

Admissions Policy

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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 or group assessment 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 Head of Admissions. 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

Nursery and Junior School

Children are eligible to join the Nursery in the academic term following their third birthday, when they are three years and three months of age. Children are observed during a short play session in order to assess readiness for entry into the Nursery at 3+, must be able to feed themselves and we encourage that they are toilet trained prior to joining us. 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 alongside a taster day. The prospective pupil and parents attend an interview with the Junior School Headmaster. We request latest school reports and

a School Reference is also sought from the current school.

Senior School

The main intake into the Senior School is at 11+. All external applicants sit an entrance assessment in English and Mathematics some of whom will then be invited to a Group Assessment. We request latest school reports and 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 December 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 places may be available for candidates seeking entry to the Senior School at 12+, 13+ and 14+. The process is exactly the same as set out above for the 11+ entry point, with one exception, that 12+, 13+ and 14+ candidates will have an interview.

Sixth Form

There is also an intake into the Sixth Form and offers are made on the basis of predicted GCSE results, interview, current school reference and availability of places. Candidates not undertaking GCSE examinations, will also be required to sit an online assessment. Furthermore, if they wish to pursue Mathematics or any of the Sciences at A level, they will also be expected to complete an entrance paper in the relevant subject.

4. Transfer for existing pupil

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 a pupil making satisfactory progress. It is for the School to deem whether progress is satisfactory or not.

The parents of children who might not be 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 that there are concerns about their prospective transfer.

5. International Students

St Benedict's School welcomes applications from students who hold foreign passports and are based either in the UK or abroad at the time of registration. Offers are contingent on the applicant having the right to study in the UK. In the case of pupils residing in the UK on a visa, a copy of the new pupil's passport and residence visa is taken, alongside the residence visa of the parent, on which the pupil's visa is dependent. This is done prior to admission to the School. Students on any visa will be subject to whatever visa and passport checks are deemed suitable under UKVI guidelines.

St Benedict's School has been approved by UK Visa and Immigration to hold a Sponsor Licence for Senior School applicants seeking Child Student Route Sponsorship at GCSE or A level entry points. The School works with families to determine suitability for Child Student Route sponsorship, following processes set out by UKVI, to enable a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) to be generated.

The School is committed to ensuring it keeps current passport and visa records of all pupils on Tier 1, Skilled Worker Visa, BNO, European Settlement or Child Student Route Visas, so as not to put its Sponsor Licence in jeopardy.