



South Wilts Grammar School for Girls Admissions Policy – 2011 entry

1 General

South Wilts Grammar School is a selective grammar school with Foundation status and responsibility for admissions rests with the Admissions Committee of the School Governors. It is a single sex non-denominational school for girls, aged 11 to 18.

Only girls who attain the required standards in these arrangements for selection by reference to high ability and aptitude will be eligible to be considered for admission to the school. Selection is by means of selection tests. In a typical year candidates will need to achieve a minimum level of 75% in the entrance test to be considered for admission. Meeting the academic requirements for entry to the School is not in itself a guarantee of a place. Please note that no concessions are made for multiple births (twins etc). Each candidate is judged on their individual merits.

Girls cannot be submitted for re-testing until an interval of one year has elapsed from their previous test. Full details of the procedures used are available from the Examinations Officer at the school.

Where a girl is resident abroad she may sit the entrance tests in her current school, providing that written confirmation is received from the head teacher / principal of the school where the test will be administered, that this will be conducted under exam conditions.

2 Number of admissions

The school's published admission number is 128 in Year 7. The school is able to accommodate more pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 when the forms are split into five tutor groups and taught in option sets. The maximum admission number for Year 9, 10 and 11 is 135. In the Sixth Form the school can accommodate 80 external admissions.

3 Admission Arrangements

(a) Admission at age 11 - Year 7

Parents of children in Year 6 can enter their child for the 11 plus selection procedure. Application is by completion of the Local Authority's form for a secondary school place and the school's own test registration form found in the school prospectus and on the school website. The child's performance in a multiple choice paper in Verbal Reasoning, Mathematics and English papers set by GL Assessment provide the main evidence of ability. There will also be a piece of extended writing to be used in borderzone cases. The scores are standardised to make allowances for the child's age and to give equal weighting to the three papers. The scores are then added together to give a final score. If this is equal to or above the cut off mark a child is deemed to be of Grammar School ability. Any child found to be of Grammar School ability would be offered the available places following the oversubscription criteria listed below.

(b) Admission at ages 12 to 15 - Years 8 to 11

Although the usual ages of admission are 11 and 16, suitably qualified students may be admitted when there are vacancies in a year group. Entry is by means of two selection tests, a Mathematics paper and an English paper set by the two Salisbury Grammar Schools. For entry into Year 10, students will be required to sit a Science paper, along with the Mathematics and English paper. These are administered three times a year in the Salisbury Grammar Schools, to whom direct application is made. The scores attained in

each of the tests are standardised to give equal weight to each of the tests and to take account of the age of the candidate. The three / two standardised scores are then added together to produce a final result.

Any girl who attains above the predetermined cut off mark will be deemed to be of Grammar School ability. If a girl attains a score within a border zone range of marks further evidence will be sought from her present school in the form of a professional report and a decision made by the Grammar School as to whether the girl is of grammar school ability.

(c) Admission to the Sixth Form

The published admission number (in addition to any girls already in Year 11 at the school) is 80. All students in the Sixth Form are normally required to have achieved six GCSEs at Grades A* to C, preferably with an A or B in the subjects chosen at AS or A level or in a related subject, although each case will be treated on its merits. A separate booklet giving information about the Sixth Form is available on request.

4 Admission of pupils with Special Educational Needs

- (a) The school admits pupils with Special Educational Needs who can meet the entry criteria.
- (b) Any girl who meets the entry requirements determined by this policy and who has a statement of special educational needs that names the School, will be offered a place irrespective of whether the School has places or not and the girls will take precedence over any pupils on the waiting list.
- (c) The School operates an Equal Opportunities Policy to ensure equality of opportunity.

5 Under Age pupils or Gifted and Talented Pupils.

The school will consider an application of underage pupils provided it is supported by a recommendation from the child's current Headteacher. Generally we expect pupils to have already been working with the relevant year group for the last two years and in the case of entry to Year 7 we would expect them to sit the KS2 SAT tests in the May before entry in September.

6 Oversubscription criteria and waiting lists

The offer of a place at South Wilts Grammar School depends on the availability of places at the school. The following list of priorities will apply if the number of Grammar School ability girls exceeds the number of places available: -

- a) Girls in public care (Looked After Children)
- b) Girls who live in the School's designated area. The address is the place where the child is permanently resident with her parent or parents or legal guardians. Documentary evidence of residence not more than 6 months old may be required (eg the child's NHS medical card and the parent's/guardian's recent utilities bill, bank statement or tenancy agreement, an Armed Forces posting order or a solicitor's letter confirming the exchange of contracts on a property). Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility each part of the week, the "home address" will be considered to be the address of the person whose name is on the child benefit statement (proof of this may be required).

- c) Girls who live outside the designated area and have a sister (this refers to a sister, half sister, adopted sister, or the daughter of the parent / carer's partner, and in every case, who is living in the same family unit at the same address) in attendance at the school living at the same residence on the date of admission of the child.
- d) Other girls in order of nearness to school as the crow flies. This will be measured from the centre of the school to the front door of the applicant's ordinary residence. (Distances supplied by the LA will be used and these will measure straight line distances using the Ordnance Survey eastings and northings of the home and the school address. Those with the least distance will be given priority. In the event of there being equal distances the priority will be decided by casting lots.)

The remaining girls found to be of Grammar School ability will be placed on a waiting list, for a minimum of one term. This is governed by the oversubscription criteria listed above, irrespective of their time of application. Re-testing of waiting list candidates will only occur before Key Stage 4. A map of the designated area can be obtained from the school. To ensure girls are ranked correctly under these published oversubscription criteria, parents are required to complete the School's Supplementary Application Form.

Withdrawal of offer

Parents will be asked to respond directly to the LA. If they do not respond by the 16th March 2011 it will be assumed that the place offered has been declined. If a fraudulent claim of residence has been made and the applicant falls outside the designated area the place allocated could be forfeited.

Appeals

If a parent is dissatisfied with the outcome of the selection procedure, or by the refusal to offer a Grammar School place, an appeal can be lodged against the decision of the School's Governors to an independent appeals committee. These will take place under the arrangements stated by the School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code of Practice and Regulations, February 2009. An appeal form can be obtained from the school.