Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Oversubscription Criteria

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a popular and well-established programme that provides students with valuable opportunities to develop independence, resilience, confidence and essential life skills.

At Borden Grammar School, we strongly believe that all young people should have the opportunity to benefit from the Award. We are particularly committed to supporting students who may face additional barriers to accessing extracurricular activities and opportunities for personal development.

In the event that applications exceed the number of available places, the school will apply the following oversubscription criteria.

Priority Groups

Priority will be given to students who fall into one or more of the following categories:

1. Looked After Children or Previously Looked After Children.
2. Students eligible for Pupil Premium funding or Free School Meals.
3. Students identified on the school's SEND or Inclusion Register.
4. Students identified as Young Carers.

Application Criteria

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate a genuine interest in and commitment to completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Applications will be considered against three key criteria:

- **Motivation and commitment:** Demonstrating a genuine interest in participating in and completing the Award.
- **Willingness to challenge themselves:** Showing enthusiasm for trying new experiences, developing skills and overcoming challenges.
- **Organisation and responsibility:** Demonstrating an understanding of the commitment required and a willingness to take responsibility for their progress.

Applications will be assessed on students' genuine enthusiasm, understanding and commitment to the award. Appropriate support and reasonable adjustments will be provided if requested.

Allocation of Places

Where the Award is oversubscribed, places will be allocated through the following process:

1. All applications will be reviewed to establish whether students have demonstrated genuine commitment to participating in the Award.
2. Students meeting one or more of the identified priority categories, who have demonstrated genuine commitment, will be offered places first.
3. Where the number of eligible priority applicants exceeds the number of available places, a random ballot will be used to allocate places within this group.

4. Any remaining places will be allocated to other applicants who have demonstrated genuine commitment, through a random ballot.
5. Students who are unsuccessful will be placed on a waiting list, with vacancies allocated using the same priority principles.

This approach reflects the school's commitment to inclusion, equality of opportunity and ensuring that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is accessible to students who may otherwise face barriers to participation.