



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

<b>Admissions Policy</b>	
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### GENERAL

Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School and Sedbergh School ("the School") are co-educational independent schools for pupils from ages 4 to 13, and 13 to 18 respectively.

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 Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School and/or Sedbergh School. We hold a number of open events which give a general introduction to the School. Details are published on our website. 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 School has 550 pupils, 95% of whom are full, seven day a week, boarders. Prospective senior

school parents should contact our senior school Registrar on 015396 22211 or by email to [admissions@sedberghschool.org](mailto:admissions@sedberghschool.org) to arrange a visit.

### Preparatory School

The preparatory school provides education for pupils aged 4 to 13 years. There are full boarding, weekly boarding, flexi boarding and day pupils. Prospective preparatory school parents should contact the preparatory school Registrar on 015242 79200 or by email to [admissions@sedberghprep.org](mailto:admissions@sedberghprep.org).

Entry to the Mulberry Bush Nursery is covered by a separate Admissions Policy available from the Nursery.

### THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School and Sedbergh School are academically selective schools. Selection is based upon academic merit, which is assessed through an observation in the preparatory school and an entry examination in the senior school, an interview at the School and references from the candidate's previous school. Our selection process is also 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 small number of pupils a year at Year 10, if there are spaces in that year group. We may also have occasional places at other ages. Please contact the senior school Registrar for details.

### Preparatory School

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

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. The School's Registration Forms are available from the Registrar of preparatory or senior school as appropriate.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION

The School's 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. Both schools operate a bursary fund: bursaries are offered on a means tested basis, to make the School accessible for as many as possible who meet the School's admission criteria. Please refer to our separate Bursary Policy available on the School website.

Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School are committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or social background.

### SPECIAL NEEDS

Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School do not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, providing we can offer them any support that they require and cater for any additional needs and that our sites can accommodate them.

We strongly advise parents of children with special educational needs and/or physical or mental disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with the School before he/she sits the entrance exam so that we can make adequate provision for him/her. Parents should provide a copy of an educational psychologist's report or a medical report, if they have one.

The School will discuss thoroughly with parents (and their child's medical advisers, if appropriate) the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the School.

### THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The aim of the process is to identify the potential of each child. Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School 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, 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 and extra-curricular skills.

We do not assess candidates for entry into the Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception class).

Up to Year 6, children are invited to the preparatory school for a taster day, during which they will be assessed through observation by staff. Formal papers may be taken in Maths or English if they are helpful for setting purposes. For overseas applicants, we will arrange for a Skype interview, and pupils applying for a place in Year 6 may sit Maths and English as an Additional Language (EAL) papers, to be taken under examination conditions.

Entry in Years 7 and above will also involve an online aptitude test.

All senior school candidates for entry (below 16+) sit papers in English and Maths, and take an online aptitude test, all of which are designed for their age group.

Candidates for entry at 16+ sit papers in English and Maths, and take an aptitude test, unless they have participated in the 16+ academic scholarship assessment process. The offer of a place into Year 12 is conditional upon the candidate achieving a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade 4 and above, including Grades 6 or above in the subjects proposed for study at A level.

We interview all candidates of as part of our assessment process for each age group (apart from Reception).

### SIBLING POLICY

Most siblings join us at Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School. However, admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where the School judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School (for entry into Years 7 and 8 only) offer scholarships for excellence in the following areas:

- Academia
- Music
- Sport
- Drama
- Design, Technology & Engineering (preparatory school)
- Art & Design Technology (senior school)
- All-Rounder (preparatory school)

A scholarship may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made, or, in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions.

### Purpose of Scholarships

Scholarships are designed to reward excellence and to celebrate exceptional ability. In recognition of this achievement, the scholar is offered a reduction in the fees throughout his/her time at Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School and/or Sedbergh School. In addition, music scholars in the senior school are offered free tuition in musical instrument(s). Parents are asked to indicate on the Registration Form whether they wish to apply for a scholarship. Details of the arrangements will be sent to all who express an interest.

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 on registration of their child) for one of the School's means-tested bursaries described below.

Further details of Scholarships can be found in the Scholarships Handbook available from the Registrar of preparatory or senior school, as appropriate.

### BURSARIES

The School's bursary programme is designed to facilitate as many as possible of those who meet Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School's entry criteria to take up a place. The School considers means-tested awards annually to entrants at the usual points of entry, where the parents have indicated on the Registration Form that they require financial support. Bursaries are means-tested in accordance with the criteria published on the School's website. Both parents are required to provide proof of their income and assets. The level of support varies according to parental need.

Bursaries are offered for the duration of a pupil's time in School, subject to annual review of changes in financial circumstance. Levels of support may vary with fluctuations in income or wealth.

The School's Bursary Policy can be viewed on our website.

A bursary may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made, or in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions.

### OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School as boarders provided that they have a relative or responsible adult living in the UK with whom they can stay for some weekends, more details of which are contained in the School's Terms and Conditions.

### Fluency in English

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of the School, pupils must be competent in the use of English, both written and spoken. Proficiency in English will be assessed by the Schools' English as an Additional Language (EAL) entry papers, together with School reports and interviews. The results will be used to measure the pupil's level of English proficiency to the required CEFR level for each entry point. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) can be arranged for an additional charge.

### Religious Beliefs

The School welcomes applications from prospective pupils of all faiths and of no faith.

Although Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School are Church of England schools, the School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it offers the opportunity for pupils of other faiths to practise their own faiths.

However, parents should be aware that there is compulsory Saturday morning school from Year 7 upwards, and all pupils are expected to attend weekly Chapel services.

### SCHOOL'S TERMS & CONDITIONS

Copies of the School's Terms and Conditions are on the School's website and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

### COMPLAINTS

The School hopes that parents and pupils do not have any complaints about the School's admissions process; but the School's Complaints Procedure is available on our website and can be sent to parents on request.