

Belfast Model School for Girls

Achievement for All



Freedom of Information Policy

Agreed by Board of Governors: Jan 2007

To be reviewed: Jun 2010

This is the Belfast Model School for Girls' Publication Scheme on information available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The governing body is responsible for maintenance of this scheme.

Rationale

One of the aims of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (which is referred to as FOIA in the rest of this document) is that public authorities, should be clear and proactive about the information they make public.

To do this we must produce a publication scheme, setting out:

- The classes of information which we publish or intend to publish;
- The manner in which the information will be published; and
- Whether the information is available free of charge or on payment.

The scheme covers information already published and information which is to be published in the future. All information in our publication scheme is either available for you on our website to download and print off or available in paper form.

Some information which we hold may not be made public, for example personal information.

This publication scheme conforms to the model scheme for schools approved by the Information Commissioner.

Purposes

The school aims to:

- enable every child to fulfil their learning potential, with education that meets the needs of each child
- help every child develop the skills, knowledge and personal qualities needed for life and work, and this publication scheme is a means of showing how we are pursuing these aims.

Guidelines

Categories of information published

The publication scheme guides you to information which we currently publish (or have recently published) or which we will publish in the future. This is split into categories of information known as 'classes'. These are contained in section 6 of this scheme.

The classes of information that we undertake to make available are organised into four broad areas:

- School Prospectus – **information published in the school prospectus.**
- Governors' Documents – **information published in the Governors' Annual Report and in other governing body documents.**

- Pupils & Curriculum – **information about policies that relate to pupils and the school curriculum.**
- School Policies and other information related to the school - **information about policies that relate to the school in general.**

How to request information

If you require a paper version of any of the documents within the scheme, please contact the school by telephone, email, fax or letter. Contact details are set out below.

Website: **www.belfastgms.org**
Email: **info@modelschoolforgirls.org.uk**
Tel: **028 90391768**
Fax: **028 9071 6828**
Contact Address: **Belfast Model School for Girls
Dunkeld Gardens
Belfast BT14 6NT**

To help us process your request quickly, please clearly mark any correspondence **“PUBLICATION SCHEME REQUEST”** (in CAPITALS please)

If the information you’re looking for isn’t available via the scheme [and isn’t on our website], you can still contact the school to ask if we have it.

Paying for information

Information published on our website is free, although you may incur costs from your Internet service provider. If you don’t have Internet access, you can access our website using a local library or an Internet café.

Single copies of information covered by this publication are provided free unless stated otherwise in section 6. If your request means that we have to do a lot of photocopying or printing, or pay a large postage charge, or is for a priced item such as some printed publications or videos we will let you know the cost before fulfilling your request. Where there is a charge this will be indicated by a £ sign in the description box.

Classes of Information Currently Published

School Prospectus – this section sets out information published in the school prospectus.

Class	Description
School Prospectus	<p>The statutory contents of the school prospectus are as follows, (other items may be included in the prospectus at the school's discretion):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the name, address and telephone number of the school, and the type of school • the names of the head teacher and chair of governors • information on the school policy on admissions • a statement of the school's ethos and values • details of any affiliations with a particular religion or religious denomination, the religious education provided, parents' right to withdraw their child from religious education and collective worship and the alternative provision for those pupils • information about the school's policy on providing for pupils with special educational needs • number of pupils on roll and rates of pupils' authorised and unauthorised absences • National Curriculum assessment results for appropriate Key Stages, with national summary figures • GCSE/GNVQ results in the school, locally and nationally • a summary of GCE A/AS level results in the school locally and nationally • the number of pupils studying for and percentage achieving other vocational qualifications • the destinations of school leavers¹ • the arrangements for visits to the school by prospective parents • the number of places for pupils of normal age of entry in the preceding school year and the number of written applications / preferences expressed for those places

Governors' Annual Report and other information relating to the governing body– this section sets out information published in the Governors' Annual Report and in other governing body documents.

Class	Description
Governors' Annual Report	<p>The statutory contents of the governors' annual report to parents are as follows, (other items may be included in the annual report at the school's discretion):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details of the governing body and their category of membership, clearly identifying the chair, vice-chair and secretary. • a statement on progress in implementing the action plan drawn up following an inspection • a financial statement, including gifts made to the school and amounts paid to governors for expenses • a description of the school's arrangements for security of pupils staff and the premises • information about the implementation of the governing body's policy on pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and any changes to the policy during the last year • arrangements made and facilities provided for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to ensure they are no less favourably treated than other pupils (Article 8 of the 1996 Order). • a description of the steps taken to implement special needs policies, in accordance with Article 9 of the Order. • a description of the arrangements for the admission of pupils with disabilities; details of steps to prevent disabled pupils being treated less favourably than other pupils;

	<p>details of existing facilities to assist access to the school by pupils with disabilities; the accessibility plan covering future policies for increasing access by those with disabilities to the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a statement of policy on whole staff development identifying how teachers' professional development impacts on teaching and learning • number of pupils on roll and rates of pupils' authorised and unauthorised absence • National Curriculum assessment results for appropriate Key Stages, with national summary figures • GCSE/GNVQ results in the school, locally and nationally • GCE A/AS and vocational qualification results in the school, locally and nationally • the number of pupils studying for and percentage achieving other vocational qualifications • the destinations of school leavers • a statement of the extent to which proposals in the post- inspection action plan have been carried into effect
Instrument of Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the name of the school • the category of the school • the name of the governing body • the manner in which the governing body is constituted • the term of office of each category of governor if less than 4 years • the name of any body entitled to appoint any category of governor • details of any trust • if the school has a religious character, a description of the ethos • the date the instrument takes effect
Minutes¹ of meeting of the governing body and its committees	Agreed minutes of meetings of the governing body and its committees in relation to meetings held from March 2004 onwards.

¹ Some information might be confidential or otherwise exempt from the publication by law – we cannot therefore publish this

Pupils & Curriculum Policies - This section gives access to information about policies that relate to pupils and the school curriculum.

Class	Description
Home – school agreement	Statement of the school's aims and values, the school's responsibilities, the parental responsibilities and the school's expectations of its pupils e.g. homework arrangements
Curriculum Policy	Statement on following the policy for the secular curriculum subjects and religious education and schemes of work and syllabuses currently used by the school
Sex Education Policy	Statement of policy with regard to sex and relationship education
Special Education Needs Policy	Information about the school's policy on providing for pupils with special educational needs
Accessibility Plans	Plan for increasing participation of disabled pupils in the school's curriculum, improving the accessibility of the physical environment and improving delivery of information to disabled pupils.
Race Equality Policy	Statement of policy for promoting equality as per Section 75 of the 1998 NI Act.
Careers Education Policy	Statement of the programmes of careers education provided for Key Stage 4.

Child Protection Policy	Statement of policy for safeguarding and promoting welfare of pupils at the school. (<i>from March 2004</i>)
Pupil Discipline	Statement of general principles on behaviour and discipline and of measures taken by the head teacher to prevent bullying.

School Policies and other information related to the school - This section gives access to information about policies that relate to the school in general.

Class	Description
Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) published reports referring expressly to the school	Published report of the last inspection of the school and the summary of the report
Post-ETI inspection action plan	A plan setting out the actions required following the last ETI inspection
Charging and Remissions Policies	A statement of the school's policy with respect to charges and remissions for any optional extra or board and lodging for which charges are permitted e.g. school publications, music tuition, trips
School session times and term dates	Details of school sessions and dates of school terms and holidays
Health and Safety Policy and risk assessment	Statement of general policy with respect to health and safety at work for employees (and others) and the organisation and arrangements for carrying out the policy
Complaints procedure	Statement of procedures for dealing with complaints
Performance Management of Staff	Statement of procedures adopted by the governing body relating to the performance management of staff and the annual report of the head teacher on the effectiveness of appraisal procedures
Staff Conduct, Discipline and Grievance	Statement of procedure for regulating conduct and discipline of school staff and procedures by which staff may seek redress for grievance
Curriculum circulars and statutory instruments	Any statutory instruments, departmental circulars and administrative memoranda sent by the Department of Education to the head teacher or governing body relating to the curriculum
Annex A - Other documents	Annex A provides a list of other documents that are held by the school and are available on request

Our website is at www.belfastgms.org

Feedback and Complaints

We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have about the scheme. If you want to make any comments about this publication scheme or if you require further assistance or wish to make a complaint then initially this should be addressed to:

*Mr J A Graham
Principal
Belfast Model School for Girls
Dunkeld Gardens
Belfast BT14 6NT*

If you are not satisfied with the assistance that you get or if we have not been able to resolve your complaint and you feel that a formal complaint needs to be made then this should be addressed to the Information Commissioner's Office. This is the organisation that ensures compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that deals with formal complaints. They can be contacted at:

*Information Commissioner,
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire SK9 5AF*
or

Enquiry/Information Line: 01625 545 700

E Mail: publications@ic-foi.demon.co.uk.

Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

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

Complaints Procedure