



The University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form: A University Training School

What is the vision of the University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form?

The University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form ('the School') aims to transform lives by creating a learning community that will maximise the personal and academic achievement of all of its pupils. It seeks to bring pupils together from different social and cultural backgrounds, with different abilities, to create an environment that reflects the diversity of Birmingham and provides opportunities for everyone to excel.

The School will meet a need for more secondary places in Birmingham and, in particular, aims to target areas with under-supply of school places. It will be free to attend and the admissions policy will provide opportunities for pupils from different areas across Birmingham to enrol. Entry at year 7 will not be based on academic criteria or an entrance exam, whilst entry at year 12 will be based on GCSE performance to ensure that the pupils can meet the academic requirements of A-Level study.

The School will offer pupils an excellent academic curriculum and will support their personal development, providing opportunities for pupils to develop as well-rounded individuals with strong character. The School will be a centre for initial teacher training, ongoing teacher education and research into improving educational practice. Teaching staff will be fully qualified and of the highest quality. They will be supported by trainee teachers which will increase the ratio of staff to students.



What will be the University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form's curriculum?

The School will offer a broad curriculum, including Sciences, Technology, English, Maths, Humanities (including History and Geography), Creative and Performing Arts, Sport and Foreign Languages.

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8, for ages 11–13) will aim to give each pupil the support they need to achieve their maximum potential, ensuring all pupils receive the broad academic foundation that will encourage success in many careers.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11, ages 13 to 16) the School will offer a curriculum based on core subjects that will provide a basis for various routes in life. At this stage of learning, it is important that pupils keep their options as wide as possible. The School will provide excellent teaching across the curriculum in Science, Technology, English, Maths, Humanities (including History and Geography) and maintain an emphasis on Foreign Languages and the Arts. The majority of pupils will take three science subjects and a foreign language at GCSE.

At Sixth Form, the emphasis will be on academic achievement at a high level, targeted towards university entry. The Sixth Form will offer a broad but focused range of A-levels, emphasising the core disciplines preferred by selective universities. Subjects may include Maths, Further Maths, English, Languages, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, History, Geography, Computer Science, Art and Design, Psychology, Law and Drama/Theatre Studies.



Academic excellence will be complemented by personal development and will support pupils to develop the characteristics they need to succeed in all walks of adult life. These include a sense of identity and purpose, responsibility, honesty, self-reliance and self-discipline.

Extracurricular opportunities (eg, sports, creative and performing arts, community activities) will be integral to the pupil experience, complementing the curriculum. The School will have an extended school day (to 4.30pm) to allow students to engage in extracurricular activities and to participate in supervised study time.

What is the University of Birmingham School's Draft Admissions Policy?

The proposed admissions policy has been carefully developed in-line with the vision for the School. Admission into Year 7 will be comprehensive and academically non-selective whilst Sixth Form will be selective based on GCSE results to ensure that pupils are capable of studying in an academically-focused environment.

Key details from the policy are set out below. To read the full policy, please go to this website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/university-school

Year 7 admissions

The School will admit up to 150 year 7 pupils, starting in September 2015. Birmingham City Council will coordinate the admissions process according to their schools' admissions timetable and provide the Application Form.

School places will be allocated across four areas, or nodes, in the city, based on distance between the applicant's home address to the main entrance of the node (see below). The nodes have been selected to:

- Help ensure that the school's pupil intake is representative of the city of Birmingham.
- Ensure that the opportunity to attend the school is open to a large number of students across the city, whilst recognising that the school should also benefit the community in which it is located.
- Target those areas where there is a need for secondary school places over the next 10 years.



Railway stations allow a good geographical spread of points and encourage pupils (particularly older pupils) to use public transport when travelling to school to reduce local congestion.

The selected points and proportion of places allocated to each node are set out below¹:

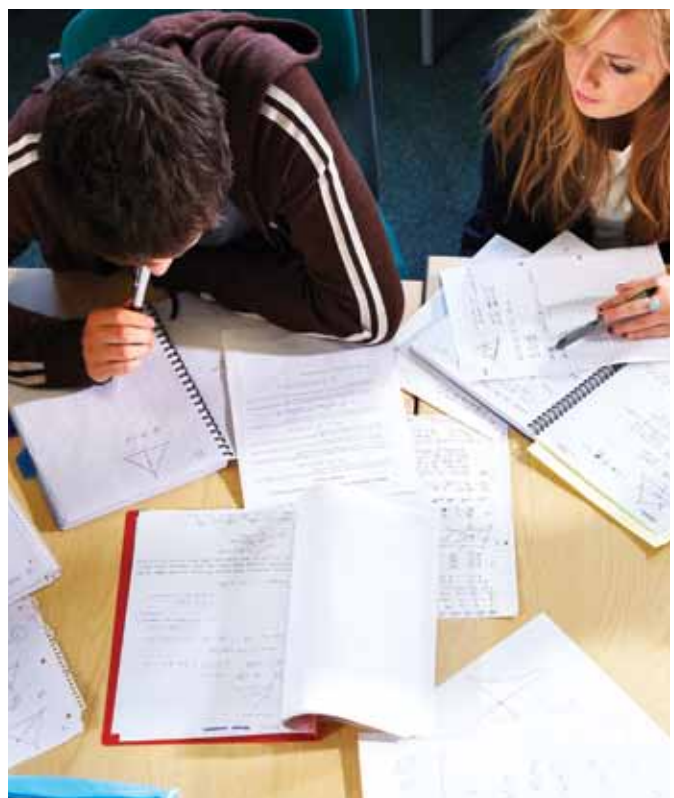
- The University School site itself (B29 6QW): 50.0% (75 pupils)
- Hall Green Rail Station (B28 8AA): 16.7% (25 pupils)
- Small Heath Station (B10 0DP): 16.7% (25 pupils)
- Jewellery Quarter Station (B18 6LE): 16.7% (25 pupils)

If the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, over-subscription criteria will be used to allocate places. After the admission of pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs where the University School is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- a) Looked After Children in the care of a local authority.
- b) Siblings of pupils currently attending the University School and who will continue to do so on the date of admission.
- c) Distance between home address and the main entrance to the nodal point nearest to that address.

If there are fewer applicants for a nodal point than the allocation of places, the remaining places will be allocated to the applicants living closest to other nodal points, in-line with the % distribution set out above. In the event that a tie break situation occurs with two students living equal distance from their closest node, a random allocation tie break will be used.

¹ The actual pupil numbers outlined above may change if the school has admitted pupils with a statement of SEN prior to the application of the oversubscription criteria set out below.



Sixth Form admissions

For 2015/16, the University of Birmingham Sixth Form can admit up to 140 pupils into the 1st year of Sixth Form (year 12). For later years, the Sixth Form has an agreed admissions number for entry into year 12 of 200 pupils, minus those eligible to transfer from Year 11.

The admissions process starts from 1 September in the year prior to admission, with an application form available on the School's website. The closing date for admissions will be confirmed annually. Both internal and external applicants must complete an application form. Further detailed information will be published in the sixth form prospectus and on the University of Birmingham School website.

Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter the Sixth Form will be expected to have met the minimum academic entry requirements:

- Pupils will have at least 5 GCSEs at Grade B or above.
- Pupils will have at least a Grade C at GCSE in English and Maths.
- Pupils will have at least a Grade B at GCSE in the subjects (or associated subjects) that they select to study at Advanced Level (A-level). Grade requirements for each Advanced Level programme will be set out in the prospectus.

When the Sixth Form is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted, subject to the School's capacity to run each course.

If there are more external applications which fulfil the academic entry criteria than places available, the same over-subscription criteria as applied in year 7 will be applied, with the same proportion of applicants allocated across the 4 nodal points.

On an annual basis, all offers made depend on numbers applying and the School's capacity to run each course.

The University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form shall ensure that parents and relevant children will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision.

What is a University Training School?

The School will be one of the country's first University Training Schools. It will be a learning community, educating trainee teachers as well as being a hub for ongoing teacher development, contributing to the sharing of good teaching practice across the city and the region.

The curriculum will be informed by the latest research on education, character development and school improvement, plus the School itself will be a site for cutting-edge educational research. The University's academics will share developments in their fields with teachers within the School and across the region. Where appropriate, pupils will have access to University facilities and learn directly from University academics.

The School will be an active member of the community of schools in Birmingham and the region, sharing with and learning from these organisations.

Who will run the University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form?

The School will be set up and run by the University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form Trust which is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The Directors of the Trust are responsible for day to day management and administration, and over time will become the Governors of the School.

Before the School opens, the University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form Trust and Secretary of State for Education must enter into a Funding Agreement (a contract under which the Trust agrees to establish, maintain and run the School and the Secretary of State agrees to provide funding for it). The Department for Education publishes 'Model Funding Agreements', which can be accessed here: www.education.gov.uk/a0074737/funding-agreement

The Funding Agreement for the University of Birmingham School, as a University Training School, will be slightly different from the Mainstream Free School model. To ensure that there will always be a close and strong relationship between the University and the School, the University will maintain the ability to appoint the majority of the School's Board of Governors.



Your views are essential

To further progress the plans for the University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form, it is essential to receive input from the community which will help to shape the School and ensure its success. Your feedback will be reported to the Department for Education and will also inform the development of School policies and approach. The School has appointed independent advisers to assist with and conduct the consultation process. Their details are included at the foot of this page.

There are three ways to provide feedback:

1. Go to www.birmingham.ac.uk/university-school and complete the online survey.
2. Complete a paper survey and hand in or freepost back (via the business reply envelope) to our consultation advisers.
3. Email universitieschool@contacts.bham.ac.uk or to our consultation advisers: university-school@clarke-associates.co.uk

The deadline for response is 2 August 2013.

Consultation advisers:

Clarke Associates UK Ltd
The Old School House
Chapel Lane
Wythall
Birmingham B47 6JX
Telephone: (01564) 826653

You can ask the consultation advisers for a copy of this leaflet in larger print, another format or another language. We aim to supply what you need within seven working days.

Further information can be obtained from:

www.birmingham.ac.uk/university-school



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