

St Olave's Grammar School



ADMISSIONS POLICY 2019/2020 ENTRY

1. General

The Governing Body is responsible for admissions. Admission is on the basis of academic ability. It is intended that the School will continue to offer an education particularly suited to the more academic child; it will also continue to offer the opportunity for the development of high standards in co-curricular activities such as music, drama and games. In accepting a place parents/carers undertake to ensure their child's full commitment to both the curricular and co-curricular life of the School. Parents/carers should be aware that St Olave's is a Church of England School. The values which inform the life of the School are those of the Christian faith. These values include respect for members of other faith communities or none. We wish to ensure that all pupils benefit from membership of an Anglican Foundation serving a multi-cultural community.

Highest priority in oversubscription for entry to Year 7 or Year 12 will be given to those whose statement of special educational needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan names the school, and to looked after or previously looked after children, subject to meeting the academic admissions criteria below.

2. Year 7 Entry

The published admission number is 124 boys.

Only boys who attain the required standard in the prescribed arrangements for selection by reference to ability and aptitude will be eligible to be considered for admission to Year 7. Those whose parents/carers wish them to be considered for a place must first sit the School's Selective Eligibility Test (SET), comprising Logic, Mathematics and English questions, designed to determine whether or not candidates are of the School's required standard for a selective education. This will take place in September and parents/carers will be notified of the outcome of the SET in October, prior to submission of the Online Application Form, available from your Local Authority. The result of this test does not guarantee a place at St Olave's Grammar School.

Pupils passing the SET will then be invited to sit second stage tests in English and Mathematics. These will take place before the end of the Autumn term. Scores will be standardised and then aggregated, together with the SET marks, to allow a ranking of candidates. The testing will be competitive and the first one hundred and twenty four in rank order will be offered places in accordance with parental preference under the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. In the event of aggregate standardised scores being tied for two or more candidates the final rank order will be determined using performance in the Mathematics paper, then, if required, the creative writing, then the English multiple choice, then the SET.

In the event of withdrawals the rank order will continue to be followed until all places are filled. Boys may sit the entrance test if their eleventh birthday falls between 1st September and 31st August (inclusive) of the academic year in which the September test is set. If their tenth birthday falls within this period, boys may take the test for entry into the School one academic year early provided they are in Year 6 at primary school and a letter of recommendation is received from their Head Teacher. Entry for these boys would be at the discretion of the Governors. Boys may sit the Entrance test once only.

Applications for places in Year 7 should be made by the due date in the Autumn Term prior to the September of admission on the Online Application Form provided by your Local Authority. Completion of a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) – the test registration form available from the School - will also be required and must be returned by the closing date set out in the School's published timetable. Please note that this date is earlier than the date set for completion of the Local Authority's Form. Late applications will be dealt with as outlined in the Co-ordinated Scheme.

3. 'In-Year' Applications for Years 7-11

When a vacancy occurs, those on the waiting list will be invited to take written tests at the School. The results will be placed in rank order and the place offered to the highest ranked candidate who attains the required standard.

4. Fair Access

Children directed via the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child already on the School waiting list provided they demonstrate, in written tests, ability commensurate with other students in the year group. This includes admitting children over the published admission number.

5. Entry to Year 12

Entry to Year 12 will be on the basis of academic ability and achievement using a total points score in the best nine GCSEs. Points will be allocated as the number of the grade. Grades at 4 or lower will not be counted. The usual requirement for Advanced Level courses is the achievement of a minimum of 63 points, to include grade 7s or higher in subjects to be followed to Advanced Level (or related subjects) and at least a grade 6 in English and Mathematics. Year 11 pupils who meet this requirement may proceed into the Sixth Form. For any student who took GCSEs early in unreformed subjects with the old letter grades, the system A*=8, A=7, B=6 will apply; C grades or lower will not count.

Each year a number of places is available for students from other schools. External candidates whose predicted grades meet the above requirements will be asked to take written tests at the School. Entry is open to both boys and girls and a standard number of 110 external candidates may receive conditional offers.

In the event of oversubscription from external candidates, places will be allocated on the basis of: assessment of predicted or known GCSE grades and academic information from an applicant's current school; performance in the written tests; the availability of places in the A Level subject options.

Applications from external candidates for places in the Sixth Form should be made online via the School's website. The dates for applications will be published as outlined under: Admissions Procedure. Boys or girls may sit the entrance test if their sixteenth birthday falls between 1st September and 31st August (inclusive) of the academic year in which the February test is set. If their fifteenth birthday falls within this period, boys or girls may take the test for entry into the School one academic year early provided they are in Year 11 at secondary school and a letter of recommendation is received from the Head Teacher. Entry for these boys or girls would be at the discretion of the Governors. Boys and girls may sit the test once only.

Please note that applicants must have the legal right to be resident in the United Kingdom at the start of and for the duration of their A Level programme.

6. Choristerships

Each year up to four places in Year 7 may be offered, in addition to the School's standard admission number, on the basis of academic ability and tenure of a Choristership at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. Details of this scheme are advertised in December/January each year and may be obtained from the School Office. Academic and voice tests may be taken by boys whose tenth birthday falls between 1st September and 31st August (inclusive) of the academic year two years ahead of their entry to the School.

7. Admission of Children outside of their normal age group

Parents/carers may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child has experienced problems such as ill health.

The School will consider applications outside of the child's normal age group on an individual basis taking into account any information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

Parents/carers wishing to apply for a place outside of the normal age group should contact the Head Teacher in writing in the first instance.

8. Appeal Process

Should a parent/carer wish to appeal against the Governors' decision not to admit their child, they should write to the Clerk to the Independent Appeal Panel, via the School, requesting an appeal form.

9. Waiting List

A list will be maintained in accordance with the admissions criteria.

10. Admissions Procedure

A timetable will be published for each admissions round giving dates for Open Day, submission of the online Supplementary Information Form (test registration form), and Entrance Test days. Tests may only be taken at the School on the appointed dates. Following the SET, parents/carers will be informed whether or not their child could be considered for a place at the School. Please note that this does not equate to a guarantee of a place at the School. The timetable for Sixth Form admissions will be published for Open Day. The School will comply with the locally agreed co-ordinated application procedures and timetables.