

THE RIDGEWAY SCHOOL Admissions Policy for admission 2007-2008
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Consultation History

Governors / Staff	Date
Executive (Leadership Group)	
Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff	
Pupils Committee	Feb 2006
Full Governing Body	Mar 2006
Next Review of Policy	2007-2008

1. **Linked Policies**

Equal Opportunities (Pupils); Disability Equality; Race Equality.

Policy

2. **At age 11**

Pupils are admitted at age 11 without reference to ability or aptitude. The proposed admission limit of children aged 11 for the academic years commencing on 1st September 2007 will be 240. The final date for receipt of applications from parents of children for entry at age 11 in September 2007 is 18th October 2006 .

3. **At age 16**

The requirements for entry to courses at AS level or AVCE level are as follows:

To commence a course of 4 AS levels or an AVCE with one or two AS levels, prior attainment requirements at GCSE or equivalent are: 5 GCSE grades at C or above in at least 3 different subjects, and B grades in all of the chosen subjects.

To commence a course of 3 AS levels or an AVCE (full award), prior attainment requirements at GCSE or equivalent are: 5 GCSE grades at C or above in at least 3 different subjects (English and English Literature to count as one subject). However where C grades have been attained in subjects which the student wishes to pursue at A level, written permission to begin the course on a trial basis is required from the relevant subject team leader. Furthermore, no more than two A level courses can be started on a trial basis. Therefore, a relevant B grade must have been achieved for the third A level subject. The Sixth Form prospectus contains details of minimum GCSE attainment grades for admission to AS or AVCE subjects which are not available in Key Stage 4, e.g. psychology, media studies.

Each applicant will be considered on an individual basis. Even with written permission from subject team leaders, a decision to admit is at the discretion of a Director of Sixth Form if required B grades have not been achieved. In exceptional circumstances, e.g. illness or other personal reasons, students may be accepted without the required GCSE grades for entry.

The proposed admission limit in the Sixth Form (Year 12 and Year 13) is 260 pupils. At least 10 places will be made available each September for pupils from other schools wishing to transfer to The Ridgeway School for sixth form education.

4. Progression from Year 12 to Year 13

Students wishing to progress to Year 13 are expected to have gained at least two pass grades (minimum E) at AS level. Without at least two pass grades (minimum E) the student should not normally expect to transfer to Year 13. If a student has two graded subjects and one U grade, the U graded subject should usually be dropped. The ungraded subject may only be continued following a written request from the subject team leader (form available), outlining exceptional circumstances. There is then a probationary period until the end of the first term.

It is only possible for a student to start an AS subject in Year 13 if there is room available in the appropriate class. (maximum size of 20). Priority for allocation of places is given to students following a course of two A2 level subjects.

5. Over-subscription at age 11 and for applications to Years 7 – 11 other than during the normal round of admissions

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit:

1. where the child is in the care of the local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
2. where the child lives in an area normally served by, or is *enrolled at*,** one of the maintained primary or junior schools in Bishopstone, Broad Hinton, Chiseldon, Wanborough or Wroughton. A map of this area is available for inspection by parents at the school;
3. where the child has a natural or step brother or natural or step sister attending the school at the time of admission or application;
4. where The Ridgeway School is the first choice (as indicated on the application form made to the LEA) for a child living in either the Toothill or Westlea areas of West Swindon or *enrolled at*** Toothill Primary School or Westlea Primary School. Many children at Oliver Tompkins Junior School qualify because they live in the Toothill or Westlea areas of West Swindon. A map of the Toothill and Westlea areas is available for inspection at the school by parents;
5. other children.

In the event of oversubscription, priority will be given to applicants in that criterion who live closest to the school, measured in a straight line.

** "*Enrolled at*" in criteria 1 and 3 above means that the child is currently on the roll of the primary or junior school and will have been so enrolled at the time of proposed transfer for at least one year.

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The one-year enrolment requirement is waived for a child who lives beyond daily travelling distance to The Ridgeway School and then moves into an area within daily travelling distance.

If the School is named in a child's statement of special educational needs that child has a right to be admitted to the School.

6. Applications other than in the normal admission round

The admission limits for the academic years 2006-2007 and 2007 - 2008 are as follows:

Y7	240
Y8	240
Y9	240
Y10	240
Y11	240

If a place is available it will normally be allocated. If there is, at any one time, more than one application for an available place, the oversubscription criteria will apply.

A place may be offered to a child in advance of a family moving into an area designated in the criteria in the oversubscription list provided suitable confirmation of the intended residence can be given, e.g. proof of exchange of contracts on a house purchase, a letting agreement or letter from an employer.

7. Waiting lists

Where necessary the school may maintain a waiting list for applications. This may apply at any stage of an admissions process, at age 11, in Year 7 after the normal round of admissions and in any of the Years 8 – 11. It is made clear to parents on a waiting list that the priority for admission is subject to the published oversubscription criteria, and not the dated position on the waiting list.

8. Admission to a cohort outside the normal age-group

The School considers carefully requests for admission outside a normal age group and makes a decision based on the circumstances of each individual case. The circumstances may for example involve the exceptionally high level of ability of a child, or personal or medical circumstances that have necessitated a pupil missing all or part of a year of education.

9. Children with a Hearing Impairment

Children from a wide local area who are in possession of statements for hearing impairment are admitted to the school's Unit for Hearing Impairment (HIU).

10. Compliance with Parental Preference

As an Admissions Authority the School is subject to the requirement to comply with parental preference except where:

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- to admit the child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources;
- the child has been permanently excluded from two or more schools and the last of those exclusions was less than two years ago.
- where another place has been offered

11. Over-subscription at age 16

Where applications from those wishing to be admitted to The Ridgeway School for sixth form education exceed the number of places available, provided the normal academic qualification requirements for acceptance onto a course of study are met, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below to decide which students to admit:

1. where there are places available on the relevant courses;
2. where the applicant aged 16 lives in an area normally served by The Ridgeway School. A map of this area is available for inspection by parents at the school;
3. where the applicant has a natural or step brother, or natural or step sister attending the school at the time of application or admission;
4. other applicants aged 16.

In the event of oversubscription, priority will be given to applicants in that criterion who live closest to the school, measured in a straight line.

12. Admission of students to the Sixth Form after the normal round of admissions at the start of Year 12 or Year 13

Students will be considered for admission to Years 12 and 13 after the normal round of admissions. The decision to admit will be based on consideration of:

- all normal entry requirements, as for the start of Year 12
- availability of places on the relevant courses
- the practicability and viability of starting or transferring to courses after their start date
- if Year 13, all the criteria of Paragraph 4 have been met.

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Appendix

Timetable for co-ordinated admission arrangements for entry to Year 7 in September 2007.

Closing date for applications.	18th October 2006
The Ridgeway School, as a Foundation School, sends lists of places allocated to Swindon LEA and any other appropriate LEA from where applications have been received.	12th January 2007
Offers made to parents by Swindon LEA.	1st March 2007