

Wirral Grammar School for Boys

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Consultation on increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN), overall capacity, change to admission criteria at Year 7, and change to admission criteria for the sixth form (WGSB6)

Monday 16th October 2023

Wirral Grammar School for Boys is opening a consultation to seek your views on a proposed increase to the Published Admission Number (PAN), overall capacity, change to admission criteria at Year 7, and change to admission criteria for the sixth form (WGSB6).

As the school's official PAN and number on role (1042) is currently lower than the net capacity range for the school (1112 – 1236), this consultation seeks your views on incorporating a formal expansion of the number of places so that the PAN in years 7-11 reflects our capacity to educate students.

The change to admission criteria for Year 7 would provide wider access for Looked After Children and/or Previously Looked After Children* in care outside of England, or Children in receipt of Pupil or Service Premium living within the catchment area to gain a place at WGSB; currently, these groups are under-represented in grammar schools.

The change to admission criteria for the sixth form WGSB6 will provide greater educational choice for all students on the Wirral at Post-16, as the growth in the school would allow for a broader range of qualifications to be offered to all students.

The proposed changes to the Published Admission Number (PAN), overall capacity, change to admission criteria at Year 7, and change to admission criteria for the sixth form (WGSB6) would take effect for admissions from September 2025. A temporary request for changes to the school's PAN would take effect for admissions from September 2024.

Wirral Grammar School for Boys is consistently over-subscribed, with pressure for places in Year 7 reliably high. The school operates above its existing PAN of 155 in all but one year group (which is currently at PAN) and operates with 260-270 students on average in the sixth form (WGSB6) where we have our greatest capacity in terms of group size. An increase in student numbers in the sixth form (WGSB6) would allow greater flexibility in subject combinations, creating greater personalised choice for all, including female students who we already educate in some subjects Post-16.

An increase in the Published Admissions Number at Year 7 would reflect the reality of actual student demand rather than represent an increase. Our intention is that we can provide places for students from within our area, although we do see many students who apply to join the school from outside of the catchment area.

The school is therefore proposing to:

- increase the official PAN in Years 7-11 from 155 to 170. This would be formally implemented for Year 7 admissions from September 2025 (a temporary increase will be in place from September 2024)
- change the Year 7 admission criteria. This would be formally implemented for Year 7 admissions from September 2025
- admit female students into the sixth form at Year 12. This would be formally implemented for Year 12 admissions from September 2025

As a result of the above, it is proposed that the overall capacity of the school (as of October 2023 = 1042) which has the range min. 1112 – max. 1236 is set to **1170**.

This consultation is therefore to gain your views and comments on this proposed expansion and changes to admission criteria at Year 7 and Year 12.

The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Monday 16th October 2023, closing at 8am on Monday 27th November 2023. We will also be holding a stakeholder engagement event on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at Wirral Grammar School for Boys between 6pm to 7pm, where members of the public can share their views in person and ask any questions they may have regarding the proposal.

If you would like to attend this event, please email consultation@wirralgrammarboys.com with the subject title 'WGSB admissions and sixth form Consultation'.

Wirral Grammar School for Boys will consider all points raised in this consultation before a decision will be made to proceed with the next steps, as part of the statutory process which is required before alterations of these kind can be made to academies.

Any comments or suggestions can also be made to the following email address: consultation@wirralgrammarboys.com

If you wish to send a response by post, please send it to Wirral Grammar School for Boys directly.

**A Looked After child is a child who is a) in the care of a local authority, or b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously looked after child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.*