



BEECHWOOD

Sacred Heart School

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Beechwood Sacred Heart School admits pupils with a wide range of academic ability. The school welcomes pupils from diverse cultural, racial, socio-economic and religious backgrounds. The school does not permit gender, race, colour or disability to be used as criteria for pupil admission, as long as the prospective pupil is able to access the school's curriculum and the physical complexity of the school's buildings, without excessive support or intervention.

Entry into the **Preparatory School** is usually into the Nursery at age 3, Reception at age 4, or into Year 3 at age 7, although, if vacancies exist, it is possible to join the school in any Year group. Our 7+ Scholarship Day is held in March. Other prospective pupils may be tested during a Trial Day in the school.

Entry to the **Senior School** is normally at age 11, 13 or 16, into Year 7, Year 9 or Year 12 respectively, although, if vacancies exist, it is possible to join the school in any Year group. Our 11+ and 13+ Entrance and Scholarship Days are held in January each year, for entry into Year 7 and Year 9 the following September. On these days, tests are set in English, Mathematics and Reasoning, and all candidates have an interview with the Headmaster. Sixth Form Scholarship Day is held in November, for entry into Year 12 the following academic year.

Selection for entry in **any part of the school** will be made on the basis of performance in entrance tests, the impression made during interview and/or a trial day, and on reports from the prospective pupil's current school. The single most important criterion used for selection, however, is that the prospective pupil should be able to meet and maintain the standards required by the school for all its pupils and should feel comfortable with the ethos to which the school aspires. In cases in which other factors are equal, preference may first be given to a sibling of an existing pupil. In light of the school's Catholic foundation, preference will also be given to Catholic candidates.

For entry to the **Senior School**, preference may first be given to an existing Preparatory School pupil. For entry into the **Sixth Form**, pupils will be expected to have achieved a minimum of 5 GCSE A* - C passes (or their equivalent).

The school may refuse entry to a pupil whose educational special needs are considered by the school to be beyond those which we can provide through our own Learning Support Department.

Pupils **from overseas** may not be able to conform to the usual entrance procedures. They will usually be required to complete the school's own tests for overseas pupils in English and Mathematics. Selection will be based on performance in these tests and on a report from the pupil's current school. Other criteria set out in this Admissions Policy will apply equally to pupils from overseas.

All decisions regarding selection for entry to the school are at the sole discretion of the Headmaster.