

Including Sandford, our Early Years Foundation Stage provision

Admissions Policy

Authorised by	resolution of the Board of Governors
Date	Autumn 2010 Spring 2013 Autumn 2014 Summer 2015 Autumn 2015 Autumn 2016 (1-0-0) Autumn 2018 (1-0-1) Spring 2019 (1-0-2)

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 (including the EAL Policy), Equal Opportunities Policy, Curriculum Policy and Accessibility Plan.

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
- Girls 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 Year 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 Open Mornings held during the year or make individual appointments through the Admissions Manager.

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 or 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 day's visit, the assessment by the Individual Needs Department (if this has taken place), and a 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. Places are offered to students based on predicted GCSE grades, an interview with the Principal and Head of Sixth Form as well as a confidential report from a candidate's current school. Applications from students who have attended other schools are welcome.

Scholarships

St Gabriel's offers a number of scholarships a year for excellence in:

- Academic Performance
- Performing arts such as Music, Drama and Dance and
- Sport

These are generally awarded at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

Candidates are invited to apply for scholarships following outstanding performance in our entrance examination or as a result of outstanding performance in the relevant subject area(s) during their time in the Senior School.

Those pupils awarded scholarships will be expected to demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment and will be expected to make a contribution to the life of the School in the relevant area throughout their time at the School.

A scholarship may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions.

Bursaries

St Gabriel's bursary programme is designed to make it possible for as many as possible of those who meet the school's entry criteria to take up a place here. The School offers a number means-tested awards annually to entrants at the usual points of entry, where the parents have indicated on the Registration Form that they require financial support. Bursaries are means-tested in accordance with the criteria published on the School's website. Both parents are required to provide proof of their income and assets. The level of support varies according to parental need.

The school's Foundation is committed to the award although it is reviewed annually, and 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 or wealth.

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Further bursary information can be viewed on our website or can be obtained from the Admissions Manager.

A bursary may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions.

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 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 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.

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School's terms and conditions

These are supplied as part of the paperwork completed upon admission and a copy can be requested from the Bursary or the Admissions Manager.

Complaints Policy

This is available on the website and applies to parents and carers of children who currently attend St Gabriel's.

Privacy Notice

The Privacy Notice for prospective pupils and parents is available on the school website and gives details of the data the school handles and retains in relation to pupil applications.

Date	Version	Changes
October 2018	1-0-1	Registrar renamed to Admissions Manger; Criteria for Sixth Form entry amended
March 2019	1-0-2	Information about scholarships and bursaries added. Reference made to school terms and conditions, Complaints policy and Privacy Notice.