



Wychwood School

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Author: AKJ, SCB

Review: November 2020

Date of Next Review: November 2021

Entry points

Our main entry points are 11+, 13+ and 16+ but there is the possibility of intake in any other year except for Year 11 (the second year of the two year GCSE course) and Year 13 (the second year of the two year A Level / BTEC course).

Most of our Year 11 enter our Sixth Form (Wychwood Sixth).

Admission requirements

There is an entrance test to satisfy the staff that a girl has the capacity to benefit from a Wychwood education. Where possible the test will be taken at the school although overseas applicants may sit at their current school if the host Headteacher gives permission.

A critical part of the entrance procedure across all years is an up-to-date school report. We contact each candidate's current school to request either the latest school report or an up-to-date reference.

Every pupil is also interviewed by the Head. This informal interview is an integral part of the admissions procedure. If a girl cannot attend an interview in person, (such as when a girl lives overseas) then an arrangement will be made to conduct an interview via Skype or FaceTime. Ideally this should be before the Entrance Test day.

Girls joining Year 7 are tested in English and mathematics. The examination is held in the November prior to entry in the subsequent September. Girls take the test in school and spend the whole day here. They have "taster" sessions in art, the sciences, drama and computing. This is an excellent way for prospective pupils to become better acquainted with the school, our staff and with some of the girls with whom they may spend the next seven years of their lives.

Girls joining Year 9 may sit entrance during their Year 6, 7 or 8 and will be tested in maths and English. They may spend the day here if they wish. (See also Modern Foreign Language Policy for Late Entrants).

Girls joining the School in Years 8 or 10 are tested in English and mathematics prior to September year of entry. They may spend the day here if they wish. (See also Modern Foreign Language Policy for Late Entrants).

A fairly wide spread of ability is recruited, subject to our assessment that an applicant will manage to attend a full spread of GCSEs to gain a minimum of 5 grade 4s. Necessary adjustments will be made on a case by case basis with regard to pupils with SEND. It is expected that any entrant will be able to attend most – if not all – classes.

When entry is for Wychwood Sixth papers are taken in three of the applicant's potential A Level or BTEC subjects. If one of their chosen subjects is one which they have not previously studied - psychology for example - then questions are set which require some subject-specific reading comprehension combined with a common sense approach and evidence of certain skills. If a girl wishes to study the creative arts then we will need to see a portfolio of work. There is a minimum requirement of 6 GCSEs passes at grade 9-4, with 9-6 in their chosen A Level or BTEC subjects.

Acceptance of a place indicates the parents' and the pupil's willingness to adhere to the rules and terms and conditions of the school.

Scholarships

Scholarships are competitive and will only be given if the standard achieved merits the award.

Academic Scholarships

Academic scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the entrance examination papers at 11+ and 13+ and on the basis of the results of scholarship papers at 16+. Girls take three scholarship papers in subjects of their choice at 16+ as well as a general paper.

We award major scholarships of £1,000 p.a. and minor scholarships of £500 p.a.

Creative Arts Scholarships

Creative Arts Scholarships are offered at 11+ and 13+ to candidates with outstanding ability in art, creative writing or both. At 16+ Scholarships are offered to candidates with outstanding ability in art. We award major scholarships of £1,000 p.a. and minor scholarships of £500 p.a.

Art:

Candidates are asked to bring 6 artistic compositions or craft items which will be discussed with the Head of Art. A short unprepared task will be undertaken on the afternoon of the scholarship tests.

Creative Writing:

Candidates are asked to bring 6 different pieces of writing, including stories, poetry, non-fiction and anything else that you would like to talk about at a meeting with the Head of English. A piece of creative writing will be set on the afternoon of the scholarship tests.

Drama Scholarships

Drama scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+ to candidates with outstanding ability and potential in drama. We award major scholarships of £1,000 p.a. and minor scholarships of £500 p.a.

Drama scholars will be expected to be grade 3 or 4 level at 11+, grade 5 or 6 level at 13+ and grade 6 or 7 level at 16+.

Candidates will be expected to perform both a prepared and unprepared piece and to discuss their love of drama with the Head of Drama on the afternoon of the scholarship tests.

Music Scholarships

Music Scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+ to cover instrumental tuition for up to two instruments including voice.

Music scholars will be expected to be grade 3 or 4 level at 11+, grade 5 or 6 level at 13+ and grade 6 or 7 level at 16+.

Candidates will be expected to play two prepared pieces on their instrument(s) and to do aural tests and sight reading on the afternoon of the scholarship tests. They will also have a discussion with the Director of Music about their musical tastes and interests.

There is also a single organ scholarship available to cover organ tuition which is awarded to a high-level pianist.

Sports Scholarship

Sports scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+ to candidates with outstanding ability and potential in sports. We award major scholarships of £1,000 p.a. and minor scholarships of £500 p.a.

Candidates will take part in a practical session involving netball and hockey and will have an individual interview with the Director of Sport when they will have the opportunity to discuss their achievements and their favourite sports on the afternoon of the scholarship tests. Candidates are also requested to provide a reference from the Head of PE at their current school.

The Lee Scholarships

The Lee Scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+ to candidates who demonstrate potential in at least three areas of school life: academia, music, creative arts, drama or sport. We award major scholarships of £1,000 p.a. and minor scholarships of £500 p.a.

Candidates may not have reached the levels required for the individual scholarships but will be demonstrating the potential for high achievement within the three chosen areas. Candidates will be interviewed by the relevant heads of department and will need to demonstrate their abilities by audition or performance on the scholarship day. These awards are intended for the support of the pupil's individual development. All Lee Scholarship holders are expected to be fully involved in the life of the school.

Bursaries

There are bursary funds available for a limited number of pupils in particular financial need. Applicants should complete a means-test form and all applications will be given due consideration by the Bursaries Committee; this will include a home visit by the Bursar.

Forces Discount

A discount is offered for daughters of HM Forces.

Equal opportunities

Entry is for girls only between the ages of 11 and 18.

The school acknowledges its non-discrimination and planning duty under the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001. The School's Disability Inclusion Policy and Accessibility Plan outline the procedures which will be followed when considering applications made to admit pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

International dimension

The School welcomes pupils from abroad as long as they can cope with education in English and work towards standard UK qualifications, albeit with EAL support.

Parents must be committed to supporting further English study at their cost if necessary. This would be through specialist individual or small group teaching.

A small number of short-stay European pupils may also attend the school. It is recommended that short stay pupils attend for a minimum of one academic term, but sometimes they may stay for as long as a year. We welcome the contribution such pupils make to the cultural and academic life of the school. Pupils joining the school on a short stay basis will be assessed on the basis of a current school report and an interview with the Head.