

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

Draft Admissions Policy

For admission in 2011

The school is a state selective grammar school, providing a free education. As a foundation school, the governors are responsible for setting the school's admission arrangements. In common with state schools throughout the country, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School will be part of a co-ordinated local admission scheme. Details are provided below.

Traditionally the school has drawn its pupils not only from the catchment area (see Notes 2 and 3), but from other places within travelling distance.

I ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO YEAR 7

i) Admissions Number

The number of intended admissions to year 7 is 120.

ii) The Tests

For eligible candidates (see Note 1) the entrance examination will consist of 3 separate tests:

- a) Verbal Reasoning
- b) Mathematics
- c) English

The tests will be conducted at the school. Arrangements to take the tests will be announced in the local press each year (and are obtainable from the school) and the tests themselves will be taken in the autumn term.

A candidate may only sit the entrance examination once.

Parents / carers who wish their son/daughter to take the entrance examination, should complete a Clitheroe Royal Grammar School application form.

iii) Admission Criteria and Over-subscription

Once the tests have been marked parents / carers will be informed whether their child has reached the required standard. Pupils will need to show that they have the ability to benefit from the education provision of the school by reaching the required standard, although this will not guarantee a place if the number of pupils achieving this score exceeds the number of places available.

The school will not distinguish between candidates on grounds of sex, race, nationality, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, faith or denominational background.

Note: Pupils with a current statement of special educational needs issued by a local authority, and who have achieved the required standard in the admissions tests, will be offered a place.

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School has a planned admission number for each year of 120. If the number of applicants reaching the required standard is less than 120, then all of these applicants will be deemed 'eligible'.

If the number reaching the required standard is greater than 120 and the school is therefore over-subscribed, then the school will rank these applicants according to the following admissions priority criteria:

- 1) Children in public care (looked after children) who reach the required standard
- 2) Candidates who live in the catchment area who reach the required standard
- 3) Candidates who live outside the catchment area who reach the required standard

Candidates within over-subscription categories 2 and 3 will be ranked according to ability as demonstrated in the testing process.

In the event of equal scores within over-subscription categories 2 and 3, the final determining factor will be the proximity of the child to the school (see Note 4).

In the case of over-subscription, a confidential waiting list will be drawn up. This waiting list will be maintained for the full autumn term in the academic year of admission. Position on the waiting list will be on the basis of ability. Where more than one candidate is at the same position on the list, priority will be given in the same order as over-subscription categories 2 and 3 and then to the individual nearest to the school (see Note 4).

Until the end of the autumn term in year 7, if a candidate withdraws, his/her place will be offered to the highest placed applicant on the waiting list.

iv) Further Information

For those candidates who have some inconsistency in scores and / or are borderline for admission, further information may be requested from the primary school subject to parental consent.

v) Co-ordinated Admissions Policy

The school is required to comply with the Lancashire Co-ordinated Scheme for secondary school admissions to year 7 (see Note 5). Under this scheme, only one offer of a school place will be made by Lancashire for admission to any secondary school including Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. Parents may express up to three preferences for admission to all maintained secondary schools. The priority in which parents express their preferences will be used to determine which one offer is made.

It is important that parents understand that the system of allocation of school places by the Local Authority (LA) will mean that if, after applying the admissions criteria, a child appears on the eligible list of their *first preference* school, then this is the place that will be offered. A candidate with Clitheroe Royal Grammar School as a second or third preference, even if they have reached the required standard, cannot be offered a place if they are eligible for a school for which a higher preference has been indicated on the Common Application Form.

(vi) Assessment of Candidates Relocating to the Area

Parents or guardians of candidates for year 7 who move from another area of the country into the vicinity of the school (whether inside the catchment area or not) after the closing date for the submission of the Clitheroe Royal Grammar School application form, may apply to the school for them to be assessed. During the period from the time of the examination to the end of the first term in year 7, the assessment will follow a similar pattern to that used for the entrance examination. If an application is made after the first term has ended, then an age-weighted reasoning test and tests set by the school of appropriate National Curriculum work will be used. If the candidate reaches a level comparable to students who have already been admitted and no places are available, the candidate's name will be placed on a confidential waiting list, ranked according to overall performance in the tests and proximity to the school (see Note 4), in that order.

SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO YEAR 7

1. The application form to take the Clitheroe Royal Grammar School examination must be completed and submitted by the school's closing date. This application form is available in the Admissions Handbook, available from the school, or on the school's website.
2. The examination is held in the autumn term.
3. Parents / carers will be notified as to whether their child has reached the required standard sufficiently before the closing date for the return of the Lancashire Authority Common Application Form. We advise that parents / carers wait for this notification from Clitheroe Royal Grammar School before completing and returning the Common Application Form.
4. Parents / carers submit the Common Application Form. Parents who wish their child to be considered for a place at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School must list the school as one of their three preferences.
5. The LA will post notification of allocations as per their schedule. At the same time in the spring term Clitheroe Royal Grammar School will also post offers of places to successful candidates.

Parents will be required to confirm to their LA within 14 days, if they do not wish to accept a place offered.

6. Parents / carers whose child has been offered a place at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School will be asked to confirm their acceptance of the place.

II ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO YEARS 8 to 11

Students may be admitted to years 8 to 11 provided that their admission does not prejudice the provision of efficient education and use of resources.

The school will assess candidates who have not previously taken the Clitheroe Royal Grammar School entrance examination and who move into the vicinity of the school (whether inside the catchment area or not) if the parent or guardian wishes. The assessment will involve tests in Mathematics, Science and English. If the candidate reaches a level comparable to students who have already been admitted and no places are available, the candidate's name will be placed on a confidential waiting list, ranked according to overall performance in the tests and proximity to the school, in that order.

III ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO THE SIXTH FORM

Applications for admission to the school's Sixth Form are welcome from all Year 11 applicants. Details of requirements are published each year in the Sixth Form Guide. These include a general requirement and specific subject requirements. The criteria for admission are high enough GCSE grades. There is an expectation that applicants will have a sound track record at their present school. In the event of over-subscription, GCSE performance and then proximity to the school (see Note 4) will be used to allocate places. The school has a target figure of 255 students from outside the school to join existing Clitheroe Royal Grammar School students who wish to continue into the Sixth Form.

Academic references will be sought from the external applicant's present school. All applicants will also be invited to discuss choices of subjects with senior staff.

Students must submit their application form (to be found in the Sixth Form Guide and on the website) by the published closing date in order to be eligible for entry.

Students who move into the area after the published closing date and who wish to apply to join the sixth form at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School are advised to contact the school at the earliest opportunity so that their application can be considered if space allows.

Any student refused entry has a right of appeal.

IV APPEALS PROCEDURE

A parent or carer may appeal against the decision of the Admissions Committee for non-admission.

The appeal process is entirely separate from the allocation of places under the admission arrangements.

Places given on appeal are in addition to those already offered.

Parents of candidates who have not been allocated a place can obtain an appeal form from school after formal notification of places by the local authority. These must be completed and returned to the school within 15 school days of notification by the local authority.

The Appeals Panel is constituted in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and all members are independent of the school and of the Lancashire Children's Services Authority. Its decisions will be binding on the Admission Authority and on the parents.

Consideration by the Appeals Panel will be in two distinct stages:

i) The Factual Stage, when the Panel decides whether the admission arrangements have been properly applied and, separately, whether prejudice would be caused to the efficient education of children in the school by reason of increased numbers. If prejudice is proved the Panel must move to:

ii) The Balancing Stage, when the Panel exercises its discretion, balancing between the degree of prejudice to efficient education, which would result from admitting the child, and the strength of the parent or guardian's case before arriving at a decision that is binding on both the Admission Authority and the parent.

Further details of the appeal arrangements are obtainable from:

The Clerk to the Appeals Panel, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, York Street, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 2DJ.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- Note 1** Eligible candidates are those whose 11th birthdays fall between 1 September and 31 August inclusive, in the twelve months immediately preceding entry the following September. Children whose 10th birthdays fall between 1st September and the last day of February of their National Curriculum year 5 and who are of outstanding ability for their age, may also be considered for a place. This will only be with the unreserved and strong recommendation of the child's Primary School Headteacher. Other applicants outside the normal age group will be considered carefully on the basis of the circumstances of each case.
- Note 2** To establish residential status in the school's catchment area requires that the family permanently reside within the designated area shown in Appendix 2 before the closing date for applications. Permanent residency is defined as owner occupancy or long-term letting contract of a residential property where child benefit is received and the appropriate council tax is paid by the occupier (evidence may be required). In the case of a recent change of address, additional evidence will be required in the form of evidence of exchange of contracts or a signed tenancy agreement. This is in addition to the child benefit statement and evidence of the appropriate council tax paid by the occupier. Families whose first home is outside the catchment area and/or who are only living in short-term rented property or temporarily with friends or relatives in the area will be deemed to live outside the catchment area.
- Where a pupil lives with one parent for part of the week and the rest of the week with the second parent, only one address can be used for application. This will normally be (a) where the child lives for most of the school week and the address from which the child travels to/from school and (b) the address to which Child Benefit is paid.
- Note 3** If it is subsequently discovered that an application contains a falsely claimed or dated address in the catchment area, then any offer of a place will be withdrawn.
- Note 4** Nearest will be defined in terms of straight line distance between the candidate's home front door and the front entrance of the school; the Chatburn Road site in the case of applicants to years 7 to 11 and the York Street site in the case of applicants to the Sixth Form. In the event of a tied distance measurement between address points, the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s).
- Note 5** Details of Lancashire's scheme may be found in the composite prospectus issued by Lancashire to parents of year 6 pupils early in September. Parents of children who do not attend Lancashire maintained primary schools can obtain copies of the composite prospectus from the Area Education Office, The Globe Centre, St James Square, Accrington, BB5 0RE.

CLITHEROE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S CATCHMENT AREA

The catchment area consists of the following Civil Parishes:

1. Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley
2. Balderstone
3. Bashall Eaves
4. Billington
5. Bolton by Bowland
6. Bowland Forest High
7. Bowland Forest Low
8. Bowland with Leagram
9. Chatburn
10. Clayton-le-Dale
- Clitheroe** (shown as C'roe)
11. Dinckley
12. Downham
13. Easington
14. Gisburn
15. Gisburn Forest
16. Great Mitton
17. Grindleton
18. Horton
19. Little Mitton
20. Mearley
21. Mellor
22. Middop
23. Newsholme
24. Newton
25. Osbaldeston
26. Paythorne
27. Pendleton
28. Ramsgreave
29. Read
30. Rimington
31. Sabden
32. Salesbury
33. Sawley
34. Simonstone
35. Slaidburn
36. Twiston
37. Waddington
38. West Bradford
39. Whalley
40. Wilpshire
41. Wiswell
42. Worston

