

Including Sandford, our Early Years Foundation Stage provision

Admissions Policy

Authorised by	resolution of the Board of Governors
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This policy is intended to ensure that the procedures used during the admissions process are consistently applied and are understood by all those involved and has regard to the Equality Act 2010. This policy should be read in conjunction with our SEND Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, EAL Policy, Curriculum Policy and Accessibility Policy.

Ability Profile

Other than in the Early Years Foundation Stage, entry to St Gabriel's is selective, but not fiercely so.

Whilst our examination results and university entrances are the bedrock of our existence, our school's strength lies in its provision of an excellent 'all- round education.'

It is possible for St Gabriel's pupils to enjoy success and gain the respect of others in a large number of ways.

Our pupils are not all judged by the same narrow criterion of academic achievement. Confidence gained in one skill spreads to others so that our pupils grow to feel capable and successful.

Consequently, entrance examinations and assessments identify pupils of *good average ability and above* and places are offered to pupils who are able to thrive in our environment.

Ages of Entry

- Girls and boys are admitted into Sandford from the age of 6 months to 5 years.
- Pupils join the Junior School (Reception to Year 6) from the age of 5 and join the Senior School (Years 7-13) at 11, 13 or 16.
- St Gabriel's Sixth Form (Years 12 & 13) is open to all students who satisfy the required entrance criteria and welcomes applications from pupils who have attended other schools.

Whilst most pupils join the school at the beginning of the Early Years Foundation Stage, Junior School (in Reception or Years 3) or Senior School, St Gabriel's accepts pupils at other stages in their education depending on availability of places.

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Equal treatment

We welcome children from all ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds. Human rights and freedoms are respected but must be balanced with the lawful needs and rules of our school community and the rights and freedoms of others. All candidates for admission will be treated equally, irrespective of their, or their parents' gender (up to the age of 11 in the co-educational Junior School), race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, property, birth or other status.

Registration

Prospective parents may visit the school during one of the three Open Mornings held during the year or make individual appointments through the Registrar.

The Principal meets all prospective parents and they are given a full tour of the school by the pupils. Visitors are able to see the school at work, observe pupils in lessons and talk to members of staff.

Prospective parents can also meet the Head of the Junior School, if appropriate.

Prospective parents are able to register their son/daughter for places on the waiting list at any time.

Admission to the Early Years Foundation Stage

Admission to the Early Years Foundation Stage is non selective. Offers of places are made according to availability and additional factors. Once an offer has been accepted, girls and boys are invited to attend taster sessions.

Whilst it is not a requirement of entry to Sandleford that pupils will progress to the Junior School, it is our expectation that the majority of pupils will continue into the Junior School and beyond. A number of places in the Pre-School room may be reserved each year for direct entry at age 3 or 4 for those children who are registered for the Reception class.

Admission to the Junior School (Reception to Years 6)

Admission to the Junior School is by selection. Prospective pupils in Years 3-6 are assessed by the Individual Needs Department and visit the Junior School for the day. Pupils attend lessons for the remainder of the day during which staff assess general levels of literacy, numeracy and social skills. Pupils in Years 1& 2 are assessed by the class teacher and subject staff.

Places in the Junior School are offered by the Principal on the basis of a successful outcome of the assessment, day's visit and the confidential progress report offered by the current school.

Admission to the Senior School (Years 7-11)

Admission to the Senior School is by selection. Prospective pupils for entry at 11+ into Year 7 are invited to attend the entrance examinations in the November preceding their year of entry. Pupils sit papers in English, Mathematics, Science and Verbal Reasoning and are interviewed informally by the Principal and Vice-Principal.

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Prospective pupils for entry at 13+ attend the entrance examinations in the November preceding their year of entry. Pupils sit papers in English, Mathematics and Science and are interviewed informally by the Principal and/or Vice-Principal.

Places in the Senior School are offered by the Principal following a successful performance in the entrance examination together with a satisfactory confidential progress report offered by the previous school. Parents are required to formally accept the school's offer of a place at St Gabriel's by the time agreed by the Girls' Schools Association, currently the first Monday in March.

Entry into the Senior School at other stages is also welcomed when vacancies occur. Prospective pupils are required to sit papers in English, Mathematics and Science and complete a skills screening assessment as appropriate for their stage of education.

Admission to the Sixth Form (Years 12-13)

Admission to St Gabriel's Sixth Form is by selection. Students remain in the Sixth Form having gained 5 Bs or above at GCSE. Applications from students who have attended other schools are welcome.

Individual Needs

Prospective pupils with special educational needs or disabilities, and pupils with learning difficulties, may be offered places at St Gabriel's if the school feels it can adequately meet their needs and the child would thrive in this setting.

Parents are asked to disclose any such educational need or disability on the Registration Form in order that the school may assess its ability to fully support every pupil as appropriate. The school needs this information so that, in the case of any child with particular needs, we can assess those needs and consult with parents about the adjustments which can reasonably be made to cater adequately for the child's needs both during the admission process and if an offer of a place is made.

Similarly, if special education needs or a disability become apparent after admission, the school will consult with parents about reasonable adjustments that may allow the child to continue at the school

Costs for additional specialist individual needs tuition at St Gabriel's will be borne by the parents.

Special circumstances

We recognise that a candidate's performance may be affected by particular circumstances, for example:

- if the candidate is unwell when taking tests or has had a lengthy absence from school;
- if there are particular family circumstances such as a recent bereavement;
- if there is a relevant educational history, for example education outside the British system;
- if the candidate has a disability or specific learning difficulties;
- if English is not the candidate's first language.

In any of these cases, we may request further information such as a medical certificate or educational psychologist's report and any associated correspondence or details from the pupil's

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current school (including samples of work) or any family history of dyslexia, as we consider necessary to make a fair assessment.

Additional factors

If the school is oversubscribed and we have to decide between two or more candidates who meet our admission requirements after all appropriate allowances and special consideration has been given, we may give preference to:

- a child who already has a brother/sister in Reception or Years 1 to 13;
- a child who is registered for entry in to Reception or Years 1 to 13;
- a child who already has a brother/sister in Sandleford;
- a child whose parent is a current member of our staff;
- a child whose parent is a former pupil here;
- a child with a particular skill, talent or aptitude;
- date of registration.