



The King's School Admissions Policy

The aim of this policy is to identify and admit children who will benefit from an academic education and who will contribute to and benefit from the ethos and activities of our School community. The King's School, Worcester is a Church of England Foundation with a Christian ethos and is a selective school for pupils aged 2 - 18.

Parents' acceptance of the offer of a place is conditional upon signing agreement of the School's Terms and Conditions.

Equal Opportunities: The School treats every application for admission in a fair and equal way in accordance with this policy and the School's *Equal Opportunities Policy*. We welcome children irrespective of their gender, disability, gender reassignment, race or belief (or lack of) or special educational needs (SEN). Please see our *Equal Opportunities Policy - pupils*. All parents are expected to support the aims of the *Equal Opportunities Policy - pupils* and the School's ethos of tolerance and respect.

Disability and Special Educational Needs: The School has an ongoing duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with a disability or Special Educational Needs to ensure they do not suffer a substantial disadvantage in comparison with other pupils – see *Equal Opportunities Policy - pupils*.

Parents must inform the School when submitting the Registration Form of any special circumstances relating to their child which may affect their child's performance in the admissions process and/or ability to fully participate in the education provided by the School. The School will not offer a place to a child with disabilities or special needs if, after consultation with the parents and reasonable adjustments have been considered, the School cannot adequately cater for or meet their needs.

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.

Summary of Admissions Procedure: Our admission procedure has a number of elements, which, depending on the child's entry point may include:

- competitive entry tests (or other academic criteria);

- interviews;
- character references;
- disability assessments (if applicable);
- pupil observation;
- acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.

Character reference: The Head of the candidate's current school (where applicable) will be asked to provide a written reference as to the candidate's academic ability, attitude and behaviour, involvement in the school community, talents and interest, and any other special circumstances such as special education needs, or a disability. The reference may also include the results of tests taken at the school (such as NFER or SATs) and predicted grades at GCSE (if appropriate).

Candidate's age: Very occasionally, we may offer places to pupils one year ahead or behind their standard year group, if we consider, as a matter of professional judgement that this would be in the best interests of the pupil and the School.

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

- if he/she is unwell when taking tests or has had a lengthy absence from his/her 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.

Disclosures: Parents must as soon as possible disclose any particular known or suspected circumstances relating to their child's health, allergies, disabilities or learning difficulties.

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 have been given, we may give preference to:

- a child who already has a brother/sister in the school or whose parent is a former pupil here;
- a child whose parent is a current member of our staff;
- a child with a particular skill, talent or aptitude.

All decisions relating to offers of a place in the Foundation remain at the discretion of the Foundation Headmaster.

Bursaries: The School has a Bursary fund from which grants are made each year and reviewed annually. The purpose of these Bursaries is to make it possible for able boys or girls to attend The King's School even if their parents cannot afford the full fees or to tide the parents of pupils already in the School over difficult periods; all such grants are means-tested and subject to annual review. Further details are available on the Website or from the Registrar.

Scholarships: The School follows the agreed policy and practice of the Headmasters' Conference in the award of scholarships. In brief, these are as follows:

- No scholarship award shall exceed one third of fees in value.
- Scholarship awards only bring a discount in fees if awarded at the point of a pupil joining the school. Some scholarships are awarded during a pupil's time at the school. Such scholarships are purely honorary. They are in some cases marked with book tokens.
- Occasionally a pupil will be awarded a joint Academic and Music Scholarship. No pupil may hold combined scholarship awards worth more than a total of one third of fees.
- In cases of proven need, the value of scholarships may be augmented from the Bursary Fund; all such grants are means-tested.
- The only types of scholarship normally awarded are Academic and Music, however subject to the Headmaster's discretion, a candidate for the Senior School, who combines good academic capability with sporting ability, leadership aptitude or other skills, may be considered for a Leadership Award.
- Awards are only retained by a pupil as long as his or her progress remains satisfactory. Further details are included in the Terms and Conditions.

Worcester Cathedral Choir: A boy normally joins the Choir as a probationer at the age of 7-9. Candidates must take the Voice trial, and pass the entrance assessment set by the School. Voice trials for entry into the School in September are held by arrangement throughout the year. The scholarship is awarded by the Cathedral, when a boy leaves the choir the scholarship will cease and full school fees become applicable.

While in the Choir, choristers are expected:-

- to maintain a satisfactory musical standard in the Choir, and to make appropriate vocal progress;
- to make acceptable academic progress, and to qualify at 11+ to join the Senior School in the examination taken by all members of the Junior Schools.

A boy ceases to be a probationer and becomes a Foundation Chorister after election by the Dean and Chapter upon the recommendation of the Master of the Choristers. Boys are recommended for election after two or three years as probationers, on the basis of merit and seniority, and as vacancies arise in the Foundation.

Choristers and Probationers sing the statutory Cathedral Services, and take part in special services, recitals, broadcasts and recordings. They attend the necessary practices for these, and also sing the main services at Christmas and Easter.

Entry points: These procedures apply at the main points of entry: 11+, 13+ and 16+ and also to candidates for occasional vacancies in any other year group.

Entry tests: These are as follows (for Junior schools see annex):

- for entry in years 7 to 10, candidates take papers in Mathematics and English set by the senior school Heads of Department as well as a Moray House verbal reasoning paper, appropriate to their age group.
- for admission to the Sixth Form from outside the foundation, the school uses a Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT), interviews and projected i/GCSE grades. If an offer is made, to qualify for entry to the Sixth Form the normal requirement for external candidates is six passes at least at grade 6 (or equivalent) and a further two passes at grade 4 (or equivalent) at GCSE. Entry for internal candidates is based on i/GCSE results and they must achieve five passes at least at grade 6 (or equivalent) and a further two passes at grade 4 (or equivalent). English language and mathematics must be passed at 4 grade (or equivalent) or higher. It is in the interests of candidates to achieve a grade 7 or better in subjects they intend to continue to A level but we do not routinely set minimum grade requirements to take a particular subject at A level. Occasionally an external candidate may be given an offer which requires them to achieve higher GCSE grades than the normal requirement.

Interviews: These are of two kinds:

General interviews: in all cases there will be a general interview (conducted one to one or in small groups) to explore the candidate's interests, attitude to school, personal qualities, ability to contribute to the school community, support available at home and any relevant connection with the school; in many cases, particularly with older candidates, there will also be a discussion on the pupil's knowledge of and thoughts about current affairs.

Scholarship interview: for those candidates at 11+ and 16+ who show the greatest academic potential, there may also be a scholarship interview to explore further the candidate's academic ability and potential. Prior to Sixth Form entry, scholarship candidates may be asked to submit samples of their work in the subjects, which they are most likely to study at A Level.

Entrance examinations take place annually in January/February; candidates at 11+ from the King's foundation take their papers in either St Alban's or Hawford, whereas external candidates come to school on an examination day.

Scholarships at the Senior School, including King's and Queen's Scholarships and Entrance Scholarships:

King's and Queen's Scholarships (awarded at 13+ and 16+) are the internal senior awards; there are also other scholarships, including entrance and Chorister scholarships.

The following new entrant awards are normally offered:

- 11+ Up to 20 scholarships, value up to 25% tuition fees, the awards to be made on the basis of our Entrance Tests and interview. One or more of these awards may be for Music.
- 13+ Three or four -scholarships of value up to 25% of tuition fees are awarded on the basis of our Entrance Tests and interview. One music scholarship may be awarded each year.
- 16+ There are up to 8 scholarships, whose value is up to 25% of tuition fees. However a larger number of awards of smaller value may be made if that seems appropriate. These awards will be made on the basis of examination and interview, and are in addition to any made to pupils already in the School.

The following awards are normally offered to current students:

- 13+ King's Scholarships are awarded to up to five or six pupils currently at the school.
- 17+ A few honorary awards are made to pupils in the School at the end of their Lower Sixth year on the basis of their GCSE results and progress in the Sixth Form. These awards may include up to 6 King's and Queen's Scholarships.

Annex for King's St Alban's

Entry into Years R, 1 & 2:

For entry into Reception, candidates will undertake a school readiness assessment and spend time with the Reception teacher.

For entry into Year 1 or 2:

Candidates will undertake an assessment of their ability in Maths and English during a visit to School.

Entry into Years 3-6:

For entry in Years 3 to 6, candidates take nationally age-standardised tests in Mathematics, English and Verbal Reasoning, appropriate to their age group.

Scholarships:

Scholarships are offered to candidates of outstanding academic ability. These awards will be tenable only in the Junior School.

Annexe for King's Hawford

Entry into Kindergarten and Reception:

Prospective candidates for entry to Kindergarten or Reception visit with a parent for a "school-readiness" assessment. This assessment takes place in Kindergarten.

Prospective candidates for Pre-Prep (Years 1 and 2) are invited on an individual basis to spend the day in a class in their current year group. They will undertake age appropriate work or standardised assessments in Mathematics and English.

Candidates applying for a Reception place during their Reception year will follow the same procedure as for Years 1 and 2, spending a day in a Reception Class.

Entry into Years 3 – 6:

Candidates entering Years 3 – 6 are invited on an individual basis to spend the day in a class in their current year group. At an appropriate point during the day they will undertake standardised assessments in Mathematics, English and Verbal Reasoning on a one-to-one basis with an assessor.

Scholarships:

7+/8+/9+ Scholarships, value up to one-third tuition fees, are made to candidates of outstanding academic or musical ability. These awards will be tenable only in the Junior School, though holders will naturally be eligible to be considered for scholarship awards at 11+.

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