



ADMISSIONS POLICY

GENERAL

1. Willington School is an independent school for boys from ages 4 to 13 with about 240 pupils and small class sizes. 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, '***We learn not for School but for life***'.
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 Autumn 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 day.
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 expected start date. The Registration Form should be completed and submitted with the non-refundable Registration Fee of £150. 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. Subject to satisfactory references, places will be secured on a first-come-first-served basis on receipt of both the Acceptance Form and the Deposit. 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. A limited number of 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. Further details are available from the Bursar on bursar@willingtonschool.co.uk.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY (SEND). LEARNING SUPPORT & SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

9. Pupils with SEND or Learning Support needs such as Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs) are welcome to apply for a place at our school. All pupils must meet our admissions criteria and be able to access and benefit from our broad curriculum at an age appropriate academic level. Where a pupil has a physical disability, we will seek to assess (alongside parents, carers and medical professionals) the reasonable adjustments that could be made to provide access to the School and the curriculum.

10. Relevant reports, such as Educational Psychology or medical reports and school or nursery reports should be submitted at registration for review by the SENCO. Provision will be made, where necessary, for Access Arrangements to be put in place for entrance testing.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

11. We are proud to be a school with a diverse community. To meet the demands of our academic curriculum, pupils must have enough familiarity with English to pass our entrance requirements. We understand, however, that it can take time for pupils to reach their full academic potential in English and pupils are supported on this journey by our pastoral care systems and small group learning where necessary. For pupils joining us in Reception, we offer an EAL support programme run by a qualified practitioner

OUT OF YEAR

12. 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.

SIBLING DISCOUNTS

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

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

14. Scholarships. A limited number of scholarships may be available. These are assessed internally for boys from Year 3 upwards showing outstanding Academic, Artistic, Musical or Sporting promise. Scholarship awards can continue throughout a boy's Willington career to the end of Year 8, subject to a satisfactory annual review and the Headmaster's recommendation to Governors. Scholarships and other non means-tested awards are limited to a maximum of 10% of the fees.

15. 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.

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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.