

Belfast Model School for Girls

Achievement for All



Sixth Form Entry Policy

Agreed by Board of Governors: Jan 2007

To be reviewed: Jan 2010

Rationale

The Belfast Model School for Girls is committed to enabling young people to continue their development from Key Stage 4 to an appropriate Sixth Form course. The Post-16 curriculum is flexible and adapts to changing curricular opportunities that provide suitable courses for our students. Opportunities are provided to enable the students to learn in a challenging and supportive environment.

Purposes

- To ensure that the students select a Post-16 course that meets their interests, needs and aptitudes.
- To maximise student potential and life opportunities by providing Careers guidance and offering different paths of study.
- To enable the young people to learn effectively, collaboratively and independently.

Guidelines

- Planning for 6th Form Courses in September usually starts the previous February after the 'mock examinations' with a series of special assemblies and questionnaires for Year 12. Before we can run a particular course in the 6th Form, we carry out market research to find out how many students are intending to come back to school and what they intend to study.
- Subject blocks are established on the basis of the information gleaned from a preliminary trawl of Year 12 pupils.
- At Sixth Form level we operate a consortium with the Boys' Model School in order to offer the maximum amount of choice to prospective 6th formers in each school. A wide range of courses is offered at different level including, AS, A2, AVCE, GNVQ, Certificate and Diploma. These courses may be one or two years.
- An Options Booklet giving details of Post-16 Courses and options is distributed to Year 12 pupils. The Vice Principal (Curriculum) and Head of Sixth Form collaborate in co-ordinating subjects options for prospective Sixth Form students.
- Decisions about the Sixth Form curriculum are made on the basis of pupil choices and numbers, staffing, timetabling and government policy. There is no guarantee that any subject will be offered on an annual basis.

ENTRY INTO YEAR 13

Places in the 6th form are limited by DENI, therefore competition is keen every year. The following criteria for entry are emphasised to Year 12 students before applications are made:

1) GOOD EXAM RESULTS

- a) 5-6 GCSE* passes at A,B,C grades for 3 AS/A2 courses
- b) 4 GCSE* passes at A,B,C grades for 2 AS/A2 courses

Students achieving GCSE ICT must offer at least 2 other subjects grades A-C in order to take 3 AS subjects and 1 other subject to take 2 AS subjects.

- 2) Good effort and performance grades in 'mock examinations'.
- 3) Good attendance and punctuality to registration and subject classes in Year 12 (above 85%).
- 4) A good record of behaviour in Year 11/12 (Year Heads, Assistant Year Heads and school reports are consulted).
- 5) The approval of the relevant HOD and Subject Teacher
- 6) An interview in August with the Vice Principal/Head of Sixth Form after the GCSE results are published. Parents may attend this interview.

One Year Course

Normally at least 16 points are required to enter a one year course at 6th Form. Points are allocated as follows:

A*:8 A:7 B:6 C:5 D:4 E:3 F:2 G:1 Others 1

ENTRY INTO YEAR 14

- 1) Two AS passes or equivalent in Year 13.
- 2) Good attendance and punctuality to registration and subject classes in Year 13 (above 85%).

These policy Guidelines are translated into action through other policies and procedures, for example:

Curriculum Policy

Behaviour Management Policy

Attendance Policy

Public Examination Policy