

Reading Borough Council - Grammar school admissions – public statement/website

Grammar schools have decided to postpone their admissions tests from September to October this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, parents/carers will not know the results of these tests until after the normal deadline for submitting secondary school applications on 31 October.

Normally, we would only allow changes to applications after this date in very specific circumstances. However, in view of current events, and in line with neighbouring authorities, we are making an exception this year.

Consequently, if a child has taken the entrance test for a grammar school but not achieved the pass mark for consideration, parents/carers may be able to amend their admissions application up to 10 December 2020.

Amendments will only be accepted in cases where all the following conditions are met:

- The parent/carer has submitted a valid application for a grammar school (i.e. applied to the school and sat the test).
- The grammar school is listed on the child's "on time" application to Brighter Futures for Children school admissions team.
- The parent/carer has listed four preferences on their "on time" application.

For every grammar school preference removed, a new preference may be added which will be added to the bottom of the list, ie the last preference, and any remaining preferences will move up to replace the grammar school(s).

Where more than one grammar school preference is removed, the parent/carer may indicate the order in which the replacement preferences are to be added. Again, the new preferences will be added beneath any remaining preferences listed

The following example shows an application before and after amending:

Original "on time" application:

Preference 1: Grammar School

Preference 2: School A

Preference 3: School B

Preference 4: School C

Amended application:

Original Preference 1: Grammar School - Deleted

Preference 1: School A

Preference 2: School B

Preference 3: School C

New Preference 4: School D – Added

As Reading's admissions portal will be closed by this time, all requests must be made in writing to admissions@brighterfuturesforchildren.org. The request must clearly state (a) the grammar school preference(s) to be removed and (b) the name of the school(s) to be added. We will only accept one new preference for every preference removed from the "on time" application. We will not accept any changes to applications that list grammar schools after the 10 December 2020.

We would generally recommend that parents/carers use all four of their preference options and list at least one local non-selective school below any grammar schools they have chosen. This will improve the chances of their child being allocated a preferred school if they are not successful in the entry exams for the grammar schools.