



ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL
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Admissions Policy

Authorised by: The Board of Governors of St Benedict's School

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Contents

	PAGE
1. Introduction	3
2. Principles.....	3
3. Procedures for Admissions	3
4. Transfer for existing pupils.....	4

This policy applies across the School at all ages from the Early Years Setting to the Sixth Form

1. Introduction

Our Benedictine ethos is at the core of the holistic education that is provided by St Benedict's to boys and girls throughout the School from the Nursery to the Sixth Form. St Benedict's has a strong academic record, and the School is committed to supporting its pupils and students so that they can truly develop to their full potential. The school has an impressive sporting tradition and has a highly regarded music department. The School also offers excellent opportunities in the performing arts as well as a wide range of other co-curricular activities including extensive opportunities for community service.

St Benedict's School is committed to providing an environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. It is further committed to challenging attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion. Where it is practicable to make reasonable adjustments to enable a prospective pupil to take up a place at the School and to satisfy the current admissions criteria, the School is committed to providing those reasonable adjustments.

2. Principles

St Benedict's School is an independent Catholic day school offering education at Nursery, Junior and Senior School levels. Entry to the School is by a process of academic selection in which religious background and other abilities are also taken into account. We aim to select boys and girls who are academically above average ability. The School is open to prospective pupils of all races, nationalities and religions, including those of no specific faith.

Pupils are considered for the year group appropriate to their age. An individual would only be placed out of year in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Headmaster. The selection process for entry to the school usually includes an academic assessment, interview and receipt of a School Reference from the candidate's current school. The final decision relating to admissions is made by the Headmaster. The admissions process is managed by the Registrar; all appeals relating to admissions are referred to the Headmaster. The Headmaster's decision is final. It is a condition of admission to the school that parents accept the School's Terms and Conditions.

3. Procedures for Admissions

Children are eligible to join the Nursery in the academic term following their third birthday. Children are observed during a short play session in order to assess readiness for entry into the Nursery at 3+ and must be toilet trained and able to feed themselves. The main intake of children is into Pre-Prep 1 (Reception) at 4+. Children seeking admission to the Pre-Prep department are usually assessed during the Michaelmas term. Using the School's criteria for admission, children are observed in a classroom situation and asked to carry out certain tasks individually and in small groups. The offer of a place is subject to the successful outcome of the assessment morning and a parental interview with the Junior School

Headmaster.

There is a smaller intake of children at 7+ for entry to Lower Prep (Year 3), when assessment is formal, and at other times for occasional entry, if places are available. Children seeking admission to the Junior department are assessed in literacy, numeracy and verbal reasoning, and the prospective pupil and parents attend an interview with the Junior School Headmaster. A School Reference is also sought from the current school.

The main intake into the Senior School is at 11+. + All applicants sit an entrance assessment in English, Mathematics, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning, some of whom will be invited to an interview. A School Reference is sought from the current school. Places are offered according to the school's criteria for admission. Candidates are usually tested in January and places offered in February at the published times, for entry in September, however pupil admission can take place at other times by arrangement subject to spaces being available.

A limited number of pupils enter at 13+, sitting an entrance test in English, Mathematics and Verbal Reasoning, some of whom will be invited to an interview. A School Reference is sought from the current school. Candidates are usually tested in January and places offered in February at the published times, for entry in September, however pupil admission can take place at other times by arrangement subject to places being available.

There is also an intake into the Sixth Form and offers are made on the basis of GCSE results, interview, current school reference and availability of places.

4. Transfer for existing pupils

It is expected that in most instances children already in the Nursery will transfer to the Junior School, then at 11+ to the Senior School, and finally at 16+ into the Sixth Form.

Transfer to the Senior School at 11+ and into the Sixth Form at 16+ is subject to the principles set out above and to a pupil making satisfactory progress. It is for the School to deem whether progress is satisfactory or not.

The parents of children who are not being offered a place in the Junior School, Senior School or Sixth Form will be informed by the School in Nursery, Form 1 (Year 5) or Upper 5 (Year 11) respectively.