

BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL

WORSLEY, MANCHESTER

M28 2WQ

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY FOR ADMISSIONS

SCOPE: This policy covers all pupils attending Bridgewater School, including those in EYFS and any using the school's Early and Late Clubs.

We are a 3-18 selective independent co-educational school. As such, we admit all those who can benefit from the education we offer to within the capacity of the school, without exceeding our target class sizes and who will bring a positive contribution to our school community.

We expect all those who join us to continue into the Sixth Form. If we think that any pupil or student would not benefit from the next stage of education here, we will notify the parents concerned at the earliest opportunity.

All admissions to the school will ultimately be at the discretion of the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher's decision in accepting or refusing a candidate into Bridgewater School is final. In order to ensure fairness and to protect the integrity of the system, results of assessments and interviews are not made public.

Once a place has been offered and accepted by the parents in writing, a deposit is required. By signing the declaration on the registration/agreement form, parents are bound to the regulations and terms as set out in the registration and agreement form. A starter pack is then sent to parents and completed in advance of the pupil starting school.

Points of Entry

There are four formal entry points:

- Children aged 3 or arriving at 3 for Kindergarten
- Children aged 4+ for Reception
- Children aged 5+ for Key Stage 1 onwards
- Students aged 11+ for Year 7 onwards
- Students aged 16+ for the Sixth Form

We welcome mid-stream applications from pupils in every year group at any point in the academic year or term.

Entry into Kindergarten and Reception (EYFS)

Pupils can join Kindergarten as they arrive at their third birthday. They will be given the opportunity to complete a trial period prior to this. Parents are invited to view the school and arrange a “taster session” for their child with the Head of Early Years.

Entry into the Prep Department

All parents of children who are of Prep age apply for entry to the Head Teacher. Parents have an informal interview with the Head Teacher and receive a tour of the whole school.

All parents complete the necessary entry forms and receive an up-to-date prospectus and other relevant paperwork.

Pupils from KS 1 and KS 2, whose parents or guardians have expressed an interest in the possibility of their child attending Bridgewater, are invited to spend a day in school.

All children spend a day with the class and a child’s work and interaction with his/her peers are noted by the class teacher and passed on to the Head of the Prep Department. Age-appropriate assessments are completed in English and maths together with, on some occasions, a piece of free writing.

All relevant information regarding the child is passed on to the Head of Prep by both the class teacher and, where relevant, the Prep SENCO.

In some instances, we will contact the pupil’s current school to ask for the child’s recent school reports and examples of work. This is only done with the parents’ consent. Confirmation of a place will be sent to the parent in writing.

Senior School

Entry into Year 7 follows an entrance procedure undertaken by all Year 6 children, including those who already attend Bridgewater. These procedures commence in the November of the child’s Year 6 and include a computer-based assessment, a piece of free writing and an interview by a senior member of staff, together with a reference from their current primary school. Places for Year 7 are offered in the following January.

Entry into other year groups in the Senior School follows an interview with the pupil and their parents by one of the Deputy Heads or Head Teacher. Following this, the pupil attends school for the day undertaking individual assessments in English and Maths appropriate to age, before joining their own year group for the rest of the day. The pupils may be asked to bring work from their current school. The pupil’s previous school is contacted and asked to provide a confidential report.

Admission to the Senior School can be considered throughout the academic year, subject to the availability of places.

Sixth Form

Potential students to the Sixth Form are expected to have a minimum of five 4 - 9 grades at G.C.S.E. Level, with preferably a 6 grade, or above, in their chosen subjects. The students will be invited for an interview with the Head of Sixth Form, Curriculum Deputy and/or the Head. Any previous reports or books that are available will be studied and confidential reports from any previous schools will be requested with prior consent of the parents.

Reviewed by the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team – September 2026