

Admissions Policy and Procedures

Introduction

This policy applies to all of the schools of The Stephen Perse Foundation (the 'Foundation').

The Foundation is an academically ambitious collection of schools, as a result we are academically selective at some entry points to ensure that the students who form part of the Foundation are able to thrive

For the admissions year 2020/21 all Foundation schools are co-educational with the exception of Year 11 which is girls only. For Years 7 - 10 we operate a diamond formation where aspects of the curriculum are delivered in single gender groups. More information regarding the diamond formation can be found on our website.

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To ensure compliance with the Foundation's charitable purposes.
- To set the selection criteria for the schools of the Foundation which is consistent with this charitable status and is fair and consistent for all applicants.
- To identify and admit those children whose academic abilities and personal qualities appear to match the ethos and standards of the Foundation so that they will thrive and fully benefit from the many opportunities the Foundation offers.

Equal treatment

We welcome children from all different ethnic and racial groups, backgrounds and creeds. All candidates for admission will be treated equally, irrespective of their or their parents' race, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, orientation, property or other status. Our aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our students for today's world.

Financial assistance is available to students who are residents of the United Kingdom, subject to assessment of the family's financial circumstances, in order to make it possible for those without the financial means who meet the Foundation's admission criteria to attend the Foundation's schools. Further details of the financial assistance arrangements can be found in the Admissions section of the Foundation website.

Disability and Special Educational Needs

The Foundation welcomes applicants with disabilities and/or special educational needs and will not treat any applicant less favourably on these grounds. However, whilst the Foundation currently has limited facilities for the disabled and those with special educational needs, it will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and

Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001, in order to accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the Foundation can cater adequately. The Foundation needs to be aware of any known disability or special educational need which may affect a child's ability to participate in the admissions procedure and take full advantage of the education provided at the Foundation.

Parents of a child who has any disability or special educational needs must provide the Foundation with full details at the start of the admissions process, at registration. Parents are asked to give this information in writing on the confidential information form, which is part of the registration pack. The Foundation needs this information so that, in the case of any child with particular needs, the Foundation can assess those needs and consult with parents about the adjustments which can reasonably be made to ensure that the application procedure is accessible for the child and that the Foundation can cater adequately for the pupil should an offer of a place be made.

The Foundation will do all that is reasonable to ensure that the information and application procedure is accessible for disabled candidates and will make such reasonable adjustments as necessary. For example, the Foundation may be able to provide an examination paper in large font for a visually impaired pupil.

Similarly, if special educational needs or a disability become apparent for the first time after registration, the Foundation will consult with parents about reasonable adjustments which may allow the child to continue at the Foundation.

Accessibility

This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required. Also see the Foundation's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy.

Entry points

These procedures apply at the main points of entry: Nursery, Kindergarten, Reception, Year 3, Year 7, Year 11 (Pre-Sixth Form Programme), and Year 12 and also to candidates for occasional vacancies in any other year group. The dates for entrance tests are published on our website, in the Admissions section.

Registration

To register a student for entry to any school within the Foundation, a Registration Form must be completed in full and signed appropriately, and returned together with a non-refundable registration fee. Once the Foundation has received the Registration Form and fee, applicants will be held on our registration list for the proposed year of entry and they will be informed about the entrance test/interviews at the appropriate time. Completing and returning the Registration Form along with the Registration Fee will ensure that we automatically send an invitation for the entrance tests/interviews.

Admissions Procedures

Entry to the Nursery

Entry to the nursery for children aged 1 and 2, is subject to availability of sessions following parents/carers visiting the setting and meeting with senior nursery staff.

Entry to the Early Years

Entry to Early Years, Kindergarten and Reception, is subject to an informal one to one assessment. Pupils are eligible to start in the Early Years at the beginning of the term after they turn three prior to a nursery opening in that setting. However, when allocating Early Years sessions priority is given to pupils in the pre-school year. All pupils entering the Early Years are expected to be toilet trained unless there is a special educational need, disability or medical reason for the delay.

Entry to Years 1 and 2

From Year 1, candidates will complete a baseline assessment in English and Mathematics, but the main focus of assessment is to observe attitudes to learning - we are looking for pupils who will thrive in our inspiring environment. All candidates will meet with a senior member of staff. Pupils in Year 2 transfer automatically to Year 3 unless there are specific concerns about an individual's progress or conduct.

Entry to Years 3-6

External candidates entering the school from Year 3 upwards will complete a baseline assessment in English and Mathematics, but the main focus of assessment is to observe attitudes to learning - we are looking for pupils who will thrive in our inspiring environment. Pupils, during the initial admissions process, have the option to sit the assessment for internal transfer through to the Senior School; for those candidates successful in this assessment there is automatic transfer to Year 7 unless there are specific concerns about an individual's progress or conduct. For those pupils who do not secure or opt not to apply for an all through offer there is an opportunity for an internal transfer offer at the beginning of Year 5.

Senior School:

Entry at 11+ (Year 7)

External candidates sit entrance seek to identify young people who will thrive within the Foundation. Assessments will look to assess their general cognitive ability using a range of assessment tools. Candidates are not expected to have studied any particular content outside the national Key Stage 2 curriculum.

Pupils already attending the Foundation in Year 6 at Rosedale House or Dame Bradbury's School transfer automatically to the Senior School unless there are specific concerns about an individual's progress or conduct or if they opt not to apply for internal transfer. If those pupils did not secure an all through offer, they are given the opportunity to apply, at the beginning of Year 5, for internal transfer to Year 7. This is done through consultation with the relevant Head of School and then invitation to interview at the Senior School.

Entry at 12+ (Year 8),13+ (Year 9) and 14+ (Year 10)

Places are subject to availability. Assessments will look to assess their general cognitive ability using a range of assessment tools. Candidates are not expected to have studied any particular content outside the national curriculum. Candidates may also be interviewed by a member of the Modern Languages department in order to ascertain their exposure to languages, and by other departments if required.

Entry at 15+ (Year 11) for Pre-Sixth Form Programme of Study

Candidates seeking a place on the Pre-Sixth Form Programmes, including 1 year iGCSE, will be assessed for their general cognitive ability using a range of assessment tools and interviews as appropriate. They will also be assessed for their English language level as outlined below.

Entry at 16+ (Year 12)

Candidates applying to The Sixth Form from outside the Foundation will be invited to take part in interviews. An offer of a place at the Sixth Form will be conditional on achieving a satisfactory school reference and the required results at GCSE or equivalent. Our offers are tailored to the individual applicant, take into consideration personal circumstances and the cohort fit but as a guide, we would typically require a minimum total of 50 points from their eight best (I)GCSE results. Points will be calculated from the 9 - 1 grading system or using the conversion A* = 8.5, A = 7, B = 5.5, C = 4, D = 3, E = 2 for legacy qualifications. Certain subjects at both A-level and IB have specific entry requirements, where we feel it will be difficult for students to be successful in a subject area without a foundational understanding; please contact the admissions department if you would like further details about these areas.

If a candidate wishes to study Further Maths or Modern Languages at A Level or Higher Level Maths or Modern Languages in the International Baccalaureate Diploma, they may be asked to have a discussion with a member of subject staff to determine their suitability.

All students may choose admission on to either the A Level or IB Diploma programme. The entrance requirements and selection procedures are the same for both and there is no differentiation on grounds of educational background or additional needs.

Offers are based on the subject choices declared on the application form. Should candidates later decide to alter the choice of subjects, this will be subject to availability and further entrance tests may be necessary.

Candidates whose language of instruction has not been English must sit the Foundation's English Entrance Test or provide evidence of an IELTS qualification (or an alternative English Language qualification at our discretion) which reflects the minimum English Language requirement. English Language requirement as detailed below:

Programme	Minimum English Language Requirement
Pre-programme	IELTS 4 (Low B1 CEFR)
GCSE (One Year)	IELTS 4.5 (B1 CEFR)
A Level (Two Year)	IELTS 5.0 (High B1- Low B2 CEFR)
International Foundation Programme	IELTS 4.5 (B1 CEFR)
Year 13 (U6)	IELTS 6 in each component and 6.5 overall (High B2- Low C1 CEFR)

Students will also be required to sit a cognitive ability test and will have a subject specific interview as required depending on the subjects they wish to study at the Sixth Form. Current school reports and references are always requested and these are taken into account together with information on personal circumstances, results of the tests, interviews and cohort fit.

Applications from overseas:

The Foundation acts in accordance with UKVI Tier 4 guidance under its licence to sponsor overseas students.

The Foundation requires parents who do not live in the United Kingdom to appoint an education guardian to act on their behalf. The guardian so appointed will not be a student’s legal guardian or the person having the legal rights to make the major decisions relating to the student. Such rights will remain with the parent. Please contact our Bursary to request our Guardianship Agreement document for full details of the arrangements that are required.

Access to the curriculum:

Candidates embarking on (I)GCSEs, A Levels and the International Baccalaureate are required to submit their subject choices at the point of entry; we endeavour to meet all requests where possible.

Candidates applying to the Senior School or the Sixth Form after the main (published) closing dates or outside of the usual entry points (Year 7 or Year 12) should note that they may not get their first choice of subject(s).

Reference:

With the exception of applicants entering Kindergarten and Reception, the Head (or equivalent) of the candidate's current school will be asked to provide a written confidential reference as to the candidate's academic ability, attitude and behaviour, involvement in the school community, talents and interest, and any other special circumstances such as special educational needs, or a disability. The reference may also include the results of tests taken at the school (such as NFER, MidYIS, Yellis or SATs) and predicted grades at (I)GCSE (if appropriate).

No offer of a place will be made before receipt of a written reference (with the exception of pupils entering Nursery, Kindergarten and Reception). However, where a reference has been delayed for any reason, the Head of School may agree to make an offer conditional upon a satisfactory reference being received in due course.

Fees:

The Foundation reserves the right to seek information about any unpaid fees from the candidate's current school before admission.

Candidate's age:

Very occasionally, we may offer places to pupils outside their standard year group, if we consider, as a matter of professional judgement, that this would be in the best interests of the pupil and the Foundation.

Admissions criteria:

The admissions criteria includes:

- A candidate's age, maturity and attitude to learning;
- Performance in the relevant entrance assessments and / or achieving the required (I)GCSE grades, as appropriate;
- Performance at interview (if applicable);
- A positive confidential reference from the applicant's present school (if applicable);
- Commitment to the Foundation's ethos as described in the Foundation's aims;
- Ability to thrive within the broad and varied curriculum offered and to make a positive contribution to the Foundation.

The Foundation's decision is final.

All candidates must have, or be eligible for, the legal right to live and study in the UK.

It is assumed that pupils will automatically progress through the Foundation, subject to them meeting the required standards of behaviour and progress. The exception to this is pupils from Dame Bradbury's who have not committed to the Senior School at the end of Year 6 and they are supported by us in their transition to their next school.

Siblings: Subject to satisfying the considerations of the admissions criteria for the Foundation, siblings of current students in the Foundation will have priority for places.

Location: The Foundation reserves the right to factor traveling distance/time into the offer making process, and may therefore decide to award a place at a specific campus within the Foundation if we deem it to be a better choice, and more environmentally sustainable, even where there is a preference for a different site.

Special circumstances: We recognise that a candidate's performance may be affected by particular circumstances and we may request further information such as a medical certificate or educational psychologist's report and any associated correspondence or details from the candidate's current school (including samples of work) or other information, as we consider necessary to make a fair assessment. We may also arrange for the candidate to have an interview with our Inclusion Specialist (3-11) or Inclusion Coordinator (11-18) if this is deemed necessary.

Scholarships: Scholarships are not awarded for entry below 11+.

Senior School

A small number of Governors' academic scholarships are awarded annually to candidates who perform exceptionally well in the 11+ entrance tests. These awards are not means tested but are limited in value. Pupils progressing to Year 7 from either Dame Bradbury's or Rosedale House are not eligible for these academic scholarships but they are eligible for Governors' awards based on attainment and progress in Year 6, at the discretion of the relevant Heads of School.

In addition, all students entering Year 7 are invited to apply for a Music Scholarship and a Foundation Award for service to the school or community.

The Sixth Form

A number of awards are offered by the Governors for entry to the Sixth Form. These are awarded on academic merit and are open to both internal and external candidates via an examination and interview in November.

Candidates applying for scholarships at the Sixth Form must be available for the relevant scholarship assessment process.

Further details of the scholarships available and the testing dates may be found on our website; means-tested bursaries may supplement scholarship awards.

The Principal's decision on all awards is final.

Records: A confidential admissions record will be completed for each candidate which will be treated in accordance with the Foundation's privacy policies and data protection law.

Entrance tests

Results of the entrance tests are confidential to the Foundation and are not released as they are designed for internal use and do not correspond to any external criteria. Sample entrance question papers are not provided to applicants or their parents/guardians.

Where there is reason for the Foundation to doubt the integrity of any entrance test results after a candidate has joined the Foundation we reserve the right to adjust their programme or withdraw them from the Foundation.

Please refer to:

Equal Opportunities for Pupils Policy
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy

Reviewed: September 2019

Version Control

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