

Admissions Policy

The two principal questions we ask when we receive an application for pupil admission are:-

1. Do we have room in the Year group for which admission is requested?
2. Will this applicant be able to enjoy success in the academic and social environment of Kingsmead?

Further questions might also be asked, such as the following:

- ∞ are there particular factors which make this a priority applicant?
- ∞ would the admission of this applicant be in any way to the detriment of the education of other pupils in the school?

The procedure for admission is typically as follows:

- a) Parents obtain a prospectus.
- b) Parents arrange to visit the school, meet the Headmaster and be shown around.
- c) If parents want to carry the matter further, the applicant will then join the school for a taster day. For those wanting to board, we encourage an overnight stay. During the taster day, there will be an assessment (including spelling, reading, mathematics and verbal reasoning). Either at the time of assessment, or on another day, the applicant may spend some hours, or a whole day, in the classroom with pupils of the same age. This is sometimes referred to as a "Taster day".
- d) Those entering Year 7 take an Entrance Exam in early January and if they have performed particularly well may be invited back for a Scholarship Exam.
- e) If the applicant is transferring from another school, reference is normally made to that school at this point. If the applicant is living abroad, the visit to the school and assessment may not be possible. In that case, a detailed report is required, normally from the Head Teacher of the previous school. Occasionally, test papers are mailed out.
- f) If the criteria for admission have been met, the Headmaster writes to the applicant's parents offering a place and explaining procedures about uniform, dates of terms etc.
- g) The parents signify their acceptance of the offer by sending in a cheque for the registration fee and deposit.

Ability range of pupils

Because of its admissions policy, and its history, Kingsmead has a wide range of ability among its pupils. Some come to Kingsmead with the intention of proceeding to Grammar School at age 11 or 16. Others come because they have difficulty in coping with various aspects of education.

In most forms and for most subjects, the school places children in groups on social/friendship groups rather than on ability. However, there are some exceptions to this rule: for example, it may be considered wise to 'set' classes for English and Mathematics. In Years 10 and 11, groups are formed by the choice of GCSE subjects.

Scholarship and entrance tests

1. There is an entrance test for pupils in Year 6 (internal and external candidates). Scholarships are occasionally offered to applicants seeking to enter the school in other Years, provided they attain the required standard in the prescribed papers. Award of a scholarship entitles parents to a reduction in the tuition fees.
2. Bursaries - we provide a range of bursaries for families who would struggle to pay for school fees in full. Parents apply by completing a Bursary Application Form, which is then assessed by the Headmaster, Bursar and the Chairman of Finance.

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