



NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

This policy relates to the whole school: Senior, Junior & Early Years Foundation Stage

1. Equal Opportunities

Northampton High School is a member of the Girls' Day School Trust. The Council of the Girls' Day School Trust is committed to equal opportunities in education. Admissions to GDST schools will adhere to the Trust's Equal Opportunities Policy.

2. Admissions: Council Policy

As one of the 26 schools of the Girls Day School Trust, Northampton High School follows the Council's policy for admissions which states:

GDST schools shall be open to all pupils considered by the Head to be capable of benefiting from the education provided at the school and of contributing fully to the life of the School (as more particularly described below);

· *Admission is usually dependent on achieving an acceptable standard in an assessment or examination appropriate to the age group and academic pace of the school (as set out below). Such examinations and tests are expected to be free of bias in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Policy;*

· *Due consideration should however be given to educational experience in assessing pupils' achievement of an 'acceptable standard', and to maximising access for pupils to whom the school can add value;*

· *In relation to junior and prep schools, candidates will be admitted who are considered likely to progress through the usual pathways for pupils attending the school. In most cases in the all through context this will be the standard required to enter the senior school in due course, or to follow a range of complementary transfer routes;*

· *In relation to senior schools, candidates will be admitted who are likely to qualify for further education at post 16;*

Northampton High School aims to provide an ambitious, stimulating and stretching academic education together with a curriculum which helps to develop its pupils morally, spiritually, physically and creatively.

Northampton High School is a fee-paying independent school, but seeks to be as accessible as possible to all able girls, regardless of their parents' ability to pay by the provision of scholarships and bursaries at 11+ and 16+. The key criterion for admission, in addition to the availability of places, is the girl's ability to access the curriculum of the School. Usual entry points are at Reception, 7+, 11+, 13+ and 16+, but girls are admitted at other times when vacancies occur.

Nursery and Reception

Entry into Nursery may take place at any point in the year. Girls are expected to visit the setting with their parents and meet the Headteacher or Head of Early Years. Girls attending our Nursery will receive an automatic offer to join our Reception class in the September after their fourth birthday.

Entry into our Reception class in September for external applicants is possible following a visit and meeting with the Headteacher; a waiting list will be formed if places are over-subscribed. Entry into Reception class is also possible at other times in the year, typically after a school holiday, and girls are expected to spend a morning with the class prior to receiving the offer of a place.

Year 1 to Year 6

Testing takes place throughout the year by appointment through the Registrar. Tests in Reading, English (spelling grammar and comprehension) and Mathematics are administered. Girls also spend time in a class with their peer group. Places are offered taking into consideration entrance test scores as well as prior school experience and academic potential. Girls offered places into Year 6 are given an automatic place into the Senior School when the time comes.

Upper Third to Lower Fifth (11+ to 14+, Years 7 to 10)

Testing usually takes place in January though can be throughout the year (after 1 October). Tests in English and Mathematics are administered plus an interview. Standardised tests are used and it should be noted that girls who achieve a standardised score of less than 100 (below national average) in any of these are unlikely to be offered a place. Reports from current schools are used to help make judgements where necessary. Girls currently attending the Junior School are offered a place into the Senior School when they are in Year 5. Where clear evidence of appropriate achievement and progress is not available by that stage, we would usually require a pupil to sit the 11+ assessment.

Upper Fifth Form (15+, Year 11)

Girls at this age are only accepted in exceptional circumstances. The school report and current GCSE course are taken into careful consideration.

Sixth Form (16+, Years 12 and 13)

Matriculation requirements for entry to the Sixth Form are set at 5 Grade 5s at GCSE along with minimum Grade 5 in English and Maths (or the equivalent in international qualifications). By negotiation with the Director of Sixth Form and the Deputy Head Academic, matriculation guidelines may be varied if appropriate courses can be designed for individual students. Students who fail to achieve a Grade 5 GCSE English or Maths are required to retake the examinations at the next available session until a passing grade is achieved. Individual subjects may set expected minimum

requirements, generally Grade 6 where a GCSE subject is needed for further study, however, occasionally Grade 7 might be deemed necessary. This information is published in the Sixth Form prospectus.

In the Sixth Form, pupils usually choose up to 3 A Levels across a range of subjects along with an academic enhancement element

Key Stage Transfers within the School

Continuity of education is anticipated throughout the age range and at the key stages of transfer unless, in the opinion of the Headmistress, after due deliberation, the pupil will not benefit from continuing to be educated at the School. Factors such as poor behaviour or lack of motivation on the part of the pupil may be taken into account. If there is a likelihood that a pupil will not be able to transfer to the next year, a term's notice of withdrawal will be given. In such cases, parents will be given clear advice on how the school will support the pupil and monitor progress. For transfer from Key Stage 4 to Sixth Form, parents of girls who are showing cause for concern will be advised in writing and an agreed monitoring programme put in place to support the pupil and inform guidance given about the feasibility of transfer to the Sixth Form.

June 2017

Headmistress