



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
**HIPPERHOLME**  
Established 1648

# **ADMISSIONS POLICY**



## **Admissions Policy**

Hipperholme Grammar School is a small, friendly, selective coeducational day school educating children between the ages of 3 years and 18 years. The Junior School caters for children aged between 3 years and 11 years and The Senior School educates pupils aged between 11 years and 18 years. The overall aim of Hipperholme Grammar School is to produce well-rounded confident young men and women, thoroughly prepared to face the challenges of higher education and the workplace.

Hipperholme Grammar School is committed to providing the highest possible standards of education for pupils across the ability range admitted, including those who are very able and those with mild learning difficulties. The pupils' education is enhanced by the broad curriculum offered, by the quality of the teaching and learning and by our high levels of pastoral care.

### **The admissions procedure is designed to ensure that:**

- i. The School is able to provide an education for individual pupils, which is accessible and appropriate for their individual needs, an education which will enable them to discover their talents and make the most of them.
- ii. all pupils at Hipperholme Grammar School have the opportunity to develop their full potential.

### **Scholarships and Bursaries**

A limited number of scholarships are awarded each year to applicants for The Senior School who show particular flair and ability in competitive scholarship examinations or who demonstrate a particular talent in music or sports.

Candidates entering the Sixth Form may also be awarded scholarships as result of their GCSE results.

**Our bursary scheme is available to any parent and** exists to give financial help with school fees to those pupils with recognised potential who could not otherwise attend the school. Details are available from the Bursar's department.

### **Gifted and Talented**

The DCSF envisages that the Gifted and Talented in each school will be between 5% and 10% of the School population.

**Giftedness**, according to the DCSF, refers to pupils/students who achieve, or have the ability to achieve significantly above average, (compared with other students in their year group at their school,) in one of the NC subjects, other than art, performing arts or physical education.

### **Talented**

A term reserved for those students who achieve or have the ability to achieve significantly above average in art, art and design, performing arts or physical education.

A pupil can be both ‘gifted’ and ‘talented’. A register of the gifted and talented pupils in the School is kept on an annual basis. Please see the School’s Gifted and Talented policy on the School website for more details

When seeking a place for their child parents are required to disclose any emotional or learning difficulties which their child is known to have. Hipperholme Grammar School is a ‘through’ school and, while we hope that our pupils will progress naturally through the School, no automatic transfer between the Nursery, Junior and Senior departments should be assumed.

Pupils are admitted to Hipperholme Grammar School regardless of race, gender, religion and disability (where practicable) as long as other entrance requirements are met. Applications for available places will be treated fairly. All applications will be subject to assessment although the format of that assessment will differ according to the age of the child.

### **General Admissions Procedure**

Apart from Nursery pupils, all prospective pupils are interviewed by the Headmaster or by the Head of the Junior school. A report is also requested from the child’s current school.

Advice about the entrance examination procedure and copies of past papers are available on request from the Admissions Officer. Before making a decision to apply for entry to the school, we strongly recommend that families come to one of our open events. Parents are very welcome to make an appointment to meet the Headmaster or Head of Juniors and have an individual tour of the school.

### **The Junior School**

Children seeking entry are normally invited to spend a day in school to enable teaching staff to assess their abilities in reading, language and number. This helps to establish the correct level of entry for each child. Those wishing to enter Years 4 – 6 will be given more formal tests in English and mathematics, either during the day spent in school, or at some other agreed time.

### **The Senior School**

Entry to the Senior School is via the Hipperholme Grammar School Admissions Process. This has three elements:

- 1 Examinations in English, mathematics and Non-verbal reasoning
- 2 A report from the applicant’s current school
- 3 An interview with the Headmaster.

The Entrance Examinations are usually held in mid January each year and parents may register at any time after September. The subject based papers reflect the KS2/KS3 curriculum, dependent on age at entry. Prospective Year 7 pupils are invited to spend an afternoon in school as part of their induction. Pupils entering other year groups during the academic year may also be offered a day in school as part of their

orientation to Hipperholme Grammar School. If applications for places are made after the entrance examinations have taken place, then potential candidates will sit similar papers at individually arranged times.

Examples of Entrance Examination papers are available from the Admissions Officer  
**The Sixth Form**

Students entering the Lower Sixth Form (Year 12) are usually expected to have the academic potential to achieve GCSE, (with a minimum of 5 GCSE Passes, Grades A\* to C including English and mathematics) and to proceed into the Sixth Form to study 4 subjects of their choice (subject to them being offered by the School) at AS and 3 at A2 level. GCSE grades of at least a B should be achieved in subjects that candidates wish to study at AS/A2

Scholarships are available for students wishing to enter the Sixth Form. Full details can be obtained from the Admissions Officer.

**The offer of a place at Hipperholme Grammar School will be conditional upon:**

- a place being available in a class appropriate for age, ability and aptitude.
- the individual child's performance in the assessment tests and / or interview indicates that The School can provide appropriate class teaching for that individual child, taking into account his/her strengths and talents.
- Parents and guardians, disclosing at the time of application, the nature and scope of any specific difficulties that the child may have with aspects of learning.
- Parents agreeing, at the time of application, to their child undergoing internal or external educational assessments at their own expense, if requested to do so by the Headmaster or Head of Junior School.
- Parents and guardians recognising that, where a specific learning difficulty exists, extra costs are very likely to be incurred in respect of specialist help or learning aids.
- Parents and guardians being aware that funding, as a result of a statement of special educational need, is not automatically transferred from the state system to the independent sector when a child changes schools.

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