

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.

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 Headmaster. Sixth Form Scholarship Day is held in November for entry into Year 12 the following academic year.

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.

Selection for entry into **any part of the School** will be made on the basis of performance in entrance tests including reading comprehension, 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 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.

Pupils **from overseas** 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. 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.

Reviewed September 2017 (DHM)