



# **Beech House Infant School Admissions Policy**



## **Bolton School Aims**

***Bolton School seeks to realise the potential of each pupil.***

***We challenge, encourage initiative, promote teamwork and develop leadership capabilities.***

***It is our aim that students leave the school as self-confident young people equipped with the knowledge, skills and attributes that will allow them to lead a happy and fulfilled life and to make a difference for good in the wider community.***

***We do this through offering:***

***A rich and stimulating educational experience which encompasses academic, extracurricular and social activities, a supportive and industrious learning environment for pupils selected on academic potential, irrespective of means and background.***

This policy includes the following information:

- educational and welfare provision for pupils with statements & EHC plans
- educational and welfare provision for pupils for whom English is an additional language
- arrangements for Misbehaviour and Exclusions

## **Admissions Policy**

Beech House is an academically selective, independent, day school, educating girls and boys from Pre-School Year to Year 2. Up to 75 boys and girls are accepted in to our reception class each year or at any age thereafter in Years 1 and 2, subject to the availability of places. Almost all our pupils continue on to be educated at Bolton Girls' Junior School or Bolton Boys' Junior School.

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

### **Bolton School Nursery Children**

Girls and boys attending the Nursery are given priority entry provided applications to the Infant School are submitted before the end of September in the year before they are due to join Reception. Those children do not have automatic entry to Beech House at 4+ and are required to take part in the assessment process and must meet entry requirements. However, those assessments take place in their familiar nursery setting.

### **Beech House Pre-School children**

Children who have been given a place in the Beech House Pre-School class do have automatic entry to Reception and are offered the place in Pre-School upon the expectation that they will remain in the Infant School once they reach compulsory school age.

Entry to the junior schools from Beech House is automatic at 7+ following internal assessments. The parents of any child who would not attain academic levels similar to external candidates will be warned early in Year 2 if they are considered unlikely to cope with the academic demands of the junior schools.

## **Assessments**

### **Assessments for Pre-School**

Children are accepted into the Pre-School class following a brief assessment with either the Pre-School teacher or Early Years Lead. During this assessment the child is introduced to a number of age appropriate, practical and play based activities designed to provide an indication of their potential. Such assessments take place throughout the course of the academic year prior to the children joining the class in September and places are offered on a first come basis.

### Assessments for Reception

The majority of assessments for 4+ take place in the Autumn Term prior to admission the following September, although some are conducted later in the academic year depending on the availability of places. This assessment takes the form of a one hour session usually with the Head and Deputy of Beech House. During this session the child will be observed as part of small group of other applicants and is introduced to a number of age appropriate, practical and play based activities designed to provide an indication of their potential. They also complete a brief one to one activity focusing upon their communication and early phonics skills. Children are asked to draw using a pencil but are not expected to write, read or record any mathematical processes on paper. Each assessment activity is scored and the total is then standardised according to the age of the child. Due to the young age of the children it may be necessary for a further interview to take place in the February prior to a September admission. Offers for places are posted as soon after the assessment days as is practicable. Any child not initially offered a place, who has attained the required score, is placed on a waiting list and will be offered a place if one becomes available.

### Applications for Year 1 and Year 2, and in-year Reception entry

Applications for other year groups are considered at any time, with the intention of making a decision within a few days of the applicant sitting a test. The number of places available will vary according to pupil numbers at the time. Applicants will be interviewed and tested by the Head or Deputy of Beech House. If there is more than one applicant for a place, priority will be given to families moving into the area with siblings applying to other schools within the Foundation and to siblings of current Bolton School pupils.

Feedback on a child's performance in an assessment can be requested by parents.

### **Bursaries**

Bursary support is not available for pupils of Beech House.

### **Equal Opportunities**

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

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

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

### **Provision for Pupils with SEND, statements/EHC plans 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, such as hearing or speech difficulties. We endeavour to cater for these pupils alongside their peers by adopting appropriate classroom strategies. All pupils are expected to cope within mainstream classes, whilst some additional help is achieved through our teaching assistant support. 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 child who is offered a place at Beech House has a statement of needs or an EHC plan and parents decide that they would like them 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 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.

Please refer to the Beech House policy "English as an Additional Language Policy"

Policy review date	October 2021
Next review due	October 2022
Policy written by	Sue Faulkner – Head of Primary Division

