

PARK SCHOOL – ADMISSIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES – ISI 15A

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Park School is a co-educational independent junior day school for pupils from ages 4 to 11 years. Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your child will visit Park School. We hold open events which give a general introduction to the School. Details are published on our website. We are very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children for a tour during school hours. Please contact the School on 01202 396640 or email admissions@parkschool.co.uk to arrange a visit.

2. THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

- 2.1 Park School entry is set out in Section 5. Our assessment process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education and make a positive contribution to the life of the school.
- 2.2 The usual point of entry is 4+ years i.e. Reception.
- 2.3 We admit approximately 42 pupils a year at Reception each September. The school may also have occasional places at other ages. Please contact the Admissions team for details of the registration process.
- 2.4 Applicants for admission should register as early as possible as places at the School are often at a premium.

3. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 3.1 Park School's aim is to encourage applications from a diverse range of backgrounds. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world.
- 3.2 Park School is committed to equal opportunities for all pupils regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability or social background.

4. SPECIAL NEEDS

- 4.1 Park School welcomes pupils with special educational needs or disabilities providing that its learning support department can offer them the support that they require and our site can accommodate them. We strongly advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical or mental disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with the Headteacher before registering for a place so that they can discuss thoroughly the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child. Parents should provide a copy of an educational psychologist's report or a medical report or the report of any other relevant professional childcare specialist if they have one. Following this meeting the Headteacher will advise the most suitable placement for the child.

5. THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- 5.1 The aim of the process is to identify a child's potential and to try to understand what needs a given pupil may have in relation to their schooling. Park School is looking for well-rounded pupils with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, with interests that stretch beyond the confines of the academic curriculum. For older pupils, places are offered partly based upon academic merit which is assessed through an assessment at Park together with reports from the candidate's previous school. This assessment may take place over two separate visits to meet the needs of the child and give them the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the School. If the first day doesn't go quite to plan or if there is any concern over the school's ability to offer a place for a child, the Headteacher will discuss openly and frankly with parents and guardians and a second assessment day

will always be offered.

5.2 No specific preparation for our assessment process is needed; all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their abilities and potential.

5.3 Assessment for Reception is based on

- observing children in their current Nursery/setting or at home for a short period
- observing their informal play in small groups
- talking to the child
- discussion with the Headteacher or staff on our Early Years team
- reference/questionnaire/reports from the feeder School/Nursery

5.4 All other candidates for entry below 11 years of age are assessed in English and Maths at a level appropriate for their age group.

5.5 We talk to all candidates as part of our assessment process for each age group.

6. ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

6.1 Only when pupils have been registered and assessed will the formal offer of a place be made (subject to availability) by the School to parents. This offer will be made in writing, usually by email.

6.2 Admission for pupils into Years 1 to 6

In the event that more than one pupil has requested a single place, the school place will be offered in the following order:

- a) Children with siblings attending School or Nursery
- b) Children who have siblings who have previously attended School or Nursery
- c) Children who have relatives who have previously attended School or Nursery
- d) Children who have been registered (in chronological order)

6.3 Admission for pupils into Reception

In the event that more than one pupil has requested a single place, the school place will be offered in the following order:

- a. Children with siblings attending School or Nursery
- b. Park School Nursery children (attending for at least a year)
- c. Dean Park Day Nursery children or Little Crickets Forest School (attending for at least a year)
- d. Park School Nursery and Dean Park Day Nursery or Little Crickets Forest School (attending for less than a year)
- e. Children who have not attended either Park School Nursery or Dean Park Day Nursery or Little Crickets Forest School.

7. SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARIES

7.1 It is the Park School's policy that all parents pay the same school fees for their children's education as everyone else in the relevant band. (These bands are set out in the School Fees list obtainable on request and on the School's website). There are no 'special offers.' We believe this to be the fairest approach.

7.2 Bursaries may be given by the School to current pupils whose parents or families find themselves in sudden or unforeseen difficult circumstances. These bursaries are intended as short-term support for the pupils/families concerned. Parents who require such a bursary should speak to the Headteacher and Bursar in the first instance. Any bursary is reviewed annually.

7.3 Scholarships are only offered when the School recognizes hardship in exceptional circumstances where

a pupil has proved to be gifted or talented in a particular field. In such cases, where a pupil would benefit from additional tuition or coaching, then after discussions with the Headteacher and Bursar the School may cover the cost of the additional tuition/coaching.

8. OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

8.1 We welcome overseas pupils for study at Park School provided that the prospective pupil has a relative or legal guardian living in the UK with whom he/she can stay. However, parents of overseas pupils should appreciate that Park School does not run a short-term study programme and expects overseas pupils to finish a complete course of study such as to Year 2 (KS1) or Year 6 (KS2), but this can be reviewed for each individual child.

9. RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

9.1 Although Park School has a Christian ethos, the School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief and it offers places to pupils from all religious backgrounds. However, parents should be aware that attendance to all School assemblies and formal functions such as Speech Day, Carol Service, and special School celebrations is encouraged. At such events Christian songs or Carols may be sung. Also, when we share a short prayer all pupils should be respectful.

10. SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

10.1 Copies will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process through a link to the website or hard copy if preferred. Please read them carefully.

10.2 Terms and conditions do change from time to time. The latest version can be found on the School's website.

11. ADMISSIONS' REGISTER

11.1 The School maintains an admissions register in accordance with current regulations as specified by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

11.2 We notify the Local Authority if we are to delete a pupil from our registers in any of the circumstances set out in the document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2023)'.

12. COMPLAINTS

12.1 The School hopes that parents and pupils do not have any complaints about the School's admissions process, but copies of the School's Concerns and Complaints Procedure can be sent to parents on request.

13. REVIEW

13.1 This policy, together with the procedures outlined herein, are reviewed annually by the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team.