

# ADMISSIONS POLICY

Updated November 2023

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Shrewsbury High School is a fee-paying independent school for girls from the age of 4-18. It is open to all pupils considered by the Head to be capable of benefiting from the education provided at the school and of contributing fully to the life of the school. It seeks to be as accessible to all able pupils, regardless of their parents' ability to pay, by the provision of scholarships and bursaries at 11+, 13+ and 16+. Scholarships are awarded based on performance in the entrance examination and scholarship assessments, and bursaries are awarded on a means tested basis. Please see the school's scholarships and bursaries booklet for full details of the awards available.

Admission is dependent on achieving an acceptable standard in an assessment or examination appropriate to the age group and academic pace of the school, an interview with the Head at senior level, and if transferring from another school, a report from the previous school.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our policy is free of bias and based on the principles within the GDST Equal Opportunity policy, which states:

"The Council of the Girls' Day School Trust (the "Trust") is committed to equal opportunities in education and will not unlawfully discriminate against, or treat less favourably, any pupil at, or applicant to, its schools on the grounds of race, nationality, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, the pupil's actual or perceived sexual orientation of the pupil's parents (including guardians and carers), the pupil's actual or perceived religion or belief (or lack thereof) of the pupil's parents (including guardians and carers)".

## GDST COUNCIL POLICY

Our policy also follows the GDST Council's Policy for admissions which states:

The GDST is committed to equal opportunities in education. Admissions to GDST schools will adhere to the GDST's Equal Opportunities Policy.

GDST schools are broadly selective. Places are offered to prospective pupils on the basis of their potential to thrive in the educational environment provided.

Admission is usually dependent on achieving an acceptable standard in an assessment or examination appropriate to the age group and academic pace of the school. Such examinations and assessments are expected to be free of bias, and due consideration will be given to individual needs and prior educational experience in making any decision on the offer of a place.

The final decision regarding admissions rests with the Head, who reserves the right to decline to offer a place on grounds other than academic potential (e.g. a pupil's record at a previous school).

Within these guidelines schools may determine their own admissions policies, which will set out their individual selection criteria.

Each GDST school sets out in its registration the age range of students it is legally allowed to make provision for. Major age range changes are subject to approval by Council. Admission will last until the student completes year 13 unless the parent contract comes to an end sooner.

In all circumstances, including where a receipt is required for visa purposes, a parent contract must be fully completed online, together with the deposit payment before the pupil can join the school.



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## **ENTRY INTO JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Pupils are admitted in Reception to Year 6 by means of informal assessments during a taster day spent at the school with the class that the pupil might be eventually joining. During the time spent in class, staff will carry out the informal assessments and observe the pupil to help build an overall picture. Parents are encouraged to make a preliminary visit to talk with the staff and have a tour of the school.

Entry is normally in the following September, or as soon as possible, if this is more appropriate. In all cases, clear guidance is given to parents as to whether “gaps” are evident, or extra tuition should be sought in certain areas.

## **ENTRY TO SENIOR SCHOOL AT 11+**

All prospective pupils and their parents are encouraged to visit the school on open days and for private tours to meet with the Head. Applicants who have registered for admission into Year 7 are invited to sit the entrance test on a Saturday in the January of Year 6. The test comprises an online multiple choice assessment covering Verbal Reasoning, Non Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Skills along with an English paper and Mathematics paper. We also request reports from a candidate’s present school, although no girl will be penalised because her current school is either unwilling or unable to provide a written report.

Sitting the entrance exam automatically enters girls for an academic scholarship.

External candidates are welcome to apply for a bursary in the autumn term when the admissions process for the following year gets underway.

Places are offered once the entrance exam and subsequent scholarship process has been completed.

## **ENTRY TO SENIOR SCHOOL AT 13+**

There are two routes for admission at 13+: Standard Entry (for pupils in Year 8) and Deferred Entry (for pupils in Year 6).

### **Standard 13+ Entry (for pupils in Year 8)**

Girls wishing to join Shrewsbury High School directly from Year 8 must submit their application by mid-December in Year 8. Prior to sitting the entrance exam applicants and their parents are invited to meet with Head and tour the school. We encourage applicants to attend a taster day and have an interview with the Head.

They will then be invited to sit the 13+ Entrance Exam in mid-January (which automatically enters them for an academic scholarship).

A bursary application can be made in the autumn term for entry into year 9 the following September.

### **13+ Deferred Entry Procedure (for pupils in Year 6)**

Applicants wishing to secure a 13+ Deferred Entry place should apply by mid-December in Year 6. Applicants and their parents will be invited to meet with the Head and tour the school. We encourage applicants to attend a taster day and have an interview with the Head. They will then be asked to sit the 11+ Entrance Exam in mid-January (which automatically enters them for an Academic Scholarship).



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If we believe that they will thrive with us at Shrewsbury High, we will offer them a place and hold that place for them until Year 9.

## Application into other year groups

Applicants for available places in Years 8 & 10 are invited into school on a school day to spend a taster day with their year group and take a standardised test in verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and quantitative skills. They will have an interview with the Head (or Deputy Head) and we also request a written report from a girl's current school. Results of the test are usually given within 1-2 working days.

Admission to Year 11 is not considered unless circumstances are exceptional and appropriate.

## Access arrangements for pupils with SEND

We request that all applicants provide us with any special requirements for admissions tests and interviews in advance and provide copies of professional reports where relevant. Arrangements for tests are also made with the intention of ensuring that no candidate is unfairly disadvantaged, and, where practicable, reasonable adjustments will be made to cater for individual needs. In line with the National Key Stage testing policy, we allow extra time for pupils who are dyslexic or have another Special Educational Need.

## ENTRY IN THE SIXTH FORM

Applicants to the Sixth Form are invited to our Sixth Form open evening in the autumn, to meet with the Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form and to attend our Sixth Form taster days. We will also request a written report from their current school. Subject to all this being satisfactory, a conditional offer will be made.

Girls who wish to enrol in the Sixth Form are expected to achieve a minimum six grade 6s at GCSE or a strong performance in the subjects they wish to study at A Level. It is usually expected that girls obtain at least a 6 in their chosen subjects for A Level. The school reserves the right to cancel any courses which do not have sufficient numbers of applications at A level. Each candidate is considered individually.

## SIBLING POLICY

The School has on roll a number of siblings and applications from siblings of current pupils are welcome and are considered on the same basis as applications from all applicants.

## KEY STAGE TRANSFERS WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Continuity of education is anticipated normally throughout each range and at the key stages of transfer (e.g. from Junior to Senior School and into the Sixth Form) unless in the opinion of the Head, after due deliberation, the pupil will not benefit from continuing to be educated at the school, or has not attained a sufficiently high standard of work or behaviour for continuation or for entry to the next stage. If there is a likelihood that the pupil will not be able to transfer to the next year, a term's notice of withdrawal will be given.



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Transfer from Year 6 – 7 (Senior School) is generally automatic. In the rare cases where there are reasons why a pupil in the Junior School would not be well advised to transfer to the Senior School, the Head of Juniors will discuss this with parents at a much earlier stage and parents will be informed verbally and in writing by the end of the spring term in Year 6 if it is unlikely that their daughter would cope with the curriculum of the Senior School.

Transfer from Year 11 to Year 12 is generally automatic provided that the pupil achieves the entrance requirements for Sixth Form.

## **INTER-GDST SCHOOL TRANSFERS**

There is no automatic right to transfer from one GDST school to another; however, the transfer of existing GDST pupils between schools may be arranged subject to the availability of places and the agreement of the Heads.

Please note: A pupil cannot take up their place at the school until parents have signed and completed the online parent contract.



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