

KINGSMEAD SCHOOL HOYLAKE TRUST LIMITED
Including Early Years Foundation Stage

Admissions Policy

Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your child will visit Kingsmead School. We hold a number of open events each term which give a general introduction to the school. Details are published on our website. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times. Please contact the school's admissions secretary, Mrs Kathy Buglass on 0151 632 3156 or email kbuglass@kingsmeadschool.com to arrange a visit.

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 shown around the school. Parents bring the child's latest report and any relevant paperwork.
- c) If parents want to carry the matter further, your child will then join the school for a taster day where they may spend some hours, or a whole day, in the classroom with pupils of the same age. During this day, there will be an assessment (including spelling, reading and mathematics).
- d) Those entering Year 7 take an Assessment 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, as well as relevant admissions paperwork.

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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.

Equal Treatment

Kingsmead School's aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Bursaries are offered in order to make it possible for as many as possible who meet the school's admission criteria to attend the school.

Kingsmead School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or social background.

Special Needs

Kingsmead School does not discriminate in any way regarding entry. The school welcomes pupils with special educational needs providing that its Learning Development Unit can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with disabilities provided that our site can accommodate with them. However, parents of children with special educational needs or physical or mental disabilities must discuss their child's requirements with the Headmaster before he/she is assessed so that the school can make adequate provision for him/her. Parents should provide a copy of an educational psychologist's report or a medical report if they have one, or any other relevant paperwork.

The school trains its teachers to differentiate within the curriculum and to take into account pupils' learning difficulties (as well as the needs of gifted and talented pupils).

The school will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the school.

Scholarship and assessment

Scholarships are designed to reward excellence and to celebrate exceptional talent. In recognition of this achievement, the scholar is offered a reduction in tuition fees throughout his/her time at Kingsmead School. Parents are asked to indicate on the registration form whether they wish to apply for a scholarship.

There is an assessment 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.

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Bursaries

The school offers means-tested awards annually to entrants at the usual point of entry, where the parents have indicated on the registration form that they require financial support. Bursaries are means-tested. Both parents are required to provide proof of their income and assets. The level of support varies according to parental need.

Bursaries are always offered for 12 months at a time. The family is required to provide fresh information about its circumstances for every year that their child attends the school. Levels of support may vary with fluctuations in income.

Bursaries are only offered to families who are resident in the UK.

Compiled	March 2011	M G Gibbons
Reviewed	August 2013	M G Gibbons
Approved	14.09.2013	TJT (Governor Representative)
Revised	August 2013	M G Gibbons
Circulated	Autumn 2011	Policies P Drive

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