

Admissions Policy

Entry to the Junior Boys' School

Bolton Boys' Junior School is an academically selective, independent, day school.

The admission process is overseen and managed by the Head of the Junior School Mrs Sue Faulkner and the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Anne Woodhead. They can be contacted at School at any point should you wish to discuss any element of entry to the Boys' Junior School (telephone: 01204 434735).

All applicants to the Boys' Junior School must complete an application form. This can be obtained in one of three ways:

- It is enclosed with the prospectus
- It can be downloaded from the website
- Or it can be requested by contacting the Admissions Secretary on 01204 434735 or via email at parkroadoffice@boltonschool.org

The application form will provide us with various pieces of information, including your contact numbers and information about the applicant's current school.

Entry to the school is on a competitive basis: admission is subject to the availability of a place and to the candidate meeting the entry requirements at the time.

Admission to Year 3

All boys attending Beech House have automatic entry to the Junior School at 8+ and do not need to apply for a place, nor do these pupils sit an Entrance Exam. Transfer from Beech House to the Junior Boys' School is expected and parents who do not wish their son to join the Junior School must give one term's notice as outlined in the School's Parent Contract.

Other candidates wishing to apply for remaining places at the Junior School sit a written assessment which includes tests in English, mathematics, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning. All candidates are interviewed during this process.

Admission to Years 4, 5 and 6

There are a limited number of places available in the school during Years 4, 5 and 6. Pupils wishing to be assessed for these places complete an online computer adaptive test which comprises of verbal, quantitative, non-verbal and spatial skills sections and their scores are standardised. Candidates are also required to produce a piece of writing under timed conditions and their reading ability will be assessed. All candidates are interviewed as part of this process.

In all age groups, the Entrance Examination and the interview are designed to gauge boys' potential, rather than prior teaching.

A written report is also requested from their current school. For this reason, it is important that parents who wish to make an application should first discuss this with their son's current Headteacher.

Subsequent to the exam and interview, offers of places are posted to parents as soon after the completion of the process as possible. Where a boy has passed the exam but no place in the Junior School is available at that time, parents will be asked if they would like their son to be placed on the school's waiting list. When places become available they will be offered in order of the highest achieving candidate first.

Transition from Junior Boys' to Senior Boys' School

It is expected that all boys attending the Junior School will take the Entrance Exam for admission to Senior School. Whilst boys attending the Junior School do not have automatic entry to the Senior School at 11+, their parents will be advised in Years 5 and 6, if they are unlikely to pass the Entrance Exam.

Bursaries and Financial Support

Offers of places at the Junior School are on a full fee-paying basis only. There is no bursary support available to any pupils attending the Junior School. Attendance at the Junior School does not affect applications for Bursary assistance upon transition to Senior School.

Arrangements for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 requires us to take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage.

The provision of our special arrangements and access for the Entrance Examination can only be based on support a child regularly receives in school (normal way of working). For example large-print test papers for visually impaired pupils, the use of magnifying aids, coloured filters, templates or the provision of a scribe to record the child's answers.

Requests for special arrangements should be made at the same time as an application form is submitted to the School and should be accompanied by a current Statement of Special Educational Needs or EHC report. Both reports must be current and be dated no more than 2 years before the testing date.

All special arrangement requests, including additional time to a maximum of 25%, will only be approved in exceptional circumstances. Special arrangements must not provide an unfair advantage over others. The Admissions Secretary should be contacted, if you think your child is eligible to access special arrangements. Each case will be considered on its own merit, by our Learning Support and Admissions team.

Visually impaired students need to contact the school to discuss extra time options.

EAL applicants are subject to the same admissions procedures as other applicants. Those applicants with EAL needs are normally identified by parents being asked to state the language normally spoken at home on the application form or sometimes through information provided by their school's reference. At the admissions interview, we seek to discover a boy's strengths, qualities and skills, which may not be reflected in his performance in the entrance exam. The level of required EAL support for a successful applicant will be identified at this stage and reasonable adjustments will be made by the School to accommodate these needs.

As it may not be possible to establish for certain that special arrangements perfectly compensate for the nature and extent of the disadvantage, the special testing arrangement or absence thereof, will be noted and taken into account in any borderline admissions decisions.

In certain circumstances, it may be decided that a test is wholly inappropriate for a particular pupil and this will also need to be taken into account in the decision process.

Equal Opportunities

In its dealings with pupils, Bolton School Boys' Division will have regard only to the merits, abilities and potential of the individuals concerned and not to their colour, ethnic origin, age*, socio-economic background, disability**, religious or political beliefs, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

** Subject to the School's regulations on pupil admission, which are reviewed from time to time to ensure they are appropriate for achieving the School's objectives and for avoiding unlawful discrimination.*

*** Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that children with a disability can participate fully.*

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the School will take appropriate measures when admitting pupils to ensure that those with protected characteristics, including disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation are fairly treated.

As a single sex school the Boys' Division is exempt from the Equality Act 2010 in respect of discrimination by gender. We accept applications only from applicants whose sex is identified as male at birth.

Provision for Pupils with Statements and Pupils for Whom English is an Additional Language

Bolton School is an academically selective school to which entry is achieved through a competitive process and/ or examination. There will, however, always be within the school a small number of pupils with identified special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Parents of pupils with a SEND are asked to inform the school at the time of application by sending a supporting letter.

Currently we have a small number of pupils with SEND such as mild dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, hearing disability and limited sight. In the Junior School, we may withdraw pupils with a specific learning difficulty from lessons for specialist teaching as well as endeavouring to cater for such pupils alongside their peers by adopting appropriate classroom practice. We aim to work in partnership with pupils and parents to ensure that those with SEND are able to fulfil their true potential and to play a full part in the life of the School.

Where a boy who passes the Entrance Examination has a statement of needs or an EHC plan and their parents decide that they would like their son to attend Bolton School, we work with the authority maintaining the statement/ plan to ensure that the latter is satisfied that the arrangements are suitable and that we are able to provide effective education. Such statements/ EHC plans are reviewed annually by the local authority to ensure that the required curriculum is being provided.

The School also makes provision for pupils with EAL who pass the Entrance Examination or fulfil other Entrance criteria, both through support in the normal curriculum and by arranging extra tuition when appropriate, for which a supplementary fee may be charged.

The level of support needed will be arranged following discussion between the Head of the Junior School and the the Head of Learning Support, on occasion this may also include discussion with the Headmaster of the Boys' Division.

Visits

The best way to appreciate our Junior School is to visit us and the Head would be delighted to welcome you at any time during the term. Please telephone to arrange this a mutually convenient time.

If you wish to contact the School for any information or for general enquiries, please address correspondence to:

Mrs S Faulkner
Head of the Junior School
Bolton School Boys' Division
Junior Department
Park Road
Bolton BL1 4RD

Telephone: 01204 434735

E-mail: parkroadoffice@boltonschool.org