

Admissions Policy



WYCHWOOD
SCHOOL • OXFORD

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Reviewed By	JH, JE
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(ISSRs Part 6 Para 32 3 a)

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 are entrance tests to satisfy the staff that a pupil has the capacity to benefit from a Wychwood education. Where possible the tests will be taken at the school although overseas applicants may sit at their current school if the host Headteacher gives permission or they may be invigilated by agents at the agents' offices.

A critical part of the entrance procedure across all years is an up-to-date school report. You should arrange for your child's current school to send their latest school report to us. We will ask for a contact at the candidate's current school in order for us to request an up-to-date reference to be completed. If we do not receive either then we will contact the candidate's current school again to request this.

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

Pupils joining Year 7 are tested in English and mathematics. The examination is held in the November prior to entry in the subsequent September. Pupils take the test in school and spend the whole day at Wychwood School. They have "taster" sessions in a selection of subjects. This varies from year to year but might include art, textiles, the sciences, drama, sport, computing or other academic subjects. This is an excellent way for prospective pupils to become better acquainted with the school, our staff and with some of the pupils with whom they may spend the next seven years of their lives.

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

Pupils joining the School in Years 8 or 10 are tested in English and mathematics prior to September year of entry. They may spend a taster day at Wychwood 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.

International pupils who may not have been prepared for GCSE study will be assessed on a case-by case basis. 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 pupil 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 (or higher in certain 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+. Pupils 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 their portfolio of work which must include at least 6 artistic compositions or craft items which will be discussed with the Head of Art. A short unprepared task will be undertaken on the day of the scholarship tests.

Creative Writing:

Candidates are asked to bring 6 different pieces of writing, including poetry, a story and a description. These will be discussed with the Head of English. A piece of creative writing will be set on the day 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 LAMDA or equivalent 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 one prepared and an unseen piece as well as to discuss their love of drama with the Head of Drama at audition on the day of the scholarship tests.

These awards are intended for the support of the pupil's dramatic interests. All drama award holders are expected to be fully involved in the dramatic life of the school.

Music Scholarships

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

Music scholars will be expected to be ABRSM or equivalent grade 3 or 4 level at 11+, grade 5 or 6 level at 13+ and grade 6 or 7 level at 16+. There is an organ scholarship (major scholarship of £1,000 p.a. and minor scholarship of £500 p.a.) available for high-level pianists to apply for.

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

These awards are intended for the support of the pupil's musical interests. All music award holders are expected to be fully involved in the musical life of the school.

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. They will also 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 day of the scholarship tests. Candidates are also requested to provide a reference from the Head of PE at their current school or from their coach at the highest level in whichever sport they participate.

These awards are intended for the support of the pupil's sporting interests. All sport award holders are expected to be fully involved in the sporting life of the 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 testing form and all applications will be given due consideration by the Bursaries Committee; this will include a home visit by the Bursar.

Discounts

Wychwood School offers the following discounts:

HM Armed Forces

A discount is offered for children of serving members of HM Armed Forces: 10% discount on day place fees or 15% discount on boarding place fees. The HM Armed Forces discount is not available to any pupils on a bursary.

Siblings

Siblings – if three or more siblings are at Wychwood at the same time, they are eligible for 10% discount on fees for the 3rd sibling and subsequent child. The reduction applies for the period when all siblings are in attendance at the same time. The sibling discount is not available to any pupils on a bursary.

Wychwood Association Old Pupils

Any Old Pupil of Wychwood School is eligible for a 10% discount for any child or grandchild for the duration of the pupil's time at Wychwood. The Wychwood School old pupils discount is not available to any pupils on a bursary.

Equal opportunities

Entry is for children assigned to the female gender at birth 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 Pupils

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 own extra 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 their entrance assessments, a current school report and an interview with the Head.