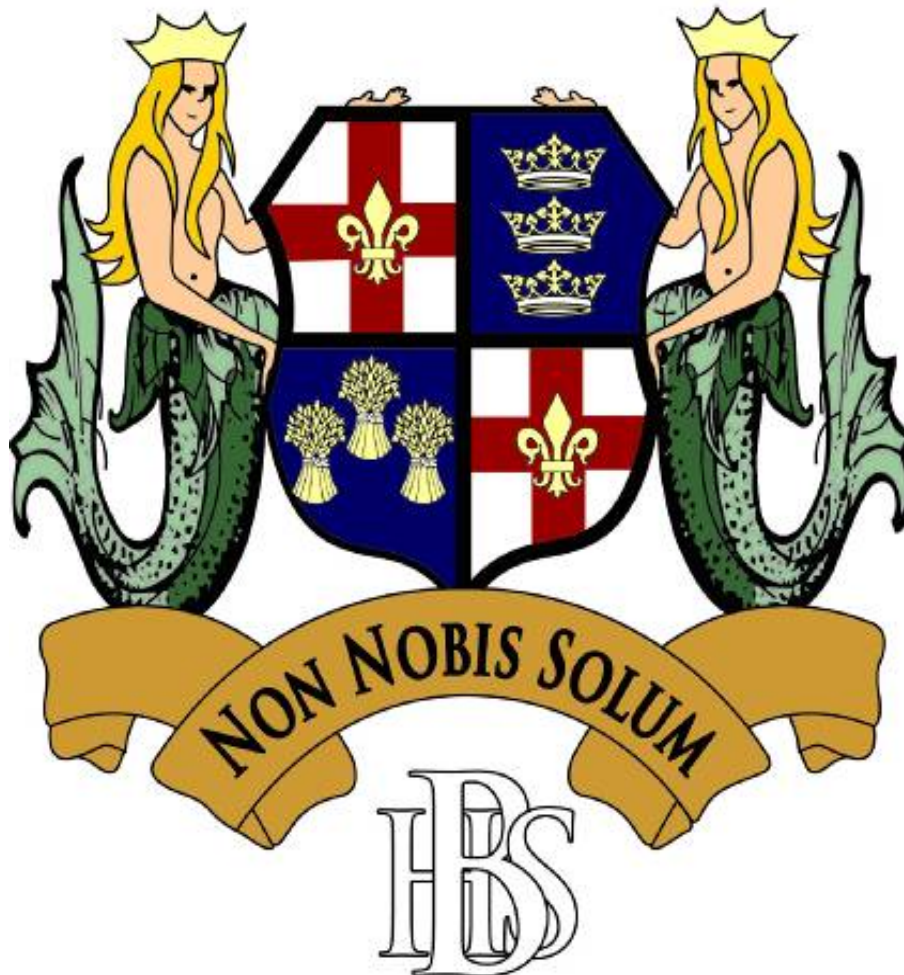


BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY



ADMISSIONS POLICY
2014 - 2015

Admissions Policy

The published admission number is 108.

The Governing Body is the Admissions Authority. It will admit those pupils that meet the entry requirements as laid out in this policy without reference to colour, race, religion or disability.

Boston High School has a co-educational Sixth Form.

Entry requirements at 11+

Admission to Boston High School is decided by the 11+ test procedure. Practice tests are available, and these are normally undertaken at the primary school prior to the real tests.

The process will involve two tests, one verbal reasoning test, and one non-verbal. Both tests will be taken either at the primary school, or at Boston High School, subject to arrangements requested by primary heads, for pupils in their final year at primary school and of the appropriate age group. The results of these tests will be rank ordered to select the top 25% of the local cohort, in keeping with the percentage intake targets across Lincolnshire grammar schools.

In keeping with the spirit of the protocol of the LGSC, consideration will be given to using only the non-verbal scores (appropriately weighted) as the entry benchmark for those candidates for whom English is not their first language, and who have been resident in the country for less than two years.

Parents will be informed of the outcomes of this process prior to submitting their preferences to School Admissions. The candidates selected through the above process will then be eligible to join Boston High School.

Pupils who sit the 11+ test and attain the qualification standard recognised by the Lincolnshire Grammar Schools Consortium will also be considered as eligible to join Lincolnshire Consortium grammar schools other than the Boston High School.

Those pupils who satisfy the entry requirements and apply will be offered a place, subject to availability. Sitting the test does not constitute an application for a place at the school. There is a legal requirement for admissions authorities to comply with the agreed co-ordinated admissions scheme for entry into Year 7, which is administered by Lincolnshire County Council, as the local authority. Under the co-ordinated arrangements, all applications must be submitted by parents or carers either by applying online or on their home local authority's common application form.

If more pupils reach the standard than the school can accommodate, after admitting qualified children with statements of special educational need naming the school, priority will be determined in the following order:

- A pupil in public care, sometimes referred to as 'looked after'; a child who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989, at the time of application. This definition includes previously looked-after children who ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.
- siblings of pupils already attending the school at the time of admittance
- driving distance from home to school; the nearest address to the school is found by measuring the distance from the *post office address point of the home address* to the *post office address point of the school* by driving distance along public highways, the nearest being given the higher priority

If any of the above criteria are not sufficient to distinguish between applicants, the tie-break will be distance as measured above. If two or more applicants are tied on distance for the last place, random selection will be used to determine the applicant who shall be offered a place.

To date the school has been able to accommodate all children who have reached the required standard in the entry tests.

If the school is oversubscribed, the Governing Body will keep a waiting list up until the end of the autumn term. Where a child stands in relation to the oversubscription criteria rather than length of time on the waiting list will be the determining factor if a place becomes available.

Parents have the right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place to an independent appeals panel. Details of the process can be obtained from the Clerk to Governors.

Early Entry

The school will consider under-age children who are outstandingly able and who need to be accelerated beyond their year group. Students will be accepted in September only. Governors must be reassured that early entry would be in the best interest of the pupil, and parents will need to provide evidence from independent sources. In order to satisfy Governors that early entry is required, parents should provide, as a minimum, evidence from sources such as the Primary Head and educational psychologist that the candidate is of exceptional ability and has been working with an older age group for at least a year. This evidence will need to be provided before September of the year of testing. Early entry will only be permitted when an exceptionally strong case is made.

Mid-Year Entry

Mid-year entry to the school is possible in Years 7 to 11 if the numbers in the relevant year group are below the published admission number. Applications are made on the Lincolnshire mid-year admissions form or directly to the school, but applicants for places in Years 10-11 will need to be aware that Key Stage 4 qualification routes already started in other schools may not be able to be continued or contribute to successful outcomes from the school's examination board syllabuses.

If a child has taken the 11+ in Lincolnshire, a direct transfer can be made, at the Governors' discretion, if the child has reached the qualifying standard.

Pupils who have not taken the 11+ test will be tested by the school to assess potential. A place may then be offered, subject to the level attained correlating with performance in the top 25% of the relevant age cohort. All parents have the right to appeal against this decision via the Clerk to Governors.

Pupils in schools belonging to the Boston Secondary Schools Partnership may be referred to the school, under the terms of the partnership agreement, by the Head of their own school as a result of performance tracking, and may undertake a six-week trial period as their entry process.

For late intake applications and mid-year applications, the school will aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel by applying the oversubscription criteria where children are tested and reach the required standard. This will entail checking to see if the address is within the distance of the last child admitted in the last admission round that was oversubscribed on offer day. If the address is within the distance, the governors will consider admitting providing all children in public care and siblings have already been admitted. This will be irrespective of the fact that the school has heard appeals or has appeals currently scheduled. It may be that we cannot admit because of organisational difficulties within the school, in which case we will inform the Local Authority and ask them to consider allocating second and third preferences. Official notice of postings may be requested in the above cases.

Sixth Form

Year 11 pupils have the right to transfer to either Sixth Form, provided that they meet the academic entry standards and that we can accommodate their choice of subjects. The school produces a Sixth Form prospectus each year, giving details of all of the courses on offer.

We also extend a warm welcome to applications from pupils attending other schools. We admit 130 students into each year of our Sixth Form

All applicants must achieve grades A*-C in at least five GCSE subjects (or vocational equivalents considered), with at least a grade B in any subject to be studied at A Level (where the subject was taken at GCSE). Some A Level subjects not traditionally taken at GCSE level have their own entry requirements and these should be checked in the Sixth Form prospectus for the relevant year. The school cannot guarantee to accommodate every preferred combination of A level subjects, due to the mathematical constraints of timetabling.

Progression from Year 12 to Year 13 is not automatic, but is subject to satisfactory completion of the Y12 courses.

Open Evenings

An open evening for parents is held in July for entry at 11, and in November for entry to the Sixth Form. A 'Taster Day' is held for prospective Sixth Form students in November.

Appeals

All appeals against decisions against offering a place should be addressed in the first instance to the Clerk to Governors.

Definitions

Pupils in care are those in the care of, or recently leaving the care of, the local authority and who are provided with accommodation by them in accordance with Section 22 of the 1989 Children Act.

A sibling is defined as:

- a full brother or sister, whether or not resident in the same household, attending the same school to which the applicant is applying;
- another child normally resident for the majority of term time in the same household, for whom an adult in the household has parental responsibility as defined in the 1989 Children Act and Section 576 of the 1996 Education Act;
- in the case of twins (or two siblings in the same age cohort), and where there is only one place available in the relevant school, both will be considered together as one application, provided both have met the standard for entry. The school will be authorised to exceed its published admissions number by one.