



# **SEDBERGH SCHOOL AND SEDBERGH JUNIOR SCHOOL**

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

### GENERAL

Sedbergh School is a co-educational independent school for pupils from ages 13 to 18. The Junior School is on the same campus providing education for pupils aged 4 to 13. The Senior School has 420 pupils, 95% of whom are boarders. 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 School. We hold a number of Open Days which give a general introduction to the School. Details are published on our web site. 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. Please contact our Registrar on 015396 22211 or by email on [admissions@sedberghschool.org](mailto:admissions@sedberghschool.org) to arrange a visit.

### THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

Sedbergh School is an academically selective school. Selection is based upon academic merit which is assessed through an entry examination, an interview at the School and references from the candidate's previous school. 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.

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. The Junior School mainly admits pupils from 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.

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.

### 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. Generous 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.

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

### SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

The School is inclusive and welcomes applicants with disabilities and special educational needs. It maintains and drives a positive culture towards inclusion of disabled people and those with special educational needs and it will not treat an applicant less favourably on these grounds without justification.. However, at present, the School's facilities, physical and otherwise, for the disabled and those with special educational needs are limited but it will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by 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.

We require parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with the School before he or 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 to support their request, for example for extra time or other special arrangements.

We will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers 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 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 any special educational needs (if any) the applicant may have following assessment of the student 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.

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 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 AS and A2.

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

Pupils entering Sedbergh Junior School in year 6 or above undergo a CAT digital test, and also write an English essay having been given the title by the Head. Pupils entering into year 5 or below are assessed by the relevant Class Teacher during their pre-entry visit. All candidates for entry to the Junior School are informally interviewed by the Head, and a verbal reference is acquired from their previous school.

### SIBLING POLICY

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

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Sedbergh School offers 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 Headmaster's PA, or the SJS Head's PA for juniors.

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 Sedbergh 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, 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 web site. 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 web site, or can be obtained from the Bursar.

### OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at Sedbergh 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 Junior School has one or two fixed exeats per term; there are no fixed exeats in senior school.

Parents of overseas pupils should appreciate that Sedbergh School does not run a short-term study programme, and expects overseas pupils to 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, 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 pupils are required to attend Chapel each Sunday, in addition to other special church services throughout the School year.

### SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

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

### COMPLAINTS

We hope that you and your child do not have any complaints about our admissions process; but copies of the School's complaints procedure can be sent to you on request.