



## Years 8-11 Enrolment Policy

### Preamble

The Enrolment Policy of Gosford High School was updated after review in 2023. It has been revised from 2024 to recognise all 4 domains of high potential and gifted education and improve support and access for high potential disadvantaged students. This policy will continue to be reviewed annually. The policy explains the process by which students gain entry into Gosford High School for years 8 - 11. The Year 7 process for enrolment differs from the process used to fill vacancies in other Year groups. The latest version of the Enrolment Policy was ratified by the School P&C at its meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

### Enrolment Limits

An enrolment ceiling for each Year was set as follows:

- Years 7 and 8 (180 per Year)
- Years 9 and 10 (180 per Year)
- Years 11 and 12 (200 per Year)

The maximum possible enrolment is 1120 students.

### Residency Requirements

Applicants must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or holders of a visa granting permanent resident status in Australia. Proof of citizenship/residency must be provided. Parents must be living in NSW by the beginning of the school year. Proof of NSW residency must also be provided.

### School Context

Gosford High School is an academically strong, coeducational government school. It holds a position of historical significance to the people of the Central Coast and sits proudly on Darkinjung Land as the first high school opened in Gosford in 1927. Since 1992 the school has specifically catered for the needs of high potential and gifted students. It participates in CHS sporting competitions and actively supports the Creative and Performing Arts.

Prospective applicants should be aware that our school places a strong expectation that students will participate in all school carnivals and whole school events.

### Year 7 Enrolment

Each year 180 students are selected for entry by reference to a state-wide test administered by the Selective Education Unit, moderated teacher assessments in English and Mathematics. Students are offered places on the basis of a rank-ordered composite score and a preference list

of up to three schools. Application is made online with the Selective Education Unit [Application process \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/placement-test#Test0). Sample questions from past Selective High Schools Placement Tests are also available at

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/placement-test#Test0>

The Selective Education Unit can be contacted on 1300 880 367 or by email at [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au).

### **Years 8-11 Enrolment**

Applications for places in Selective Schools for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 open late June each year. Each school has its own policy in respect of filling occasional vacancies. Gosford High School has its own criteria for placement, and it is strongly recommended that applicants read this document carefully.

All applications are subject to the requirements and procedures of the Department of Education and the Selective Education Unit.

### **Enrolment Applications for 2025**

**Applications for Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 2025 open Friday 18th June 2025 and close Friday 25th July 2025 at 2.00pm.**

**Applications received by mail or in person will not be accepted after this date or time.**

**The Gosford High School Placement Test will be held on Saturday 9th August at 9:00am, in the School's Hall.**

### **Vacancies**

Prospective applicants should be aware that:

- For Year 8 there are historically only a few, vacancies, therefore places are limited.
- For Year 9, and 10 there are usually up to 5 vacancies in each year that may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria.
- For Year 11, up to 20 places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria.
- Gosford High School does not accept enrolments into Year 12.

### **The Application and Selection Process Years 8 - 11**

Download the application form from the GHS or Selective Education Unit website. Ensure you read page three of the form which contains examples of information that may be included in support of your application. You must supply a copy of your last two years school reports, the current year half yearly report and last 2 NAPLAN results. If you are selected for an interview, you will then be required to support your claims with appropriate evidence. Return your application to the school, accompanied by a payment of \$140 if Gosford High School is your 1<sup>st</sup> choice (you will be sitting the HAST test at Gosford High School) or \$50 if Gosford is NOT your first choice (you will be sitting the HAST test at another school within our group). This cost covers administration costs, processing, and assessment of applications. Some students from Department of

Education schools are eligible for the waiving of test fees based on their current school location. Please contact the school if you are from a DET school to find out more.

### **Selection Criteria**

Students selected for enrolment at Gosford High School are expected to support and enhance the ethos of the school in its pursuit of academic excellence, and by participation in a range of co-curricular activities. The Selection Committee considers:

- the educational history of the student
- performance in statewide tests such as NAPLAN and academic competitions
- HAST test performance compared to students enrolled at GHS
- sporting interests and accomplishments
- co-curricular interests and abilities
- reasons for wishing to attend.
- availability of subjects/courses or combinations of these
- proximity and ease of access to the school
- compassionate circumstances and disadvantage
- whether they have siblings already enrolled in the school
- the impact on local public comprehensive schools
- the effects on local area selective classes in comprehensive schools

### **Selection Committee**

Applications will be considered by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee is chaired by the Principal. A parent representative is invited to assist in the selection process. A Deputy Principal from the corresponding Year group is a member of the Committee. The initial assessment of applications may be made by a large sub-committee of the Selection Committee, comprising Teacher Assessors, trained in the assessment procedures applied under the local selection policy. Each application is assessed at least twice, and the Assessors' scores are tallied and recorded. Once a rank order list is created, the Committee decides on the number of interviews that will be held after reviewing the results of the HAST test.

If invited for interview applicants must attend to be eligible for placement. The interview allows the selection panel to investigate the application made by each applicant and their suitability to Gosford High School. At this stage, HAST Test results, the applicants' abilities, interests, and achievements are taken into consideration, including their academic and post-school aspirations, their 'fit' with the school's ethos in terms of their co-curricular and sporting activities, their demonstrated commitment to the values of the school, appropriate course vacancies and the validity, accuracy and quality of their accompanying documentation. At the conclusion of the process, the Principal discusses the revised rank order list with the Selection Committee Members and a final rank order list is completed. The rank order lists are shared with the community members for review and comment. As a result of the school's testing process, applicants may be offered a placement or be placed on the reserve list. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by mail and have the right to appeal.

Interviews for Year 9 and 10 are usually limited to **5**. Should any more applicants need to be considered they will be ranked on the HAST test result with the application and offered places in rank order.



Interviews for Year 11 will be offered **10** plus vacancies. Should any more applicants need to be considered they will be ranked on the HAST test result and supporting material.

If vacancies exist, a placement list is created, and applicants are offered places. A Reserve List for future vacancies is also created using ranked scores from all criteria in the application. As vacancies arise applicants are contacted and invited to interview and if successful places are offered. The Reserve List is current until the application process for the following year commences in June. Successful applicants are either offered places or advised of their position on the Reserve List.

### **Review of Placement Decisions**

Under certain conditions, parents can request that the Principal review the decision made by the Years 8 - 11 Placement Committee. Please refer to the following guidelines:

[GHS Guidelines for Review of Year 8-11 Placement Decisions.pdf](#)

### **Family Placement Claim**

Where two or more students have equal merit, a student with a family placement claim will be given priority. A family placement claim can be made if a brother, sister, or parent currently attends or previously attended Gosford High School.

Please note Family Placement is a Gosford High School policy. It can only be claimed by informing the enrolment officer of the wish to place a Family Placement Claim at GHS when submitting your application. Family Placement is not applicable to applications made using the Selective Education Unit's generic application form.

### **School Financial Contributions**

All NSW public schools can request contributions to enhance their educational and sporting programs. The school determines the level of contributions and activities in consultation with the school community as part of the budget process. Gosford High School has regular financial management meetings with the P&C where fees and contribution amounts are ratified.

