



WAKEFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOUNDATION (incl EYFS) ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

Wakefield Grammar School Foundation operates selective schools. The Foundation's aim is to offer places only to those prospective pupils who demonstrate that they will be able to take full advantage of the education we have to offer.

We are committed to ensuring that admission decisions will be made by a process that is free from any discrimination on the grounds of disability, race, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, gender (including transsexual), religion or belief or lack of such (assuming that, in the case of the latter, the prospective pupil and parents agree to adhere to the religious ethos of the School).

The school must also feel reasonably sure that we are able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his or her potential and in line with general standards achieved by the pupil's peers, so that there is every chance that the pupil will have a happy, fulfilling and successful school career. These aims must continue to be met throughout the pupil's time at the school.

It is of great importance that a parent informs the School on the application form should a prospective pupil be disabled under the definition of the Equality Act 2010 and thereby requires special arrangements for the Entrance Examination.

Procedure

Specific entrance procedures exist at each of the five schools within the Foundation. Those for WGHS Senior School are detailed below.

Broadly speaking, for external candidates joining from outside the Foundation below the Sixth Form, entrance is based on an examination or assessment of the child in conjunction with a reference from the current school. Pupils who are due to move from Junior School to Senior School will have been assessed by teaching staff over a period of time for their suitability to meet Senior School entrance requirements and the vast majority of pupils will move to Senior School. Where there are concerns about a pupil's ability to succeed in Senior School, these concerns will have been raised with parents in advance.

Students outside the Foundation applying for admission into Year 12 in either of the Senior Schools will be interviewed by Head and other senior staff and an offer of a place would be subject to achieving certain results in GCSE examinations and a recommendation from the student's current school.



Special Educational Needs

Parents should send a copy of the Educational Psychologist's Report, if available to the school prior to the sitting of the examinations for any candidate who has a Special Educational Need. Due consideration is given to the Special Educational Need in the marking of all papers. The Head of the School may allocate additional time in exceptional circumstances. Consideration will also be given by the Head when making decisions on the overall performance of each candidate prior to the issue of results.

Admission of Foundation Staff Children

Admission of children of Foundation members of staff or Governors to the Foundation's schools is on the same basis as for any other child and is as described in this policy.

WGHS Specific Admissions Procedures

Admission takes place into Year 7 at Senior School and into Year 12 at Sixth Form. Admission at other ages is usually possible, depending on availability of places, and is not uncommon.

Admission into Year 7 for candidates not attending WGHS Junior School

The Entrance Examination takes place in January each year. Prior to this, a reference will have been sought from each potential girl's current school. Those who will flourish in the school will be offered a place.

There are four examinations: English (Creative Writing & Comprehension), Mathematics, Verbal Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning.

English

- **Creative Writing** - Candidates will be given a choice of titles and will be assessed upon their ability to write an imaginative and coherent piece as well as upon the technical aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- **Comprehension** - Candidates are asked to read a passage and to answer questions upon it.

Mathematics

The Mathematics paper includes a variety of questions testing basic numerical skills, problem solving and logical thinking. Candidates may also be required to demonstrate more developed powers of reasoning and the ability to solve simple problems with a newly introduced concept.

Verbal and Abstract Reasoning

This is a standard test similar to those which are widely available commercially. These tests yield very useful information about pupils' aptitudes that may not be evident from their usual classroom work. They can indicate the likely ease with



which a girl will be able to acquire new concepts and understand new ideas across a range of school subjects.

Results

All examination papers undertaken by candidates remain the property of the school and are not generally made available to parents. The results of examinations, interviews or other assessments are kept confidential and are not released to candidates or parents. The Head will assess the performance of each child; he or she will also consider any additional information made available by the child's current school and/or written evidence from other sources as appropriate. Within an appropriate time for the marking of examinations and the consideration of applications, parents will be informed, in writing, of one of three possible outcomes: the child is offered a place; the child is offered a place on a waiting list and would only be offered a place in the school if space became available at a later stage; the child is not offered a place.

In all cases the decision of the Head is final.

Foundation Awards

There are a number of Foundation Awards (Bursaries) available to candidates who meet the school's entrance criteria and also qualify as a result of a means-tested financial assessment. The level of the award typically ranges from a 25% discount to a 75% discount off the annual school fees. Full details are found in the Foundation Award Policy.

Further to this there are a small number of scholarships available for academically able girls, whilst the financial value is limited, they recognise excellent attainment in the Entrance Examination.

Admissions into Year 7 for candidates attending WGHS Junior School

WGHS Junior School candidates are assessed throughout their time at the Junior School and progress into the Senior School is conditional upon recommendation from the Junior School as to their suitability for the Senior School. Although progress to the Senior School is not based on performance in the Entrance Examination, Junior School candidates do sit the examination in January of Year 6 as the results provide useful baseline information and also allow the award of scholarships.

Admission at Other Ages

Candidates will be invited to spend a day at the school when they will undertake examinations in Maths and English appropriate to their age, as well as a test in the foreign language(s) they intend to study. The rest of the day will be spent with student guides from their prospective peer group in lesson time and at break/lunch times.

At all ages, a reference will have been sought from each candidate's current school.



Admission into Year 12 (External Candidates)

- Applications are received throughout the year prior to entry.
- Girls will be contacted by the school and asked to come for an interview in the Spring Term following mock examinations. They have the opportunity to meet the Head, the Deputy Head Academic, Head of Sixth Form and the Heads of Department of those subjects they have expressed an interest in studying at A Level.
- Girls will be expected to have a good GCSE profile including, grade 5 or above in Mathematics and English Language. A grade 6 or above is required in any subject to be studied at A level, except Mathematics and Science subjects which require a grade 7 or above.
- Students who have not studied GCSEs may be required to undertake test papers to ascertain their suitability for A level study.
- Proof of qualifications will be required prior to entry into the school.
- Admission is also subject to a favourable reference from the girl's current school.
- Girls will receive details of the Sixth Form enrolment date and the options deadline. After this, the teaching blocks for Year 12 are set and any changes in combinations of A level subjects will only be possible if they are available within these blocks.

Admission into Year 12 (Internal Candidates)

- Girls will be expected to achieve good GCSE results at the end of Year 11 and a grade 6 or above is required in any subject to be studied at A level, except Mathematics and Science subjects which require a grade 7 or above.
- There is an expectation that they will pass Mathematics and English at GCSE at grade 5 or above but in exceptional circumstances this requirement may be reviewed at the Head's discretion.
- Girls will be contacted in March of their year of entry to confirm their choice of A Level subjects for Year 12. The teaching blocks having been set, any changes are only possible if they fit within the block structure and classes are not full.