



READING BLUE COAT SCHOOL

1. Admissions Policy

Introduction

Reading Blue Coat School provides independent day education for boys between the ages of 11 and 18 and girls between the ages of 16 and 18. The School has approximately 750 pupils; approximately 35 % of the Sixth Form are girls.

This policy sets out the selection criteria and procedure for entry to Reading Blue Coat School and aims to be consistent with the School's charitable objectives and to be fair to all applicants.

2. Entry Points

The main points of entry to the School are at 11+ (Year 7) and 16+ (Year 12). The School admits 96 pupils at 11+ and approximately 50 additional pupils at 16+.

Applications for other entry points will be considered subject to places becoming available. Parents seeking places outside of the two main entry points should contact the Director of Admissions in the first instance.

3. Equal Opportunity

The School is committed to equal treatment for all and as such our admission criteria apply equally to all children regardless of cultural background, linguistic background, special education need, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, ethnicity, race, religion, disability or social background. The Sixth Form, where we are co-educational, the above list still applies and furthermore, we do not discriminate based on gender, pregnancy or maternity.

4. Sibling policy

A number of siblings will join Reading Blue Coat School and we are pleased to have an established relationship with many families. However, parents should note that each child in a family is required to satisfy the normal entry requirements as set out in this policy.

5. Registration

Registration for 11+ can take place at any point prior to the entrance assessments in January of Year 6. However, most pupils are registered during Year 5 of their Prep or Primary School.

Registrations for 16+ generally take place during Year 10 or the first half of the Autumn term as students enter Year 11.

Registration forms can be downloaded from the School website:

www.rbc.org.uk/admissions or can be obtained from the School by calling 0118 944 1005. Alternatively, registrations can be made online via the School website.

6. Waiting Lists

The number of suitable applicants for any year group normally exceeds the number of places available. The School therefore maintains waiting lists which are ranked and maintained until the start of the new term in September.

7. Late applications

Late applicants may sit the entrance assessments by appointment, and if successful, will be offered a place if available or a place on the waiting list if the year group is fully subscribed.

8. Criteria for entry - 11+

Pupils are selected on the basis of three things:

- Interview
- Academic assessment
- Report from the pupil's current school confirming a positive approach.

Each of these three elements is considered equally important in assessing each pupil's potential and capacity to benefit from the education offered here in its fullest sense: co-curricular as well as academic.

In the Autumn term of Year 6 Parents of registered pupils will receive a letter inviting their sons for interview together with confirmation of the assessment date.

Parents who have not received a letter by the end of the Autumn term are requested to contact the Admissions Office.

The School does not take responsibility for administrative errors or letters that go astray.

8.1 Interview

Interviews are conducted in the Autumn Term either by the Headmaster or another experienced and senior member of the academic staff. Interviews last for approximately 20 minutes and are meant to be informal. Parents are invited to attend the interview with their son.

8.2 Entrance Assessments

The 11+ entrance assessments take place at the School on either the 3rd or 4th Saturday in January in the academic year before the pupil would be due to join the School. Pupils sit three papers: English, Mathematics and Verbal Reasoning.

Samples of the English and Mathematics papers are available from the School's website: www.rbc.org.uk/admissions/pupils-11/

Whilst performance in the tests is not all-important, a satisfactory performance is required to demonstrate the pupil's ability to cope with the pace and rigour of the academic curriculum at the School.

8.3 Offers of places

Parents receive letters confirming the outcome of their son's application during the week prior to the February half term holiday.

Parents wishing to accept an offer of a place are required to pay a deposit of £1000. One half of this deposit is offset against the first term's fees and the other half retained until the pupil leaves the School (usually at the end of Year 13).

The test results are not published and the School is not obliged to state its reasons for rejection of an applicant.

9. Entry at 16+

Reading Blue Coat School has a vibrant Sixth Form which has grown in size and popularity in recent years. There is a strong academic ethos and all students are expected to take a positive approach to their studies and embrace the co-curricular programme.

9.1 Entry requirements

All students (existing Reading Blue Coat students and new applicants) wishing to enter the Sixth Form should have obtained a minimum of eight GCSE passes at Grade C or above, four of these being at Grade B or above and two at Grade A or above. To study Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics at A level, students should have at least an A grade at GCSE or its equivalent. To study Economics, students should have at least an A grade in Mathematics. Students must achieve at least a Grade B in other subjects they wish to study at A Level. In the case of subjects which will be new in the Sixth Form (e.g. Psychology, Government and Politics), students must achieve at least a Grade B in relevant subjects. Further information about entry requirements for specific A Level

subjects can be found in the Sixth Form Information Booklet which is updated every year.

9.2 Entry procedure for external applicants

Students are selected on the basis of three things:

- Interview
- Academic assessment
- Report from the student's current school confirming a positive approach.

Each of these three elements is considered equally important in assessing each student's potential and capacity to benefit from the education offered here in its fullest sense: co-curricular as well as academic.

In the Autumn term of Year 11 Parents of registered students will receive a letter inviting their son or daughter for interview. Parents who have not received a letter by the first week of November are requested to contact the Admissions Office.

The School does not take responsibility for administrative errors or letters that go astray.

9.3 Interview

Interviews are conducted in November in the academic year before the student would be due to join the School, either by the Headmaster or another experienced and senior member of the academic staff. Interviews last for approximately 20 minutes and are meant to be informal. Students may attend interviews with or without parents as they choose.

9.4 Entrance Assessments

The 16+ entrance assessments take place at the School on a Saturday in November in the academic year before the pupil would be due to join the School. Pupils sit papers in Verbal and Numerical Reasoning as well as a short essay paper on current topical issues. There are no sample papers available.

Whilst performance in the tests is not all-important, a satisfactory performance is required to demonstrate the student's ability to cope with the pace and rigour of the academic curriculum at the School.

9.5 Offers of places

Parents receive letters confirming the outcome of their son or daughter's application on the 1st December.

Parents wishing to accept an offer of a place are required to pay a deposit of £1000. One half of this deposit is offset against the first term's fees and the other half retained until the student leaves the School.

The test results are not published and the School is not obliged to state its reasons for rejection of an applicant.

10. Bursaries and scholarships

10.1 Bursary provision

The school has funding available to provide support for parents who may not be able to fund school fees fully or who have seen a change in financial circumstances. These bursaries can cover up to 100% of fees and are means-tested; parents are required to complete a Bursary Application Form giving details of their financial circumstances. Bursary applications are assessed initially by an outside agency, Bursary Administration Ltd, and the final decision relating to bursaries rests with a sub-committee formed of members of the Governors' Finance and General Purposes Committee. Please refer to the School's Bursary policy or contact the Admissions team for further information.

10.2 Scholarships

A small number of academic scholarships are available at 11+. These are awarded on the basis of performance in the 11+ Assessments; no extra exam is required. Music scholarships are available at 11+ and 16+ and are awarded on the basis of an audition with the Director of Music; please contact the Admissions department for further information. Art scholarships are available at 16+ only. These are awarded on the basis of a portfolio of work and an interview with the Head of Art. Please contact the Admissions department for further information.

11. Learning Support

The School provides appropriate support for pupils with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities and this is detailed in the Learning Support policy. If parents are aware that an applicant has a Learning Difficulty or Disability, they should inform the School on their registration form so that appropriate measures can be put in place during the application process. This might include, where appropriate, extra time for the Maths and English papers in the 11+ Assessment. Extra time is not available for the Verbal Reasoning paper. At 16+, extra time is not available in the Verbal and Numerical Reasoning papers but may be awarded for the essay paper. Extra time is only awarded on the basis of a recommendation from an Educational Psychologist or if the applicant's school confirms that it is their normal way of working in tests.

Conclusion

The School is keen to support prospective parents throughout the Applications process and parents are encouraged to contact Mrs Jarrett, Director of Admissions and Marketing (jj@bcs.org.uk) or Ms Fernandes, the Admissions Administrator (aaf@bcs.org.uk), if they have any questions.

Author(s):	JRE
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References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Support Policy;• Bursary Policy
Governor:	Peter Bertram
Date of Governor Agreement:	