



ADMISSIONS POLICY

Beechwood was founded by the Order of the Sacred Heart in 1915 and retains its Catholic traditions, principles and values and welcomes pupils from diverse cultural, racial, socio-economic and religious backgrounds. Although non-selective the School sets high standards and expectations so that pupils achieve their academic potential, personal development goals and involve themselves in the co-curricular life of the School. Disability, gender, race or colour are not barriers preventing admission to Beechwood nor are they used as criteria for entrance. We do stipulate that a necessary condition for admission is that a prospective pupil is able to access the School's curriculum and the physical complexity of the School's buildings without excessive support or intervention.

Beechwood endeavours to consider all pupils that apply for a place, regardless of any pupil needs of which it is aware. The school asks parents if special needs should be taken into consideration, including English as an additional language (EAL). In assessing any pupil or prospective pupil the school may take such advice and require such assessments as considered appropriate. This is to ensure that the school can provide the right environment for the child's academic and pastoral needs. The life of the school is enhanced by inclusive policies, but equal importance must be given to ensuring that no pupil's education is impaired.

We consider all children for admission to the school who have the ability and aptitude to access an academic curriculum. Pupils whose SEND are suited to the curriculum are welcome, provided that we have the appropriate resources and facilities to provide them with the support that they require.

Subject to this, the school will be sensitive to any requests for confidentiality. Where considered necessary, the school will arrange special early admissions meetings with parents of prospective pupils to discuss special arrangements.

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 13+ Entrance and Scholarship Day is held in January each year for entry into Year 9 the following September. Our 11+ Entrance and Scholarship Day is held in November. On these days, tests are set in English, Mathematics and Reasoning, and all candidates have an interview with the Head. Existing **Preparatory School** children do not need to sit the school's entrance exams. References will be sought from the Head of Prep.

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). Continuation of studies from Year 12 to Year 13 will depend upon academic progress as demonstrated by the individual pupil.

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.

Before a place is offered at the school (and preferably prior to application):

Parents must disclose to the school any known or suspected circumstances relating to their child's health, development, allergies, disabilities and learning difficulties. The school reserves the right to subsequently withdraw any place offered based on incomplete disclosure of known or suspected SEND circumstances.

Parents must also disclose any safeguarding or behaviour/discipline issues from previous educational settings. References will also be sought from the prospective student's current school. Based on such disclosure and references, the school will confirm whether or not it is able to fully meet the needs of the child. The school may also require a minimum probationary period of at least one term to be completed satisfactorily, to then confirm permanent admission.

Where a child's SEND is identified, or develops, after the child has started at the school, we will endeavour to continue to support the child as long as we have the appropriate resources and facilities to provide them with the support they require and we believe it is in the best interest of the child and of the school community to remain at the school.

Where, in our judgement, either of these conditions no longer apply, we reserve the right to withdraw a place at the school. In such circumstances, we will use our reasonable endeavours to support parents in finding alternative arrangements.

Admission into years below Y11 will be made on the basis of performance in entrance tests including reading comprehension where indicated as appropriate based on the information received, the impression made during interview and/or a trial day, and on references/reports from the prospective pupil's current School.

Admission to Y11 may be made in exceptional circumstances, but will also be made on the basis of performance in entrance tests including reading comprehension where indicated as appropriate based on the information received, the impression made during interview and/or a trial day, and on references/reports from the prospective pupil's current School.

Admission to the Sixth Form for students who have GCSE results is subject to a minimum total score (GCSE number scale) of 45 points, with a Grade 7 required for entry to Maths and Science A Levels. Music A Level entry requires a minimum of Grade 5 (ABRSM or equivalent) for at least one instrument or voice.

Admission to pupils from overseas who have not taken GCSEs, may not be able to conform to the usual entrance procedures as stated above. They will usually be required to complete the School's own tests for overseas pupils in English and Mathematics, and be interviewed by the Head via Skype. 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. This may include intensive English booster lessons with testing review by the EAL/LD departments to assess student ability to access the Y12 courses.

If students, by the **end of Year 12**, have not made satisfactory progress then they will be asked to attend intensive English booster lessons with testing review by the EAL/LD departments to assess student ability to repeat the year.

It is vital 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 as set out in the Beechwood Code. In cases in which other factors are equal: preference may first be given to a sibling of an existing pupil and, in light of the School's Catholic foundations and faith, preference will also be given to Catholic candidates.

All decisions regarding selection for entry to the School are at the discretion of the Head

Reviewed by DHM: September 2019

Date of next review: September 2020