

Cleeve School Admissions Policy for entry 2010

The admissions criteria for Cleeve School were approved by the office of the schools adjudicator on 10th July 2008 and protected up to and including entry for September 2011. Guidance notes have been added below the criteria to provide additional information.

Entry to Year 7

Children who have a statement of special educational needs that names the school and children in public care will be admitted to the school irrespective of whether they sit the banding tests (see notes below)

Cleeve School operates a fair banding system to allocate places. The places within each band are allocated according to catchment area and distance, as follows. The test that will be used is the NFER's Cognitive Abilities Test Level C. Children will be placed in one of 7 bands and each band will have an equal number of places allocated to it. Where a band is oversubscribed, places will be allocated in the following priority order:

1. Children in public care
2. Children in the school's catchment areas according to their geographical distance from the school, with priority to those living closest to the school.
3. Up to 10% of places according to aptitude for languages, as demonstrated by the school's Language Aptitude Test, allocated in test score order.
4. Other applicants according to their geographical distance from the school, with priority to those living closest to the school.

Geographical distance is defined as the distance from the main entrance gate of the school, in a straight line, to the child's front door.

Where there are still places available in a band they will be filled evenly by children falling into the next nearest bands.

Applications from children who do not sit school's chosen Fair Banding Test will not be considered for places until after applications from children who have sat the banding test. It is therefore unlikely that applications in the initial admissions round from children who do not sit the banding test will be successful, although children being considered for vacancies that subsequently occur will not be required to sit the banding test. Children in public care will always have priority for admission, whether or not they have sat the banding test.

Additional Notes:

- a) The admission number for Cleeve School for 2010 is 245.
- b) Geographical distance is measured in a straight line from the centre of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance gate of the school using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system
- c) The school's catchment area consists of a first priority catchment area including the parishes of Bishops Cleeve, Elmstone Hardwicke, Gotherington, Oxenton, Southam, Stoke Orchard, Uckington and Woodmancote, and a second priority catchment area of Prestbury and Swindon Village.
- d) Applications forms and guidance notes for our admission tests are available for download from our website or to collect from main reception and are also available from the Local Authority. The closing date for application forms is Friday 16th October 2009. Tests will be held in school over two consecutive Saturdays, November 14th and November 21st 2009 and you will be asked to attend on both days if you are choosing to sit the Fair Banding Test and Language Aptitude Test, guidance notes are also available from our website
- e) Priority for admission in to Year 7 is given to those students sitting the Fair Banding Test and assigned a band. Applications from children who do not sit the Fair Banding Test will not be considered for places until after applications from children who have sat the banding test. In practice this means there is little chance of gaining a place if a pupil does not sit the Fair Banding Test. Special arrangements are made for children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs and those in public care (see below).
- f) The Fair banding test is a multiple choice style test based on non-verbal reasoning. The test takes about an hour which includes 30 minutes of testing, plus explanations. The Fair Banding Test is a not a pass or fail test. Scores are used to place students in bands and are not used beyond the banding process or for setting upon entry to the school.
- g) Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs and those in public care do not need to sit the Fair Banding Test to be allocated a place at Cleeve School. However it is important that the school knows the position of that child within the bands and we work closely with parents to enable the child to sit the Fair Banding Test for this purpose.

- h) In addition to the Fair Banding Test you can also choose for your child to sit the Language Aptitude Test. Please note that a child living in the catchment has higher priority than a child living outside the catchment regardless of language aptitude score. Therefore, if you live in the catchment area there is no advantage to your child sitting the Language Aptitude Test.
- i) After allocation of places to students in catchment, up to 10% of spaces in each of the 7 bands will be allocated to those **outside** the catchment area in order of test score in the Language Aptitude Test. This means that there will be up to 3 spaces in each and every band for applicants with the highest language aptitude scores in that band. These will be the first applicants **outside** catchment to be admitted. The remaining places will go to those outside catchment in order of increasing distance. This means that up to 21 Language Aptitude places are available which are **not dependent** on home address or how far the child's home is from Cleeve School
- j) The Language Aptitude Test consists of two separate tests that will take place over two consecutive Saturdays (For 2009 these will be November 14th and November 21st). The written and listening elements of the Language Aptitude Test take 40 minutes, with an additional 20 minutes needed for explanations. The oral test will take approximately 20 minutes, 5 minutes for the test and 15 minutes for the students to remain in a waiting area.
- k) If a child is not able to attend on the dates of the tests, the school will hold a further opportunity to complete the test in December.
- l) If two or more children in the same band have the same home to school distance, places will be allocated by a process of random allocation. If two or more children in the same band reach the same score in the Language Aptitude Test, the oral test score will take priority. If two or more children in the same band have the same scores in both sections of the Language Aptitude Test, places will be allocated by a process of random allocation.
- m) Where places remain available in a band after all criteria have been applied, they will be filled evenly by children falling into the band above and below starting with the higher band first. Gaps in Band 1 will be filled from Band 2; those in Band 7 will be filled from Band 6.
- n) If the school is still oversubscribed after the reallocation process, a waiting list will be held until October half-term. The waiting list will be prioritised by: 1. children in public care; 2. children in the school's catchment areas according to their geographical distance from the school, with priority to those living closest to the school; 3. other applicants according to their geographical distance from the school, with priority to those living closest to the school. Banding will cease to operate for the waiting list at this point and no new applicants will be asked to sit the Fair Banding Test or Language Aptitude Test.
- o) Parents wishing to appeal for a place at Cleeve School after the reallocation process should write to Chair of Governors, Cleeve School, Two Hedges Road, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, GL52 8AE. Appeals should be received by May 31st to ensure that the appeal can be heard in June. Further information on the appeals procedure can be found in the Local Authority admissions prospectus.

Fair Access Protocols:

In accordance with the requirements of the School Admission Code, the school has signed up to the In-Year Fair Access Protocols held by the Local Authority. Should a vulnerable child within these Protocols require a place at the school, they will take precedent over any child on the waiting list.

In-Year Admissions:

Any applications for a place at Cleeve School in the academic year 2009/10 should be addressed directly to the Chair of Governors at Cleeve School. From September 2010, any applications must be made directly to the Local Authority. In accordance with their statutory duty, the Local Authority will be responsible for offering school places to children on behalf of the Governing Body within their In-Year Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for the school year 2010-2011. This scheme will be consulted upon by the Local Authority in January 2010.

Entry to Sixth Form

The application process for the sixth form begins in December of the school year prior to sixth form entrance. From this point on the sixth form prospectus and application form for the following year of entrance will be available on the school website.

Cleeve School holds a sixth form open evening in the spring term each year and this is an opportunity to talk to the school leadership team, sixth form leadership team and subject teachers.

Applications for the sixth form should be completed by the spring term half term break (February). Following submission of an application form, applicants will be invited to an advisory discussion with the sixth form leadership team. In April applicants will receive notification as to whether their application has been successful and subject choices will be confirmed.

Places in the sixth form will be confirmed following the GCSE results day in August each year.

Capacity

The number of places available is flexible. We expect to be able to respond to need for those students who follow the application process. A sufficient number of places is available to provide for all Year 11 pupils already at the school plus an extra 50 places for new entrants.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the unlikely event of the sixth form being oversubscribed for external applicants, we will give priority to applicants as follows:

- 1) Children in public care
- 2) Other applicants according to their geographical distance from the school, with priority to those living closest to the school. Geographical distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance gate of the school using Ordnance Survey maps.

Entry Criteria

The entry criteria for the sixth form is dependent upon the type of course programme being followed:

- For AS and A2 level study and for International Baccalaureate, students should have achieved a minimum of 3 B grades and 2 C grades with the B grades in subjects that reflect the subject choice for sixth form study.
- For BTEC courses, students should have achieved a minimum of 5 C grades.

All sixth form students should have achieved at least a C grade in English and Mathematics.

Appeals

Applicants who are refused admission to our sixth form are entitled to appeal to an independent appeals panel. Applicants should contact the school office for an appeals form and forms should be returned by September 6th to Chair of Governors, Cleeve School, Two Hedges Road, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, GL52 8AE.