



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 at the point of admission 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 from Primary 1 upwards 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 (three years from August 2019) are assessed by the Head of Nursery to ensure that they are ready for the activities, play, and learning at the Nursery. Communication, social and self-care skills are assessed. The Head of Nursery will advise the Head whether a nursery place should be offered.

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 and the Head of Junior School will advise the Head whether a place should be offered. Offers are made based on informal assessments and a reference and report from your daughter's current school. Parents are required to supply a copy of their daughter's most recent school report with the application form.

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

Applicants are expected to complete entrance assessments comprising of papers testing language, mathematical and reasoning (verbal and non-verbal). Places will be allocated on the basis of performance in these assessments, and a reference and report from your daughter's current school. Parents are required to provide a copy of their daughter's most recent school report with the application form.

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

Applicants are expected to complete entrance assessments comprising of papers testing language, mathematical and reasoning (verbal and non-verbal). Places will be allocated on the basis of performance in these assessments, and a reference and report from your daughter's current school. Parents are required to provide a copy of their daughter's most recent school report with the application form.

Entry to Sixth Form (S5-S6)

Applications to the Sixth Form are assessed on an individual basis. This will include asking for references and a school report from your daughter's current school and having an interview with the Head. Places are allocated on the basis of SQA examination results, or their equivalent, by the Head. In some cases, written assessments may be requested with girls expected to complete assessment papers testing language, mathematical and reasoning (verbal and non-verbal) ability.

Transition

Although it is expected that girls will move from Nursery into P1 and from P5 into P6 in Lower School 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 or would benefit from an additional year of play based learning in pre-school. 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. Places will be allocated on the basis of performance in the assessments and a satisfactory school reference and school report. Parents are required to provide a copy of their daughter's most recent school report with the application form.

Nursery Applications

As we are an all-girls school, nursery applications from girls take precedence over boys.

There are two main intakes a year for nursery: August and January. This is subject to places being available. Children can join us at any point through the session, if places are available.

When a waiting list is in operation, applications for nursery places are allocated based on the following criteria and order of priority:

- Girl who is a sibling of a current student
- Daughter of current teacher
- Date of receipt of application form
- Boy with no prior connection to the school/son of a current teacher (ante pre-school year only)

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 school admissions department 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 £3000 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.

March 2019