



Watford Grammar School for Boys

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www.watfordboys.org

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SECONDARY TRANSFER INFORMATION

Please read this document in conjunction with the Admission Arrangements

ENTRANCE TESTS FOR SECONDARY TRANSFER IN SEPTEMBER 2018

If you are not applying under Criteria 1, 3 or 4 then you are strongly advised to enter your son for the school's admissions tests provided for in criteria 7 and 8. Before registering for the admission tests, please ensure you live permanently in one of our postcode areas. Please refer to the Admission Arrangements and the accompanying notes for further information.

The school's admissions tests are administered jointly by The South West Herts Admissions Consortium. You will need to register with the consortium if you are interested in applying to any of the following schools: Watford Grammar School for Boys or Girls, Parmiter's School, St. Clement Danes School, Rickmansworth School, Queens School, Bushey Meads School. Your child will sit one test regardless of which school/s you may later apply to, they will not sit a different test for each school.

An electronic form to register for the tests will be available from 24th April until 16th June 2017, our website will give further information at that time.

Date - 2017	Key Date
Monday 24th April	Online registration for the tests opens
Friday 16th June	Online registration closes Late registrations will not be accepted
Monday 3rd July	Parents informed of test venue
Saturday 9th September	Academic test
Tuesday 12th September	Music aptitude test
w/c Monday 25th September	Start of second round music tests
Monday 16th October	Scores notified to parents
Tuesday 31st October	Secondary application deadline

Parents must ensure their child's availability on the published test dates above.

One further date for the academic and music test will be arranged, if required, for children that registered on time who miss the main testing days because they were medically unfit (a medical certificate will be required) or for specific religious observance only.

PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE CHILDREN WHOSE HOLIDAY COMMITMENTS CLASH WITH OUR TESTS OR FOR ANY OTHER REASONS THAN THOSE STATED ABOVE.

The Academic Tests

The tests, Mathematics and Verbal Reasoning, have been specially devised for the consortium schools and cannot be obtained by the general public. No minimum score will be required to gain admission; places are offered strictly in descending order of candidates' standardised test scores.

Musical Aptitude Test

Detailed information for applicants under Criterion 7 (musical aptitude) is given in note (vii) of our Admission Arrangements. There is also information in the notes regarding the types of questions.

Please note this is an aptitude test, not a test of musical ability and we do not require any information about the instruments or standard to which your child plays.

You will be informed of the test centre in July 2017 and this is allocated by postcode. The school allocated has no bearing on your eventual school preference and cannot be changed.

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Special consideration/access arrangements for the test

If your child usually receives special consideration, for example extra time to complete a test, you will need to provide evidence of the need so that appropriate provision can be made. This must be supported by a letter from your primary school Headteacher. You are required to send support arrangements immediately after test registration, attached to a copy of your registration email/paper application. You must send all documents (i.e. the evidence/letter from Headteacher and a copy of your test registration document) to the Test Co-Ordinator, South West Herts Schools Tests, P.O. Box 2439, Watford, WD18 1UZ. This evidence must be received by Friday 17th June, at the latest. You will be informed of any appropriate special arrangements which will be made for your child.

If your child is not able to attend the academic/music test due to compelling religious, medical or other reasons, you should notify the Admissions Secretary at the test centre you have been allocated as soon as possible. Your child will be offered one other test date. We are unable to change the date of the test due to a clash with another school test.

If your child is ill on the day of the academic/music test, you should notify the school that you have been allocated as soon as possible and you will be offered one other test date.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I make an application?

1. Apply online to your Local Education Authority, giving Watford Grammar School for Boys as a named school.
 2. Complete and return a School Information Form (SIF) to Watford Grammar School for Boys
- You **MUST** complete both forms and return them by the deadlines given.

When is the deadline to apply?

31st October is the official deadline for applications, both to your LEA and here.

What is the DFE number for Watford Grammar School for Boys?

919 5401

When is your Open Day?

Our Open Morning is on Saturday 30th September 2017, between 9am and 12 noon. Tours of the School will be available all morning and there is no need to register. We will not be organising tours for secondary transfer prior to our Open Morning.

Is the School Information Form (SIF) available on-line?

The SIF will be available to download from our website. If you are unable to access our website you can collect a SIF from the school, either on or after Open Morning. School opening hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm.

What happens if I do not submit a School Information Form (SIF) to Watford Grammar School for Boys?

We will not know if you are eligible to have your application considered under any particular criteria and therefore your application will only be considered under criteria 2 (distance). We will not know if you have taken the academic or music tests or if you have a sibling already here.

What happens if I do not apply to my LEA, naming Watford Grammar School for Boys as one of my choices?

Even if you take the academic/music tests or have a sibling here already, we will not be able to offer your son a place here.

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Can I apply if my postcode is not in one of your postcode areas?

Last year the school received 597 applications from within the Admission Area for 196 places and, unfortunately, this means that, due to our over subscription criteria, applicants outside the Admission Area have no realistic chance of being offered a place under these admission arrangements. Unless you are intending to apply to another school within the SW Herts Consortium, under whose admission arrangements your child would be considered for a place, there is no point in requesting that your child sit the tests. Having taken the test before applying to any school will not make your child eligible for a place unless the application complies with the rest of our admissions arrangements, principally that the child's home address is inside the WBSGS admissions area. In such a case, should you apply, even after your child has taken the tests, your application will merely be acknowledged and retained. Should it transpire that there are insufficient acceptances from applicants within the Admission Area to fill all the places, only then would your application be considered.

If I take the academic/music tests, can I still apply for a distance place?

Test places are classed as specialist places and all applicants who apply for a specialist place are automatically deemed to have applied for a community place (see Admission Arrangements for further clarification of community and specialist places).

Does my son have to sit any tests?

Non-sibling applicants who do not sit any tests, either academic or music, will only be considered under the distance criterion.

Applicants with a brother at Watford Boys do not sit the academic test. Bear in mind that the older brother must be on roll at the time the younger brother enters the school (i.e. if you only have a son in Upper Sixth at the time of application your younger son would not be allocated a sibling place) and not have first entered the school in the Sixth form.

We strongly recommend that sister-siblings take the test in the event of there not being enough community places to admit all sister-siblings.

Applicants can apply only under the music criterion and only take the music test, however there are limited places under this criterion and applicants are advised to sit the academic test as well.

Do you want to know about my child's sporting abilities and extra-curricular activities?

No – this information will not affect his application. Places are offered in strict accordance with the Admission Arrangements only.