



Admissions Policy for 2011/2012

Skipton Girls' High School is a selective grammar school for girls aged 11 – 18. It is a Foundation school so the Governors of the school are responsible for admissions. The local authority continues to coordinate admissions to the school and operates a selection scheme for prospective entrants into Year 7 using NfER verbal and non-verbal reasoning tests.

The North Yorkshire Local Authority's publication "A guide for parents – Admission to secondary school" should be referred to for further information on the selection process and on how to apply for entry to the school. Parents and carers are reminded that for students of compulsory school age (11 – 16) a Common Application Form will need to be submitted to the local authority in whose area you reside.

Entry into Year 7 (normal age of entry)

The maximum admission limit for entry into Year 7 is 112, and Governors will admit girls into Year 7 up to this limit who have been deemed suitable for a grammar school education in the local authority's selection scheme. Entry into Year 7 is normally for girls who have reached the age of 11 in the preceding academic year (between 1st September and 31st August).

All Year 6 pupils living within the catchment area of the school (see below for details of this area) are normally tested, together with pupils living outside the catchment area whose parents / carers have applied for them to be tested. The date for such applications is set by the Local Authority each year and can be found in the publication referred to above. Applications received after this date will be considered but testing will not normally be possible until after the date when places are allocated.

The normal catchment area of the school refers to the area served by the primary schools in Arncliffe, Beamsley, Bradley, Burnsall, Carleton, Cracoe, Embsay, Gargrave, Grassington, Kettlewell, Kirkby-in-Malhamdale, Skipton, Thornton-in-Craven and Threshfield. Should further details be required, please contact the school.

The required academic standard of entry into Skipton Girls' High School is determined by the Local Authority selection scheme, which uses the NFER (verbal and non-verbal) tests to define the standard as that achieved by the highest scoring 28% of all Year 6 pupils who live in the catchment area.

If the number of girls deemed suitable for a grammar school education exceeds the Maximum Admission Limit (MAL) of 112, after the admission of girls where the school is named in the statement of special educational needs (SEN), the following over-subscription criteria will apply:

First Priority Group:

Girls in Public Care for whom Skipton Girls' High School has been expressed as a preference.

Second Priority Group:

Girls we believe have special social or medical reasons for admission. We will only consider applications in this category if they are supported by a professional recommendation from a doctor, social worker, or other appropriate professional which says that it is essential for your child to go to this school and no other. A panel of professionally qualified people will consider the reasons given under this priority.

Third Priority Group:

Girls living within the normal catchment area of the school.

Fourth Priority Group:

Girls living outside the normal catchment area of the school.

Girls in higher numbered priority groups will be offered places ahead of those in lower numbered priority groups and applications within each priority group will be considered equally (i.e. all applications, regardless of order of preference) unless a tie break is needed.

If there are not enough places for all the girls in one of these priority groups, we will give priority first to those with sisters at the school at the time when the prospective pupil would start (and in all cases would include sisters and stepsisters living at the same address) and then to those living nearest the school.

If there are not enough places for all those with sisters at the school, we will give priority to girls living nearest the school.

Distance measurements are based on a straight line from home to school, as measured by an electronic mapping system. Distances will be measured from the front door of the home to the main school entrance on Gargrave Road. Where more than one dwelling shares the same front door (for example, in a block of flats) the distance will be measured from the front door of the building as a whole.

If the school is over-subscribed for entry into Year 7 a waiting list will be kept using the admissions policy criteria above from the date when places are offered until the last day of the Autumn Term 2011 (16th December 2011). If a place becomes available during this period we will offer it using our admissions policy criteria. No waiting list will be kept after 16th December 2011 for the school year 2011-12.

Entry into Years 8 to 11

The maximum admission limit of 112 applies to all years from Year 7 to Year 11. Assessment of suitability for a grammar school education for prospective entrants for Years 8 to 11 is arranged using tests produced by the school in English, Mathematics and Science. Further details of these tests are available from the school on request. Such assessment will only be carried out for an individual pupil once in any academic year. An offer of a place following this assessment will only be made if the number of students currently in the year group is below the maximum admission limit of 112. If one or more places is available, and more students taking the assessment are deemed suitable for a grammar school education than there are places, then the over subscription criteria outlined above will be used to determine which applicants are offered places.

Entry into Year 12

Entry into Year 12 for girls who have completed Year 11 elsewhere are welcomed. There is a maximum admission limit of 20 for such applications. There is no limit for students who have completed Year 11 at Skipton Girls' High School but all applicants, internal and external, must meet the academic entry criteria for the courses which they wish to take. These academic criteria, along with the closing date for applications, are published annually in the school's Sixth Form Handbook, and are available from the school on request. If more external applicants meet these academic criteria than there are places for then the same oversubscription criteria as listed above will be applied.

Appeals against Governors' decisions on admissions will be held by an independent panel.