

NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL

POLICY DOCUMENT



Admissions Policy – 2023 - 2024

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| LAST UPDATED | (by) Resources Committee | October 2020 |
| LAST REVIEWED | (by) Full Governing Body | November 2021 |

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| POLICY TYPE | Statutory |
| REVIEW DATE | <p>Arrangements must be determined annually, which is ratified by the FGB. We must consult on any changes, and where no changes are made, consultation is required at least every 7 years.</p> <p>Next consultation review date is October 2024.</p> |

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| RESPONSIBLE | |
| Leadership Team | Acting Co-Headteachers |
| Governing Committee | Full Governing Body |

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| APPROVED | | |
| Approved by: | Fully Governing Body | |
| Meeting Date: | 6 th December 2021 | |

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| UPDATE: Shared Drive Website (if applicable) | 7 th December 2021 7 th December 2021 | |
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At Newlands we create confident and responsible young women equipped with the skills they need for the twenty first century. We empower all students to realise their potential as part of a sustainable community committed to lifelong learning.

Part One

Admission to Year Groups 7 – 11

A. Introduction

Newlands Girls' School is a single sex, comprehensive academy. Governors are carrying out an annual review of their admission arrangements as required by law and in line with the Admissions Code, which came into force in February 2012. This has been updated in December 2014 and September 2015. They also have regard to the Local Authority consultation and proposed timeline for the co-ordinated admission arrangements.

The Governing Body is the admissions authority and participates in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's co-ordinated admission arrangements for Year 7 entry. Parents/Carers wishing to send their children to Newlands Girls' School should submit an application to their home Local Authority and follow the guidance of that Local Authority regarding deadlines for submitting the application. This information will be published in Local Authority admission guides.

This policy should be read together with information about your Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements and a copy of the School Prospectus. Newlands Girls' School will hold an Open Evening for prospective parents to attend and details of this will be made available on their website. Tours round the school during the day can be booked with the School Office throughout the year.

B. Admission number and age of admission

The admission number for Newlands Girls' School is 192, which applies to Years 7 to 11 inclusive. The Sixth Form has its own admission number (see Part 2 of this document).

C. Making an application

Copies of the school prospectus are available to all Parents/Carers who are interested in applying to Newlands Girls' School. Under the co-ordinated arrangements for Year 7 entry, applicants must complete the Local Authority application form for the area in which they reside and meet the closing date given by that LA.

If there are fewer applicants than there are places available for Year 7 entry in September, everyone who applies will be offered a place. Children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan, which names the school, will be allocated a place in accordance with their statutory entitlement. If there are more applicants than there are places available after the admission of students with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school, places will be offered in accordance with the criteria for admission detailed in Section I below.

In exceptional circumstances, Parents or Carers may wish to seek admission to a year group that is not the normal group for a child of that age. If a Parent or Carer is considering this they must contact the school for a discussion prior to making an application. The Headteacher will consider a request and make the decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include consideration of the Parent's/Carer's view, the academic, social and emotional development of the child, any relevant information provided by medical professionals, and whether they have previously been educated outside of their normal age group. If the

C. Making an application - continued

Headteacher refuses to consider a request to consider an application for a year group outside of the child's normal age range, they will set out the reasons for this refusal. If the Headteacher agrees to the request, and if the application would then seek entry into Year 7, it would be processed as part of the main admissions process and using the over-subscription criteria outlined above (if the request was received after the closing date for Year 7 entry then the application would be considered alongside other late applications) While parents have a right of appeal against a decision to refuse admission to their child, there is no right of appeal if they have been offered a place but not in their preferred year group.

D. Timescale

In accordance with the co-ordinated admissions body, on 1st March 2023 the Local Authority will communicate the formal offer of a place to parents or carers on behalf of the Governing Body. The onus is on parents to contact the Local Authority by their specified date 15th March 2023) to either accept or decline the offer of a place. This will in no way affect parents' right to appeal for a place at another school. Unaccepted places will be allocated to other applicants from the waiting list.

E. Waiting List

The parents of pupils not offered a Year 7 place can have their daughter's name added to the waiting list (by contacting the Admissions Department at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead) for places that might become available later. The waiting list will be maintained by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead until 31st August 2023, where after it will be passed to Newlands Girls' School to maintain.

F. Appeals

Parents who are unsuccessful in their application will be given the opportunity to submit an appeal (to the Admissions Department at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead) against refusal of a place. Admission appeals will be heard by an independent panel, the membership of which is decided by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Dates for appeal hearings are usually set for the second half of the Summer Term.

G. In-Year Applications

These should be made direct to the school using an 'In-Year Transfer Form'. This is available, on request from the Headteacher's P.A. Should there be more applicants than places available, the same admission criteria will apply as for applications in Year 7.

H. Children with Statements of Special Educational Need/ Education, Health and Care Plan

The law requires Governors to admit pupils with a statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan where the Local Authority has named Newlands Girls' School as the most appropriate placement. These applications will usually be agreed in advance of the main allocation process. In the case of a late application, Governors can be required to admit even if the admission number has been reached.

I. Criteria for admission

Once children with an EHC plan have been allocated, in the event of there being greater demand for admission than there are places available, places at Newlands Girls' School will be offered using the following criteria in the following descending order:

1. Children in care.¹ This category includes a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became adopted² or were subject to a residence order³ or special guardianship order.⁴ This category also includes those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children with exceptional social or medical reasons for requiring the school (as explained in Note 1 below).
3. Children who live in the 'designated area' of the school (see Note 2 on page 5) and who have a sibling who attends this school (see Note 3, page 5).
4. Children who live in the 'designated area' of the school (see Note 2, page 5).
5. Children who have a sibling who attends the school (see Note 2, page 5).
6. Children who attend a Primary School that is formally linked with the preferred Secondary school (see Note 4, page 5).
7. Individual preference for a co-educational or single-sex educational school where only the alternative is available in the local area.
8. Children whose parents have any other reason for their preference.

¹ I.e. children in care are children who are (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

² All children adopted from local authority care.

³ Under the terms of the Children Act 1989. See Section 8 which defines a 'residence order'

⁴ See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

Note 1 - Application of the Social or Medical category

The academy will consider an application in this category only where the Parents/Carers can demonstrate a **wholly exceptional** medical or social requirement for admission.

To apply under this category, the parent must send a letter with the application form explaining the reasons for requiring a place at Newlands Girls' School. The letter must state why the preferred school is the only one suitable and the difficulties associated with attendance at another institution. Such difficulties must be so exceptional as to be extremely rare amongst the general population.

Supporting evidence must be provided from a suitably qualified professional person such as a consultant, a general practitioner, psychiatrist or senior social worker. All evidence must be on headed writing paper and provided at the expense of the parent/carer. The academy reserves the right to undertake further investigations or enquiries into the matter.

Note 1 - Application of the Social or Medical category - continued

Applications lacking external objective evidence will be rejected under this category and then considered under the next highest appropriate category in the admission arrangements.

Final decisions under this criterion will be made by persons independent of the academy.

There is no right of appeal against refusal of a decision in this category, but all parents have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel after allocations of places have been published.

Note 2 – Designated Areas

Maps of the current designated areas may be viewed on the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead website, <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-admissions/school-designated-areas> Alternatively, you can contact the Borough by phone for details.

Note 3 – Sibling Criterion

The term 'sibling' includes a half or stepchild permanently living in the same family unit or a foster child permanently living in the same family unit whose place has been arranged by the Social Services Department of the Local Authority. Sibling eligibility will flow from a foster child to other children of the family or from a child of the family to a foster child.

Qualification for sibling status is made on the basis that the pupil already at the school will be of compulsory school age and will remain on roll at the school at the time of application. Attendance of a sibling in Year 11 at the time of application or possible attendance in the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) does not confer sibling status. A child is regarded as being of compulsory school age until the end of the school or academic year in which he or she becomes 16 years of age.

Note 4 – Formally Linked Schools

The schools which are formally linked to Newlands Girls' School are: Courthouse Junior, Riverside Primary, Holyport CE Primary, Oldfield Primary and St Luke's CE Primary.

J. Tiebreaker

If Newlands Girls' School does not have enough places for all children in a particular category, a tiebreaker will be applied to prioritise places.

Priority will be given to those applicants who live closest to the school. The distance will be measured in a straight line from the address point of the pupil's house as determined by Ordnance Survey to the address point of the school using the local authority's GIS system. In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school then random allocation will be used to prioritise applicants where necessary. The names will be drawn and the whole process scrutinised by persons who are independent of the authority.

K. Residence in the designated appropriate area for the school

The 'designated area' for the school (sometimes referred to as a catchment area) covers the whole of the Maidenhead area. A copy of the map of the area can be inspected at the school and is also available on the RBWM website and the Newlands Girls' School website.

https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/ed_designated_area_maidenhead_secondary.pdf

The 'home address' is the child's permanent address at the time the application is considered. It is where the child and Parent/Carer live during the school week, including

K. Residence in the designated appropriate area for the school - continued

nights. Where there is shared parental responsibility and the child spends time at two addresses, the 'home address' is the one where the child benefit is claimed. Newlands Girls' School reserves the right to check the validity of any address given by asking for evidence such as a recent utility bill confirming the name and address or inclusion on the Electoral Roll.

If the child does not live at the parent's address for valid reasons (e.g. lives with grandparents), we may ask to see official documentation such as a child benefit book or medical card to prove habitual residence of the child. In such cases, you will need to state this on the application form. If you do not declare any such arrangements or use a relative's address, we may consider that you have made a false declaration and withdraw the offer of a place. (Child care arrangements are not sufficient grounds for naming another address.)

L. Children of multiple births

In cases where there is only one place available at the school and the next child on the waiting list is one of a twin, triplet or other multiple birth groups, both twins (or all the siblings in the case of other multiple births) would be admitted, even if this meant that the school would admit in excess of the admission number.

M. Definition of parent

This means the parent who has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act 1989, or the person in the household who is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996. This could include a person who is not a biological parent but who has responsibility for her (such as a child's guardians) but will not usually include other relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. unless they have all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority, which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and their property. (This excludes child-minding arrangements).

N. Waiting lists

Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list. The list will be held in the order of the stated admissions criteria. Late applications will be added to this waiting list dependent on the criteria they fulfil. Active waiting lists will be maintained by the school for all year groups.

O. Fair Access Protocol

All state schools are required to participate in the Fair Access Protocol. This can, on rare occasions require Newlands Girls' School to be directed to admit a pupil where no alternative school can be found. This could, on very rare occasions, mean that a child is admitted ahead of the waiting list or in addition to the admission number.

P. Admission into year groups other than Year 7

Where applications are made to year groups 8-11, places will be offered dependent on available vacancies. In the event of more applications than places available, the criteria outlined in section I will apply.

Q. Information about past years

Students admitted to Year 7

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 186 | 192 | 192 | 192 | 192 | 192 | 192 |

R. Further information – named contact

Please telephone the Headteacher's PA at the school.

Part 2

A. Admissions to Newlands Girls' School Sixth Form

Candidates for the Sixth Form must meet the requirements for the courses they wish to study. This information can be found in the Sixth Form Curriculum Booklet, published annually.

There are 150 places available in Year 12 and we anticipate making at least 20 of those available to external candidates.

There are separate application forms for internal and external candidates, available to download from the Newlands' website or from the school.

B. Right of appeal

If a prospective Sixth Form student is refused a place, both the student and the parents/carers may lodge an appeal. If separate appeals are made, they will be heard together.

C. Allocation of places (oversubscription criteria)

In the case of oversubscription of a place on a particular course, places will be offered first to students already on role at the school in Year 11 and then to external candidates.

The criteria below will be used to allocate to external applicants the available places in the course that receive more applications than can be accommodated.

- A) Children in care, i.e. children in the care of a Local Authority as defined in the Children Act 1989. This category includes a 'looked-after' child or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked-after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. This category also includes those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- B) Students with siblings at the school at the time of admission. The term 'sibling' includes a half-sister or step-daughter permanently living at the same family home or foster child living in the same family unit whose place has been arranged by the Social Services Department of a Local Authority.
- C) All other applicants who meet the academic requirements of the course. Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plans that name a school are required to be admitted to the school provided they meet the academic requirements for the intended course.

D. Tiebreaker

If the school does not have enough places for all applicants within a particular category, places will be prioritised by means of a tiebreaker which will be proximity to the school measured in a straight line from the address point of the student's house as determined by the Ordnance Survey to the address point of the school, using the GIS system.

E. Waiting List

The Sixth Form waiting list will be held in order of the admission criteria.

F. Late applications

If an application is received after the deadline, this will be considered 'late' and, as such, considered after the allocation of places and parents notified after the main allocation date, unless exceptional circumstances apply, e.g. hospitalisation, for which evidence will be required.

G. Multiple Births or children with birth dates in the same academic year

Application for places in the Sixth Form is based on meeting the individual requirements of the course. However, in cases where there is one place available and the next student on the waiting list is one from the same family born in the same academic year, every effort will be made to admit both students, subject to the availability of appropriate courses.

H. Accepting or declining a Sixth Form place

Places are offered on the understanding that there is a commitment to meet the academic requirements of the course.

Parents/Carers are required to accept or decline the allocated place within two weeks of receiving the offer, using the form sent with the letter. Failure to do this could result in the offer of a place being withdrawn.

Appeals

The student and/or the Parents/Carers of students who are not offered a place, have the right to appeal against non-admission. A panel, independent of the school, will hear appeals and their decision is binding on all parties. Appeals for admission into the Sixth Form will take place after the GCSE results have been published.