



WALTHAMSTOW HALL
SEVENOAKS

ADMISSIONS AND ATTENDANCE POLICY **Includes Early Years Foundation Stage**

1. The School, which is a charitable trust, was founded in 1838 as a boarding school to educate protestant missionary daughters. The School is now a day school with a Christian, non-denominational ethos and tradition, which respects all faiths.

Applications are welcomed from parents of all faiths, and every effort will be made to allow pupils to demonstrate their faith, as far as is consonant with the ethos and rules of the school.

Missionary daughters are educated free of charge where their parents are working in a foreign mission field.

2. Making an Application

Before applying to the school for the admission of their child, parents are invited to read this Admissions and Attendance Policy, which sets out the School's intentions and procedures regarding admission. It should be read in conjunction with:

The School Prospectus:

containing a statement of the school's ethos and aims and:

- details of the School and its Governing Body;
- the numbers and qualifications of staff;
- details of academic performance including previous years' public examination results;
- details of the School's Complaints Procedure which may be obtained from the Registrar. Details are also provided in new parents' 'starter-pack'.

the following policies can also be obtained from the school and are available on the school's website:

- promoting pupils' welfare at school, including Safeguarding (Child Protection), Anti-bullying policy and Rewards and Sanctions;
- the School's adherence to Health and safety: advice on legal duties and powers for local authorities, school leaders, school staff and governing bodies February 2014;
- School trips and outdoor learning activities Tackling the health and safety myths (HSE 06/11)
- fire safety;
- first aid;
- policies relating to safeguarding and pupil welfare are available on-line;
- Bursary and Awards (Scholarships and Exhibitions) Policy

3. The School Curriculum

The school provides full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4, plus provision for children from rising 3 to 5 years and Sixth Form education leading to academic qualifications and entrance to higher education.

All the pupils have experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, personal and social, physical, aesthetic and creative education, appropriate for their age and aptitude.

Pupils are expected to acquire core skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy. In addition, the school provides:

- Spiritual, moral, cultural, personal, social and health education, including guidance in safeguarding and well-being, reflecting the school's aims and ethos;
- appropriate careers guidance;
- appropriate programmes of activity for pupils who are above or below the compulsory school age;
- the opportunity for all pupils to learn and make progress;
- adequate preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The school assesses pupils' progress regularly and has a framework for evaluating pupil progress against the school's aims as provided to parents and/or evaluating pupil progress against national norms.

4. Sixth Form Curriculum

Courses in the Sixth Form are exclusively academic leading to A Level and the Cambridge Pre-U qualifications. We also offer the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). No vocational courses are currently offered.

Applicants for Sixth Form courses from Year 11 pupils in the school or from other schools should have at least 7 GCSEs or IGCSEs at Grades 9 - 4. Individual subjects to be studied at A level may have their own entry requirements, typically an 9 - 6 Grade at GCSE or IGCSE.

5. Curriculum Policy

The school has a written policy on the curriculum and a policy on learning and teaching as well as appropriate schemes of work, all of which can be obtained from the school by parents and prospective parents of pupils.

6. Religious Education and Collective Worship

All pupils are expected to participate in religious education courses and regular collective worship, which is of a Christian character. Parents of other faiths may withdraw their children from these, and the school will make every effort to provide alternative arrangements.

7. Special Educational Needs

The school caters for a range of special educational needs in both the Junior and Senior Schools, including provision for gifted and talented pupils. The provision includes the possibility of support for pupils with dyslexia, dyspraxia and various medical conditions.

Education is provided which fulfils the requirements of any SEN statemented pupil, who has been accepted by the school.

8. Equal Opportunities

The school is a girls school (age-range rising 3 to 19 years) with a Christian ethos, but applications from parents of other faiths are invited. Pupils and parents whose first language is not English may also apply for admission, and appropriate assistance is available.

The school aims to assist pupils to acquire an appreciation and respect for their own and other cultures in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions.

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 the School will not discriminate against pupils because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief or sexual orientation or status.

9. Pupils with Disabilities

The school aims to provide appropriate access to the curriculum and to the School's facilities as far as reasonably practicable. With regard to The Equality Act 2010 we make reasonable adjustments as necessary to meet a student's individual need, for example, extra time can be provided in the entrance examination if recommended by an appropriate professional, such as a medical consultant or educational psychologist. The School has a Accessibility Plan, and this can be obtained by parents and prospective parents by contacting the Headmistress or Bursar.

Parents and prospective parents are invited to discuss their child's particular needs with the Headmistress and or the Head of the Junior School.

10. Pupil Participation in the Life of the School

The School at all times encourages pupils to behave responsibly, and to be responsible for their behaviour.

Pupils' views on matters which affect them are welcomed, and there is an elected School Council at the Senior School and Junior School where pupils can formally discuss school issues with the Headmistress and other senior member of staff in attendance. In addition there are Food Councils at the Junior School and Senior School to allow pupils to participate in discussion.

11. Attendance

Both the Junior and Senior Schools are open from 8.00 a.m. until 6.00 p.m. but students should not be on site outside of these hours without prior arrangement. The Junior School also operate a breakfast club from 7.15am. All pupils are expected to be at school by 8.30 a.m., except Nursery School pupils who start at 8.45am.

Registration takes place in the morning and in the afternoon.

Pupils who arrive late must report to the school office / hub reception.

12. Absence

If a pupil is not registered as present on the school premises and has no prior approval for absence the School Office will telephone parents to check the pupil's safety and whereabouts.

In the Nursery School any child not in school by 9.00am is registered as absent.

An 'unauthorised absence' can be 'authorised' after the event if an acceptable written reason is given (e.g. illness)

Pupils' absence can be given prior authorisation by the Headmistress or Head of the Junior School. Parents must write with reasons.

The School reserves the right to ask parents to explain pupils' absence if no reasons is given. All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to full-time education. A child missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and the school will follow procedures to monitor and respond to absence which is either repeated or for a continuous period of 10 school days or more whether permission has been given or for no explanation. The local

authority will be informed if deemed necessary, (KCSIE 2018). Patterns of absence will be examined and causes for concern investigated.

13. Lateness

All instances of pupils arriving late will be recorded and parents will be notified. The School may use appropriate sanctions against pupils who are habitually late, or who do not have an acceptable reason for being late.

Parents may also be asked to explain habitual lateness/absence, and to co-operate with the school in ensuring better attendance.

14. Admissions Procedures:

Admission Numbers:

Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery: Sessional Basis

Reception: There is either one class or two parallel classes

Junior School

There are usually two parallel classes with up to 20 pupils in each.

Senior School

There is a THREE form entry at 11+. Forms are around 20 in number.

Pupils are also admitted at 13+ to create four forms and at 16+. In other year-groups pupils may be admitted when places are available.

Admission Timetable:

Junior School:

- application may be made on the school's 'Application for Admission' form and a registration fee paid;
- applications for admission are dealt with on receipt:
- pupils are invited to attend for 'taster sessions' in the year group they will join;
- a Head's report is requested from the current school when the pupil is currently in school. For Reception and nursery applicants who are already in an educational setting, an 'Entry Record' is requested;
- a child protection information request is made for every student from their current educational setting once a place has been accepted;
- decisions are posted to parents within one week of the 'taster session';
- where places are oversubscribed a waiting list is established

Senior School:

- applications for 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry must be received on the school's 'Application for Admission' form and a registration fee paid on a specific date as advertised each year on the school's website. Applications may be made after this date in exceptional circumstances, but such applicants may not be eligible for Scholarships or Awards;
- a Head's report is requested from the current school in October or November of the year preceding entry;
- interviews are conducted in the Autumn term of the year preceding entry for 11+ entry, in the Spring Term for 13+ entry and in the Autumn or Spring Term for 16+ entry
- decisions are posted to parents before the end of the Autumn Term preceding entry for 11+ entry and 16+ scholarship entry, and in the Spring term for 13+ and 16+ entry.

- Scholarship candidates for 11+ entry, will sit scholarship assessment papers in the afternoon of the entrance exam day. Those who excel will be recalled for scholarship interviews in the following weeks. The results of the scholarship round will be posted to parents before the Christmas holiday.
- Deferred entry for 13+ is available for candidates participating in our usual 11+ entry process in the Autumn term of Year 6. Pupils sit hour long Walthamstow Hall exams in both English and Maths and are interviewed. In addition, a Head's report from their current school is requested. When a place is offered parents will be given the option to confirm deferred entry to Year 9. A deferred entry place will be secured by the payment of a non-refundable £1,000 deposit at this stage. Then, in Year 8 a further school report is requested. Pupils will also sit Maths and a Modern Foreign Language paper for class setting purposes in the summer term of Year 8. Pupils wishing to apply for the academic, drama, music or sports scholarships on offer at 13+ (a maximum of 2 disciplines may be chosen) will be required to take part in the scholarship exams and assessments alongside other internal and external candidates in the January that they are in Year 8.
- for 13+ entry and scholarship entry the decisions are based on the student's performance in the English, Maths and a chosen Science paper and interview. For scholarship entry, candidates sit papers in English, Maths, the three Sciences and a chosen paper from Geography, History, Latin, RS, French, German or Spanish and interview. The process takes places in January for both types of entry. Results will be posted to parents before the Spring half term.
- for 16+ scholarship entry, scholarship offers are made on the basis of the student's performance in the scholarship examinations held in November. The student sit two 'chosen subject papers' and a General Paper
- for general 16+ entry, conditional offers are made on the basis of an interview and a satisfactory Head's report.
- Usually conditional offers are made on the candidate achieving at least 7 GCSEs or IGCSEs at Grades 9 – 6 and grade 7 or above in the subjects the candidate would like to study for A Level or Pre U.
- a waiting list of pupils not offered places outright because of oversubscription is established
- a letter is sent to the feeder school of each pupil for a whom the offer of a place is accepted. This letter requests information about any child protection issues surrounding that child.

Late applications will be dealt with on receipt depending on availability of places.

15. Selection Procedure

Selection will be made by the Headmistress, assisted by such appropriate senior staff as she wishes.

Junior School

There is no formal assessment in the Early Years. Places will be offered on a 'first come first served basis' after pupils have attended a 'taster session'. From Year 1 pupils are assessed using age-appropriate activities and take assessment papers during their 'taster day'.

Senior School

Applications can be made for each year group where there are places available.

16. Admissions Criteria

Places will be offered to pupils who demonstrate their academic potential and the likelihood that they will benefit from the ethos of the school, and the broad and challenging education provided by the school.

The selection will be based on:

- a) a Head's report from previous schools, including assessment data e.g. base-line test scores or predicted grades for I/GCSE entry for 16+ entry;
- b) an interview with appropriate staff at the school;
- c) for 11+, 13+ and 16+ scholarship entry, performance in the school's own entrance examinations, the content of which can be obtained from the Registrar.
- d) the parents' expressed preference in choice of schools where they have applied to more than one school, should there be more applicants for places than places available. In this instance, Walthamstow Hall may take into account whether it is the first choice of school.

17. Selection Criteria in an oversubscribed year

Where all things are equal the following criteria will be used:

- a) a daughter of a missionary;
- b) a sibling whose sister is in the school at the date of the application;
- c) in the event of a tie-breaker proving necessary, the school will, as a last resort, take into account the proximity of home to school.;
- d) see d) above.

18. Appeals and Complaints

The Headmistress's decision is final, but if a parent has a concern about the admission process, the complaint should be discussed first of all with the Headmistress, and if there is no satisfactory outcome, a complaint can be made to the Governing Body. The complaint should be put in writing to the Clerk to the Governing Body. A committee of the Governing Body will consider the complaint and make a ruling.

19. Admissions Register

A monthly Admissions Register Report is extracted and stored on the first working day of every month in term time or on the first day of term. The school will inform the local authority of any pupil to be deleted from the admissions register following guidance in Annex A of KCSIE 2018 and using the School2School web-site for the transfer of CTFs, where they:

- have been taken out of school by their parents and are being educated outside the school system, e.g. home educated;
- have ceased to attend school and no longer live within reasonable distance of the school at which they are registered;
- have been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he/she nor his/her parent has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age;
- are in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the proprietor does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period; or,
- have been permanently excluded.

20. Policy Review

This is a Governing Body policy. It will be reviewed regularly by the Governing Body.

This policy has regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Walthamstow Hall policies are approved, ratified and reviewed regularly by the Governing Body in the light of statutory requirements.

Reviewed September 2019
Next Review Date June 2020

Signed:Date:

Mrs J Adams
Chair of Governors