



St George's School for Girls, Edinburgh

## Admissions Policy

We welcome applicants for any year group where places are available in this all-through school. The school has also to be satisfied that girls entering the school have the potential to benefit from the education that St George's offers. Although academically selective, the school will not discriminate against girls on the grounds of disability, race or religion. The school will make any necessary reasonable adjustment to accommodate girls who demonstrate the ability to benefit from education at St George's, and who have a disability. Parents are asked to bring any disability or learning difficulty to the attention of the school so that any reasonable adjustments may be made.

Girls are admitted at any stage of their school career, if places are available. The school will advise on the appropriate entry stage according to the age of the child. Entry is conditional on the satisfactory outcome of an assessment by the school, whether informal or formal. Offers of places are made in writing by the head. A registration fee of £75 (£25 for nursery) is required to cover administration costs.

For places in Lower Four (S1) and Primary 1, commencing at the start of any school session, offers cannot be made until the February before the start of session (the exact date having been agreed in advance by Edinburgh independent schools). Offers for places commencing at any other time during the school session, or for August in any other year group than S1 and P1, can be made at any time during the year.

Means-tested bursaries are available for girls whose families cannot afford to pay full school fees. The bursary fund is limited but we shall always try to meet the needs of prospective and current students and their parents (see Bursary Policy).

### Entry to Nursery

Girls and boys from the age of two years are assessed by the head of nursery to ensure that they are ready for the activities, play, and learning at the nursery. Communication and social skills are assessed. The Nursery Manager will advise the head whether a nursery place should be offered. It is usually expected that children will be able to walk before admission.

### Entry to Junior School (P1-P5)

Applicants are invited to spend a full day with the class of girls to which admission is sought. Following assessment, the class teacher will advise the head whether a place should be offered. Parents are required to supply a copy of their daughter's most recent school report, and this will also be taken into consideration before an offer is made.

### Entry to Lower School (P6-L4 / P6-S1)

Parents are required to provide a copy of their daughter's most recent school report. Applicants are expected to complete entrance assessments comprising two papers, testing language, mathematical and reasoning ability. Places will be allocated on the basis of performance in these assessments.

### Entry to Upper School (Upper 4 – Upper 5 / S2-S4)

Parents are required to provide a copy of their daughter's most recent school report. Applicants are expected to complete entrance assessments comprising two papers, testing language, mathematical and reasoning ability. Places will be allocated on the basis of performance in these assessments.

### **Entry to Sixth Form (S5-S6)**

Parents are required to provide a copy of their daughter's most recent school report. Places are allocated on the basis of SQA examination results, or their equivalent, by the head.

### **Transition**

Although it is expected that girls will move from Nursery into P1 and from P6 into Remove and beyond, automatic transition may not always be appropriate. The head will advise parents if it would be inadvisable or inappropriate for their daughter to make the relevant move. The head of nursery will advise the head if she judges any girl unready to start in P1. The decision to allow transition at any stage will remain with the head.

### **ESOL Candidates**

Candidates for whom English is a second or other language will sit a non-verbal reasoning test, if it is considered that the requirement to sit the usual assessments is inappropriate. A written assessment will be used to ascertain whether English is at a sufficient level for accessing the curriculum. No place will be offered if the applicant is unlikely to reach this level before joining the school.

### **Siblings**

Wherever possible, when siblings of pupils at the school reach a satisfactory standard in entrance assessments, they will be offered places, provided that places are available. However, there may be cases in which it would not be in the best interests of a sibling to take a place at St George's. (See paragraph one.)

### **Students from outside EEA**

Due to UK Border Agency regulations, pupils who are not citizens of an EEA country are required to show the school their passport. In practice, all prospective pupils should provide a copy of their passport, to ensure that we are meeting our legal obligations: all pupils must fulfil UK Border Agency regulations for study in the UK. Pupils wishing to live in the UK under the Tier 4 Child Student route should inform the admissions manager at the time of application and follow the appropriate advice.

### **Boarding Places**

Boarding places are limited in number and are allocated at the same time as an offer of a place in the school only if a suitable boarding place is available. The usual admissions process for the appropriate year group will apply, though we will not consider boarding applicants who are younger than the Remove (Primary 7) year group. For international students and for those who live some distance from the school, a Skype interview will be offered with the head of boarding, who is also a member of the academic staff and a deputy head of the school. A deposit of £750 is payable when a boarding place is accepted.

In exceptional cases, a boarding student may be required to leave the boarding house and find alternative accommodation, if her behaviour puts herself or other students at risk of harm.

We do not recommend home-stay arrangements for students who are below the age of 16.