BRYMORE ACADEMY

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Created by: Stefan McHale	
Date: March 2027	
Approved by Local Advisory Board:	
Review date: March 2028	
Signature of Chair of Governors	Signature of Headteacher

The proposed changes to the Brymore Academy 2028-29 admission arrangements are as follows;

- Complete removal of Criterion 5 (boarding) and Criterion 4 (out-boarding)
- Wording amended in Criterion 6 (boarding) and Criterion 5 (out-boarding) to be 'sibling' and not 'older sibling'

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Admission Arrangements

Applicable to 2028/29 Academic Year

Introduction

Brymore is an academy sponsored by Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust and as such, Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust is the Admissions Authority, however, the admission arrangements are administered by the Local Advisory Board (LAB). The LAB is responsible for Year 7 admissions to Brymore each September, admissions during the course of the academic year, and for arranging independent admission appeal hearings in the event that an application should be unsuccessful.

Rationale and Ethos

It is important to understand the overriding philosophy that enables students to derive so much benefit from the experience that is 'Brymore'. Brymore is a state boarding academy for boys aged 11 to 17. Academic performance is not used as a selection criterion; neither is experience or expertise in any particular practical field. As a single-sex school, admission is open to students who are assigned male at birth (AMAB).

Students with appreciable motivation and interest in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, technology or sport would benefit significantly from the specialised curriculum offered at the school. As such, Brymore does attract students who are genuinely interested in the delivered curriculum (in its widest sense).

All students, we believe, irrespective of their interests, benefit from the structure and discipline that the practical learning and boarding environment brings. All students attending Brymore are described as either full-time boarders (staying in throughout the weekend as well as during the week), weekly ‘boarders’ or ‘out-boarders’, who are day students expected to periodically board. Weekly boarders stay at the school full-time Monday - Friday (they may go home on a Friday from 4.00pm and return on Sunday between 6.00pm - 9.00pm or on Monday by 8.30am), while out-boarders board when on farm duty. This is normally for one week each term from Year 9 onwards. Both boarders and out-boarders have access to the boarding accommodation of the academy.

Admission process

Entry is normally made at Year 7 when the student is 11 years of age. Applicants for boarding places are considered in terms of their suitability to board and strictly against the published Over-Subscription Criteria (OSC) which forms part of the Brymore Admissions Arrangements for 2028/29.

All prospective boarders will be invited to a formal interview, to establish their suitability for boarding. Out-boarders may also be invited for an interview. The interview will take place with the Headteacher, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, and SENDCo, if appropriate. The discussion will focus on the students’ experience of being away from home, experience of living with others, the implications of boarding and their desire to be a boarder.

A report and an assessment of each student’s suitability will be obtained from the Headteacher of their current school. In addition, all applicants will complete a simple questionnaire. This process is two-way and is used to supplement the information contained on our website and explains more about the unique nature of Brymore, but also allows candidates the opportunity to extend and enhance the information about them received by the Academy. Assessment of suitability will be made from this evidence.

Where an Academy place is offered for boarding, it will be held open for 14 school days and applicants will need to confirm acceptance within this time. Where it is not accepted, the place may be withdrawn.

Applicants for places as an out-boarder are only considered against the published OSC which forms part of the Brymore Admissions Arrangements for 2028/29.

All applications for admission must be submitted to the home Local Authority (LA) by the closing date of 31st October 2027. The LA will make a single offer of a place on 1st March 2028.

An application must also be made via the portal on the Brymore website How to Apply - Brymore Academy or by paper application form which can also be found on the website. If you are applying for an in-year admission, please contact Brymore Academy Admissions Officer directly.

Brymore Academy also requires its own application documents to be completed by all potential students and returned by 31st October 2027.

The Published Admission Number

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for statutory age children for admission to Year 7 at the school in September 2028 is 70. This is the maximum number of places that can be legally provided at this point of entry and is split as 30 places for boarders and 40 places for out-boarders.

Published Over-Subscription Criteria (OSC)

Full time / Weekly boarding

These OSC will be applied to boarding applications and places will be allocated up to the PAN for boarding.

All students who are first assessed as eligible and suitable for boarding will be allocated a place in ranked order strictly against the following published OSC up to the PAN.

Children with an EHCP which names Brymore Academy will be given a place against the PAN (as long as they are deemed suitable for boarding) before any further places are allocated as follows:

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order. See full definition on Page 6.
2. Children of members of the UK Armed Forces who qualify for Ministry of Defence financial assistance with the cost of boarding school fees. An official government letter of confirmation will be required.
3. Students who meet the requirements for boarding places and who have a specific boarding need (please see boarding need defined on Page 5).
4. Students with a sibling attending the school at the time of admission and who live at the same address.
5. Children of staff employed at Brymore Academy (Children of staff at the school either where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage).
6. Students living furthest from the school as determined by straight line measurement.

Out-boarders

These OSC will be applied to out-boarding applications and places will be allocated up to the PAN for out-boarding.

All students who are first assessed as eligible will be allocated a place in ranked order strictly against the following published OSC up to the PAN.

Children with an EHCP which names Brymore Academy will be given a place against the PAN before any further places are allocated as follows:

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order. See full definition on Page 6.
2. Students with a sibling attending the school at the time of admission and who live at the same address.
3. Children of staff employed at Brymore Academy (Children of staff at the school either where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.)
4. Students living nearest the school as determined by straight line measurement.

Tie-break

If, in any of the categories above, a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission. Distance is measured in a straight line by a Geographical Information System (GIS) method from the geocoded point of the school site to the geocoded point of the student's home. In the case of a multi-dwelling building such as a block of flats, the same distance will apply for all occupants.

Random allocation by drawing lots supervised by someone independent of the school, will be used as a tie-break to decide who has the highest priority for admission if, in two or more cases, the children's homes are equidistant from the school. However, if children of multiple births (twins and triplets) are tied for the final place, those siblings will be admitted over the PAN.

Visiting Brymore Academy

Where possible a visit to the school should be made prior to making an application. The best time to visit the school is while the student is in Year 6 to one of our Open Mornings held in September and October. In addition, we would recommend that prior to an Open Morning, you visit our annual Open Day (always held on the last Saturday in June).

If attendance at any open event is not possible, a tour may be arranged for prospective students and their parents to be shown around during a normal school day. As members of staff will be teaching, if parents wish to speak to someone (eg the Special Educational Needs & Disability Co-ordinator [SENDCo]) then this should be discussed when a visit is arranged.

Boarding Need

Children with a 'boarding need' include:

a) Children at risk or with an unstable home environment, and children of service personnel who have died while serving or who have been discharged as a result of attributable injury; or
b) Children of key workers and Crown Servants working abroad (eg. the children of charity workers, people working for voluntary service organisations, diplomatic service or the European Union, teachers, law enforcement officers and medical staff working abroad) whose work dictates that they spend much of the year overseas; or
c) Children of key workers and Crown Servants who can demonstrate high levels of mobility in this country or abroad; or
d) Children of key workers and Crown Servants who can demonstrate that shift work is a key element; or
e) Children with parents in the private sector or self-employed who can demonstrate that shift work or long hours are key elements; or
f) Children who live in rural isolation, where parents can demonstrate that a boarding environment would benefit the child's social development; or
g) Children who live in an area, where parents can demonstrate that, the child is at risk of physical or emotional harm and where attending as a boarder at Brymore would safeguard and promote the child's social development.

Suitability for boarding

The following information will be taken into account during the interview and a shared view will be sought.

- Whether the applicant would be able to cope with and benefit from a boarding environment;
- Whether the applicant has any previous experience of staying away from parents/guardians;
- Whether the applicant has any experience of sharing a room with other children/communal living and whether the applicant shows an understanding that in a boarding environment he would be expected to take into account the needs of others and to compromise;
- Whether the applicant has thought about the implications of boarding for example, what he would like most about boarding school and what he would miss most about home;
- Whether a boarding place is what the child wants and is not simply the wishes of a parent/guardian.

A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must be completed in order to provide this information and is available either within the application portal or on our website.

The Department for Education School Admissions Code allows the admissions authority, as part of the boarding assessment process, to consider health and safety implications. Examples may include:

- Arson
- Sexual misconduct
- Extreme physical violence
- Drug/alcohol misuse

Definitions of Terms

Siblings

For the purposes of Admissions, a sibling is defined as a child living at the same address as a half or full brother, an adoptive brother or children of the same household.

Parent or parent/guardian

Natural parents, whether they are married or not, any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person. Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person (having care of a child or young person means that a person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child is considered to be a parent in education law).

Looked after children

"Looked After Child" means any 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 in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989.

A child who was "a previously Looked After Child" means a child who after being Looked After became subject to an Adoption Order under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, a child arrangement order under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 or Special Guardianship Order under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989, as well as those children who appeal (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Home Address

The home address is important as school places are allocated on the basis of the home address of each child. A child's home address is considered to be where the child spends the majority of their time with the person(s) who has care of the child.

Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required, together with proof of actual permanent residence at the property concerned. Places cannot be allocated on the basis of intended future changes of address unless house moves have been confirmed through the exchange of contracts or the signing of a formal lease agreement.

Please note, private letting agreements may not be accepted as proof of residence. An address change due to a move to live with other family members or friends, will not be considered until the move has taken place and suitable proof of residence has been obtained. Proof that a move from the previous address has taken place may also be required eg proof of exchange of contracts, a tenancy agreement showing the end date of the tenancy or a notice to quit from the landlord or repossession notice. The Advisory Body reserves the right to seek further documentary evidence to support a claim of residence, which could include contacting the estate agent, solicitor, landlord or relevant profession. A representative of the school may carry out a home visit/s without prior notice to verify a student's home address.

It should also be noted that an address used for childcare arrangements cannot be used as a home address for the purpose of applying for a school place. A fraudulent claim to an address may lead to the withdrawal of the offer of a place. The Admissions & Entitlements Team, County Hall, Taunton and Brymore must be notified of any change of address during the admissions procedure.

Issues relating to shared residency arrangements

Difficulties in allocating a place at the Academy can arise where shared residence arrangements for the child are in place and parents/guardians submit applications to the Academy and another school. Therefore, where separated parents issue separate applications for their child, the LA (on behalf of Brymore) can only offer one place. In this situation the LAB requires parents to resolve matters between themselves. If an agreement cannot be reached parents may wish to seek legal advice. The LAB will not become involved in private disputes. It is recognised that there may be situations where parents cannot ultimately reach an agreement between themselves and it is, therefore, necessary for the LAB to take a decision. Where this is the case, the LAB will try to establish where the child spends the majority of their time and prioritise the application made by the parent living at this address.

Each parent will be required to write to the LAB and inform them of the number of days each week the child spends with them. Where the child spends equal time with both parents the LAB may ask for additional information including evidence of which parent/guardian is in receipt of child benefit, and/or the name of the GP surgery at which the child is registered. When the LAB has received all the necessary information from both parents a decision will be reached based on the evidence provided.

Children from overseas

The LA will treat applications for children coming from overseas in accordance with Home Office rules for Foreign nationals.

This is the most recent guidance:

School applications for foreign national children and children resident outside England - GOV.UK

Appeals

Families who have their application refused, have the legal right to appeal against the decision to refuse admission. Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust will delegate arranging the appeal hearing to the Local Authority. Details concerning how to appeal are explained in the decision letter sent out when a place is refused. Information on the timetable for the appeal process is available here Refused a place at your preferred school

Waiting list

Where an application has been refused due to lack of places and not due to unsuitability for boarding, the child will be placed on a waiting list. This will be kept in order of the OSC by the LAB, and will be maintained until Easter of Year 10. Where places become available within the PAN they will be allocated to the highest ranked eligible child on the maintained list. Children who are the subject of a direction by an LA to admit or who are allocated to the school in accordance with the In-Year Fair Access Protocols, will take precedence over those children on a waiting list.

Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

In order for children to be considered as suitable for boarding, applicants will need to complete the SIF, which must be submitted along with the school place application.

In-year Admissions

Applications for a place during the academic year must be made directly to the Admissions Officer, by completing the application documents on the Academy website. Applicants will be invited for a tour and an interview and will receive a written response within 15 school days following the interview. Where an Academy place is offered it will be held open for 14 school days and applicants will need to confirm acceptance within this time. Where it is not accepted, the place may be withdrawn.

Withdrawal of places

The LAB will consider withdrawing the offer if:

- The place has been offered on the basis of an application which is subsequently found to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading;
- The place is offered on the basis of an address that is subsequently found to different from a child's permanent home address;
- The parent/guardian has not responded to the offer within a reasonable period of time and a further opportunity has been given for the parent to respond with 10 days, having explained that the offer may be withdrawn if they do not.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range (delayed or accelerated admission/transfer), for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting his schooling.

When such a request is made, the LAB will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned. The LAB will take into account the parent's views and any supporting information provided and the views of the Headteacher. Also relevant is information about the child's academic, social and emotional development, where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional, whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group, whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

Applications for delayed or accelerated transfer must be made on the online form on LA's webpage Delayed or Accelerated Admission.

A written outcome will then be sent, including any reasons for refusal if applicable.

It is advised that an on-time school place application is also submitted for the correct chronological year group. If a delayed transfer request is agreed, the on-time school place application can then be withdrawn.

When the LAB agrees to a parent's request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group, the parent must apply for that year group according to the published timescales. If a school place application is submitted after the closing date it will be considered as late and processed according to the relevant timescales.

For further information and important things you should consider, please visit:
https://www.comerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/starting-school-early-or-late/

Children of UK Service Personnel

The Admissions Authority endeavours to ensure that their admission arrangements support the Government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children. In-year applications are usually considered for admission up to a maximum of half a term in advance of the place being taken up. An exception is made for children of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area and crown servants returning from overseas to live in the area, where a place can be made available up to a year in advance of being required, providing the appropriate documentation is provided as proof of posting (an official government letter (eg MOD, FCO or GCHQ) declaring a relocation date and intended posting).

Usually, a place may be allocated prior to actual residency, only on receipt of exchange of contracts of a formal signed rental agreement. An exception is made for children of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area and crown servants returning from overseas to live in the area. This means that, providing the application is accompanied by an official government letter (eg MOD, FCO or GCHQ) declaring a relocation date and intended posting, the admissions authority will process the application on that address. If proof of a home address is not available at this state, the admissions authority will accept a unit postal address or quartering area address.

For further information, please refer to the DfE explanatory note on Admission of Children of Crown Services;

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461481/Admission_of_children_of_crown_servants.pd