



**SEDBERGH SCHOOL
AND
CASTERTON, SEDBERGH PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

Admissions Policy	
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Governor	John Warburton-Lee
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GENERAL

Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your child will visit Sedbergh Prep School and/or Sedbergh School, as appropriate for your child. We hold a number of Open Days which give a general introduction to the Schools. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times when specifically arranged visits can be tailored to individual family requirements.

Senior School

Sedbergh School is a co-educational independent school for pupils from ages 13 to 18. The senior school has 530 pupils, 95% of whom are boarders. Prospective senior school parents should contact our senior school Registrar on 015396 22211 or by email to admissions@sedberghschool.org to arrange a visit.

Prep School

The preparatory school provides education for pupils aged six months to 13 years. There are 200 boarding and day pupils. Prospective prep school parents should contact the Prep School Registrar on 015242 79200 or by email to registrar@sedberghprep.org.

THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

Applicants for admission should register as soon as possible before entry, and ideally by the December of the year preceding the desired year of admission.

Sedbergh School and Sedbergh Prep School are academically selective schools. Our selection process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

Senior School

The usual points of entry are at 13+/Year 9 and 16+/Year 12. We admit a number pupils a year at Year 10. We may also have occasional places at other ages. Please contact the Registrar for details.

Prep School

The prep school mainly admits pupils from sixth months of age (Nursery), at 4 years of age (Reception), at 7 years of age (Year 3) and at 11 year of age (Year 7), although places in other year groups may be available.

EQUAL TREATMENT

Our aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Bursaries are offered in order to make it possible for as many as possible who meet the School's admission criteria to attend the School. Our provision for bursaries is described below.

Sedbergh School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

The School is inclusive and welcomes applicants with disabilities and special educational needs. The School currently has limited facilities, physical and otherwise, for the disabled and those with special educational needs but it will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the *Equality Act 2010* and the *Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001* in order to accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities and special educational needs for which, with reasonable adjustments, the School can cater adequately.

Parents of a child who has any disability or special educational needs should provide the School with full details on registration and discuss their child's requirements with the School before he or she sits the entrance exam so that reasonable adjustments can be made as necessary. Parents should provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report to support their request, for example for extra time or other special arrangements.

The School shall determine the reasonable adjustments that are required for the applicant based on the information provided, in accordance with the School's obligations under equality legislation. We will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child to ensure that the admissions procedure is accessible for him/her and that the School can cater adequately for him/her if he/she becomes a pupil.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The aim of the process is to identify potential. We are looking for well-rounded pupils with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, with interests that stretch beyond the confines of the academic curriculum. The School has strong traditions in music, drama, art, debating, outdoor pursuits, CCF, community activities and sport. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

No specific preparation for the entrance tests is needed; all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude.

In all cases, the preconditions for admission for candidates are that:

- The applicant is of the appropriate age and sufficient maturity.
- The School is able to provide adequately for some special educational needs (if any) the applicant may have following assessment by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator if required.
- The School, having made reasonable adjustment, has the capacity to cope with any disability the applicant may have.
- The applicant fulfils any conditions of offer set out in the conditional offer letter.
- Fees (if applicable) at the present school have been paid.

- The applicant has the legal right to live and study in the UK or, where appropriate, will be sponsored by the School to do so.

Senior School

All candidates for entry below 16+ sit papers in English and Maths, which are designed for their age group, with the exception of Year 9 entrants who sit the Common Entrance examination, although a separate paper for Mathematics and English is set for candidates not being prepared for Common Entrance.

Candidates for entry at 16+ must have achieved at least five C grades in their GCSEs, with a grade B or above in the subjects that they propose to study at A level.

Where practical, we interview all candidates of as part of our assessment process, and a reference is obtained from the applicant's previous school.

Prep School

Pupils entering the prep school in year 3 or above undergo a CAT digital test. Pupils entering into year 5 and above will also complete assessments in English and Mathematics. Pupils entering into year 4 or below are assessed by the relevant Class Teacher during their pre-entry visit. All candidates for entry to the prep school are informally interviewed by the Headmaster, and a written reference is acquired from their previous school (if applicable).

Both Schools

The criteria for admission are:

- Success in the relevant entrance examinations or achieving required GCSE grades, as appropriate;
- A positive confidential reference from the applicant's present school;
- A satisfactory interview;
- Commitment to the School's academic, extra-curricular, pastoral and co-educational ethos as described in the School's aims.

SIBLING POLICY

Most siblings join us at Sedbergh Prep School and Sedbergh School. However, admission is not automatic, and the applicant must meet the admission criteria. There may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sedbergh School and Sedbergh Prep School offer a number of scholarships each year for excellence in:

- Academic subjects
- Music

- Sport
- Drama
- Art and Design
- All-Round ability

Further details of the Scholarship entry and assessment process will be provided by the senior school Registrar, or the prep school Headmaster's PA.

We encourage parents of Scholars who anticipate that they will experience difficulty in meeting the balance of the tuition fees, to apply at the same time for one of the School's means tested bursaries described below, when they register their child.

BURSARIES

Our bursary programme is generous and is designed to make it possible for as many as possible of those who meet the School's entry criteria to take up a place here. We offer a number of means tested awards annually to entrants at the usual points of entry. Bursaries are means-tested in accordance with the criteria set out in the School's policy. Both parents are required to provide proof of their income and assets. The level of support varies according to parental need.

Bursaries are always offered for a fixed period, and are subject to periodic review within that period. The family is required to provide fresh information about its circumstances for every year that their child attends the School. Levels of support may vary with fluctuations in income.

The School's practice is to allocate its entire available bursary funding on entry. The School's expectation is that parents who do not choose to apply for a bursary at the time that their child is being assessed will not require financial support throughout the time that their child attends the School, except in wholly unforeseen circumstances.

Our Bursary Policy can be viewed on our website, or can be obtained from the Bursary.

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at Sedbergh School or Sedbergh Prep School as a boarder provided that he/she has a relative or legal guardian living in the UK with whom he/she can stay if necessary. The prep school has one or two fixed exeats per term; there are no fixed exeats in the senior school.

Sedbergh School does not run a short-term study programme, and prefers that overseas pupils finish a complete course of study, such as Years 9-11, or Years 12 -13.

Fluency in English

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Sedbergh School and Sedbergh Prep School, pupils must, as a minimum, be moderately fluent English speakers, to a level that the School considers appropriate to follow successfully the demands of the curriculum. Pupils entering year 9 or below should be at or close to intermediate level (band 4 in IELTS equivalent). For year 10 entry intermediate level is required, and sixth form pupils should be at least at the equivalent of IELTS band 5, or ideally band 6, in all four aspects of the language.

Religious Beliefs

Although Sedbergh School is a Church of England School, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief. Parents should be aware however that there is compulsory Saturday morning school, and that all senior school boarding pupils are required to attend Chapel each Sunday; in addition to other special church services throughout the School year.

Records

A confidential admissions record will be completed for each applicant.

Admissions Policy – Policy Action Points

UNDERTAKING	BY WHOM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details regarding the School's Open Days are published on the School's website. 	Marketing department
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss thoroughly a pupil's special education needs with parents and their medical advisors so that any adjustments can reasonably be made for the child should the child become a pupil at the School. 	School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Bursary Policy is available on the website 	Bursary