



ADMISSIONS POLICY

GENERAL

1. Willington School is an independent school for boys from ages 4 to 13. The School has some 270 pupils and we limit our class sizes to a maximum of 18 pupils. Academic assessment may be required in order to ensure a prospective pupil can access and benefit from our broad curriculum at an age appropriate academic level. By necessity this may involve pupils undertaking English and Mathematics assessments to establish a baseline of their ability. However, Willington remains proud of the fact that it is not an academic hot house school and seeks to develop its pupils in a wide range of areas, including physically, personally, morally and culturally, through a broad and balanced curriculum in line with the Willington School motto.
2. 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 son will visit Willington School. Details of our open mornings, designed to give a general introduction to the School, are published on our website.
3. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their sons at other times. Following a meeting with the Headmaster, prospective parents (and their sons) will then be taken on a full tour of the School. To arrange a visit, please contact Lucy Walton, Head of Admissions on 0208 944 7020 or email: admissions@willingtonschool.co.uk.

THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

4. Most pupils join the School at the age of 4 into Reception with others joining up to the age of 7 into Year 3. The School may also have occasional places at other ages. Please contact Lucy Walton for details.
5. Although there is no formal assessment for Reception, boys joining us will require a satisfactory Nursery report and a positive experience at the Induction Morning held in the Spring Term prior to starting. Boys seeking a place at 7+ will be invited to attend a review morning in the Spring Term of Year 2. Boys seeking to fill available spaces in other year groups will need to provide their current school report and will be formally assessed during a taster morning.
6. Registration for Reception. To avoid disappointment, parents seeking entry into Reception are advised, if possible, to Register their sons with the School at least 12 months before the September of the desired year of admission. There is no pressure to sign the Parent Contract or to pay the Deposit (currently £1,500) at this stage. Eleven months before the start date (or earlier if the School is concerned that places are becoming limited), we will write to all parents who have registered their sons to invite those who have yet to do so to sign the Parent Contract and to pay the Deposit. Places will be secured on a first-come-first-served basis. Once all available places have been allocated, later applications will be added to a waiting list.
7. Registration for Other Years. Parents seeking entry into other years are advised to contact Lucy Walton for further details and, if no places are immediately available, ask to be placed on the waiting list.

EQUAL TREATMENT

8. Willington School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's race, ethnicity, religion, disability or social background. The School's 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 pupils for today's world. Means-tested Bursaries are offered in order to make it possible for deserving pupils, whose parents might otherwise be unable to afford the fees, to attend the School.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND)

9. Applicants with SEND and/or Learning Support needs such as Specific Learning Difficulties will need to meet our admissions criteria of all pupils being able to access and benefit from our broad curriculum at an age appropriate academic level. Where a prospective pupil has a physical disability, we will seek to assess (alongside parents and medical professionals) whether our site is able to offer adequate support and to discuss what adjustments can be put in place if the child is to become a pupil at the School.
10. Our Extended Learning Department offers support to pupils who need a boost to catch up with their peers and helps those who have Specific Learning Difficulties to thrive in our mainstream academic setting. There may be additional costs in providing these interventions.
11. Where appropriate, Access Arrangements can be put in place for older pupils to attend our entrance tests. Parents/carers should provide the School with any relevant information in advance, including the report the arrangement is based on, so that we can make appropriate provision for him on the day. For more information, please see our SEND and Learning Support Information Report.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

12. We are proud to be a School with a diverse community. To cope with the demands of our academic curriculum, pupils joining the School in Year 4 and above should be reasonably academically competent in English, as well as reaching age-appropriate targets in their home language. Younger boys should have an age-appropriate standard of their home language and enough familiarity with English that they feel confident in our classroom environment. Pupils who are new to English are supported through our small class sizes and our pastoral care systems.

OUT OF YEAR

13. We expect all pupils to enter our School in the appropriate year with their peers. The year is determined by the age of the pupil on 1st September. Therefore, pupils born on 1st September will be the oldest in the year group and pupils born on 31st August will be the youngest in the year group. Where parents wish to make out-of-year requests, the School will require details of exceptional circumstances and will assess these on a case-by-case basis. For pupils who are 4 years old, flexibility with entry during the Reception Year can be accommodated.

SIBLING DISCOUNTS

14. Many siblings join their brothers at Willington School. We currently have over 50 younger brothers receiving the sibling discount of 10% of the fees.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

15. Scholarships and other non means-tested awards are limited to a maximum of 10% of the fees.
16. Academic Scholarships. The Governors offer a number of Scholarships each year for boys showing outstanding intellectual promise. These awards can continue throughout a boy's Willington career to the end of Year 8, subject to a satisfactory annual review. Scholarships are available from Year 3 upwards and are assessed internally after joining the School. Annual reviews of a scholar's performance will be based on assessment grades, twice-yearly reports and the Headmaster's recommendation to Governors.
17. Chorister Scholarship. The Chorister Scholarship is available to all Willington boys (Years 4-8) who have successfully auditioned for our Choristers. The Scholarship covers the cost of small group singing lessons on a weekly basis, while Probationers and, once confirmed as a Chorister, for individual singing lessons. The Chorister Scholarship has a termly value of about 5% of the fees.



18. The Oates Scholarship. For Year 6 boys, the Oates Scholarship may be awarded to those showing outstanding ability either academically, musically, or on the sports field. These Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Headmaster. Specific terms and conditions apply to the Oates Scholarship and these may be obtained by emailing bursar@willingtonschool.co.uk.

19. Means-tested Bursaries. The School also offers a limited number of means-tested Bursaries, either for potential pupils whose parents declare in advance that they would otherwise be unable to afford the full fees, or for current pupils whose family circumstances change unexpectedly. Levels of bursary support awarded take into account the family income and assets, the family circumstances and the pupil benefit. In the most extreme circumstances, Bursary support can be as much as 100% of the fees. Parents who might need Bursary support should email bursar@willingtonschool.co.uk for an application form.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

20. Although Willington School has Christian roots, the School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it welcomes pupils from all religious backgrounds.

SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

21. Copies of the School's contractual terms and conditions are available on the School's website and will be sent to parents as part of the admissions process.

COMPLAINTS

22. The School hopes that parents and pupils do not have any complaints about the School's admissions process; but copies of the School's complaints procedure are available on the website and can be sent to parents on request.