

Rationale for the Proposed Change to Bexley Grammar School's Admissions Policy for Year 7

The Trust Board of Bexley Grammar School is responding to a <u>Memorandum of Understanding</u> between the Department for Education (DfE) and the Grammar School Heads Association (GSHA), which states that both parties have a shared ambition to see more students from lower income backgrounds being admitted to selective schools.

The Trust Board of Bexley Grammar School is committed to fostering wider access to grammar education and promoting social mobility to create a more inclusive and equitable environment at Bexley Grammar School, to ensure that children, regardless of their socio-economic background, have an equal opportunity to benefit from an outstanding grammar education.

The Trust Board of Bexley Grammar School intends to include an additional oversubscription criteria in the school's Admissions Policy for Year 7. Specifically, we propose to use over subscription criteria point 2 to admit up to 12 children, who are eligible for receipt of Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) funding at the time of application and who are deemed selective, in rank order of distance from the school.

This proposal will bring Bexley Grammar School in line with other selective schools both in the London Borough of Bexley and beyond. We note that as of 2022, 136 of 163 grammar schools nationally have updated their admissions policies to offer priority to disadvantaged students in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) funding. We are keen to similarly update our admissions code to promote social mobility and widen access.