

Policy Number:

Policy Title: Choosing a Senior School

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1. Introduction. One of Hall Grove’s aims is to prepare children for the next stage of education. This policy will set out the principles that underpin this aim, the process that will be followed by Hall Grove where the Headmaster has responsibility for policy delivery, and some of the factors involved when selecting a secondary school.

The principles that underpin this policy:

- Hall Grove is a school for children from 3-13 years of age. Whilst some children may choose to move to a Secondary school at 11, this policy is specifically designed to support a move at 13+. The policy can be adjusted to support the few who choose to leave at 11+. Every child is important.
- Whilst Hall Grove children may have siblings and/or will have great friends with whom they may wish to remain together at Secondary School, each child has different educational needs. It is therefore recommended to embark on the process of an individual or child-by-child basis.
- Many of the Hall Grove staff are highly experienced and have a clear understanding of the education strengths and weaknesses of each child. They are therefore best placed to discuss recommendations with the Headmaster and Section Leaders who in turn will discuss with parents.
- The Headmaster is responsible for maintaining good links with Secondary School Heads and their admissions teams. It will be his business to understand admissions processes for which in many cases, it will be his reference that forms a vital part of the process.

1. The process undertaken at Hall Grove.

	Timeline	Activity	Purpose
Year 5	Sep/Oct in Year 5	Initial secondary school briefing delivered by Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, Heads of Years 5, 6 and 7. Supported by Parents of Year 8 pupils and some former pupils.	To begin the process and support parents as they begin/continue their viewing of senior schools
	Oct – June in Year 5	Parents to discuss options with form teachers and Headmaster then conduct visits and, in most cases, pay registration fee(s).	To narrow the number of potential schools (ideally to 2 or 3 schools) and secure initial registration.

Year 6	Sep/Oct in Year 6	Final senior school briefing delivered by Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, Head of Years 5,6 and 7.	To confirm short lists and clarify the admissions process that is likely to take place throughout Year 6.
	Aug/Sep in Year 6	Parents must register for ISEB if their child is undertaking the common pre-test.	New requirement in 2022 (previously undertaken by Hall Grove).
	Oct – Feb in Year 6	Parent meetings with Headmaster to discuss options and the admissions process.	Down select to 1 or 2 schools.
	Sep/Oct in Year 6	Battisborough Trip and Pupil Interview and skills development for admissions process	
	Year 6	Secondary School admissions and offers	
Years 7 and 8	June in Year 7	Year 7 Leadership Development package at Battisborough House	To develop Hall Grove children in preparation for moving to Year 8.
	Years 7 and 8	'The Hall Grove Journey Programme'. An education enrichment programme to include interview technique, current affairs, skill and hobby development, and leadership development.	To enhance the preparation for Secondary education and build resilience.

2. Choosing a Secondary School. It is best for Year 5 parents to talk to the Staff and Headmaster as early as possible; this should take place as soon after the 'Initial Senior School Briefing' and Senior School Fair that takes place in September/October of Year 5. The key points to consider are:

- Academic Suitability
- Single sex or co-educational.
- Location – distance from home.
- Location – campus or town-based school.
- Day or boarding (weekly, full, flexi).
- Cost/Affordability.
- Co-curricular opportunities and standard.
- Faith.

Regarding academic suitability, we would urge you to heed any advice given to you by the Hall Grove staff. It is in everyone's interest to get the right standard and much better to find the appropriate match early on, to reduce the risk of falling short in the

assessment tests or to end up a school where he or she is constantly struggling to make the grade.

- 3. Procedure for Securing a Place.** Once you have selected one or two possible schools that will be good possibilities for your child, you will need to register your interest. This normally requires a fee (usually about £200) and ensures that your child is in the system and that he or she will be expected to sit pre-assessment tests or Common Entrance for that school in due course. It does not guarantee entry but does *secure a place in the queue*.

Most schools will require registration in Year 5 or very early into Year 6 and it is essential that you adhere to registration timelines. Some schools require you to register even earlier. If these schools are on your radar, please discuss these choices with us immediately.

Once registration is completed, schools will invite your child to come for interview and sit a pre-assessment test. This will usually take place in the Spring Term of Year 6. If the result is positive, your child will normally be offered a place, usually described as being "subject to maintaining performance at Prep school".

- 4. Common Entrance.** Times have moved forward since the days when Common Entrance (CE) was used as the final hurdle for entry to schools. The revised entry system used by secondary schools has replaced CE as an entry examination and schools prefer to use CE as a favourable syllabus for which secondary schools are familiar, with focus on Maths and English. Having offered children a place in Year 6, Secondary Schools tend to use CE as their chance to *keep an eye* on their selected pupils whilst also providing a system for setting children in their first term at Secondary School. At Hall Grove, we will continue to use Common Entrance as a commonly understood language between us and the schools that value our children.
- 5. Scholarships and Bursaries.** We advise that senior schools are selected as being the perfect school for the child and that the decision is not reliant on being awarded a scholarship. Scholarships are generally awarded by senior schools whilst children are in Year 8. At Hall Grove, the Deputy Head Academic and Head of Year 8 will discuss scholarship potential with parents. Bursaries are different and can be negotiated privately between parents and senior schools during the admissions process.
- 6. Interviews, Assessment Tests and Hall Grove References.** Your child will usually be asked to attend an assessment day in Year 6. This will almost always involve a test in English and Maths, and often Science too. Many of these tests are now done on computer and are similar to the CAT tests which we run at school.

We will also be asked to provide a reference for your child. Initial fact gathering will be conducted by your child's Form teacher with input from all relevant staff, and the Headmaster will use this to form what he regards as being 'his reference'. It will report on all aspects of your child's involvement at Hall Grove and will include comment on personality and suitability for the chosen school. The most important section will be the Headmaster's judgement of the child's potential during their remaining days at Hall Grove and how they will develop at the Senior School. Some schools often appreciate

comment on overall approach by parents. Many of our most popular senior schools place great reliance on our Hall Grove references which they comment on as being “honest”, “reliable” and “a true reflection of the child”.



N K G Tomlin OBE
Headmaster

