

Godstowe

School Policy

Admissions

Reviewed
September
2024

Introduction

Godstowe aims to attract and admit children who will benefit from its day/boarding education, as described in the school's mission statement, and whose parents/guardians are committed to it. This will include a wide variety of children whose individuality will be valued.

Aims

The aim of the Admissions Policy is to ensure that all those who enter Godstowe will be able to benefit from the education offered, on a non-selective basis.

Entrance policy

We are a non-selective school; however, assessment information is necessary to determine appropriate educational provision and to ensure that we can cater for each individual pupil's needs. Children entering the school are usually asked to complete assessments in English and Maths. Younger pupils may undergo informal assessments appropriate to their age, while older applicants might be assessed in a wider range of subjects. We require reports from the applicant's current school, and it is the parents' responsibility to share any relevant SEN information if applicable. This comprehensive approach allows us to better understand and support each child's unique needs. We strongly encourage and welcome all prospective pupils to visit the school before we offer places, as this helps ensure the best fit for both the pupil and our community.

Objectives

- To set out the procedure for admission from initial contact to acceptance of a place.
- To set out the procedure for assessment of all applicants to ensure that we can meet the applicants specific learning requirements.
- To ensure that parents receive the maximum amount of appropriate information on which to base their judgements.
- To ensure the pupil has the opportunity to see and become familiar with the school.

Procedures

- A parent who contacts Godstowe will be given a warm reception by our admissions team who will happily answer any questions. Parents can request a prospectus or opt to view these details on our website.
- Parents will be encouraged to make an individual visit to the school, during term time whenever possible. They will also be invited to any relevant Open Days.
- During individual visits parents will normally have the opportunity to meet staff and pupils and to look around the school.

- As a follow up pupils will be offered the opportunity to spend time at the school, as necessary, to meet other pupils and, if appropriate and possible, experience boarding.
- Parents are welcome to make subsequent visits although arrangements may be altered to avoid unnecessary repetition.
- All prospective pupils are informally interviewed and those applying for places in Years 3-8 will be assessed for setting purposes and to ensure suitability. These will include standardised tests to determine peer comparison.
- In some instances, particularly if the pupil has additional learning needs it is beneficial to speak with the pupil's current school or nursery. We will always request permission from the parents before making contact.
- Offers of a place are made subject to receipt of information from the pupil's current Head Teacher (if applicable).
- Pupils living overseas may be able to sit the assessments overseas at their school or an approved agency, eg the British Council, although in person visits are the preferred method.
- Godstowe welcomes pupils from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. Parents must be committed, if appropriate, to supporting further English study at their own cost, if deemed necessary by the school.
- Sponsored pupils are required to attend Godstowe as full boarders for the entirety of their education. As a Home Office sponsor we are duty-bound to maintain a history of contact details for sponsored pupils. To enable us to continue sponsoring your child we request that any change to your address, telephone number or email address be communicated to us as soon as possible. We reserve the right to request further information about a prospective pupil's immigration status and to share that information with UKVI if needed.
- Any pupil wishing to change their status from a boarder to a day pupil or a day pupil to a boarder, will need to apply to the school for the Head Mistresses approval, as this may not always be possible.
- Siblings will be given preferential treatment over other candidates when places are limited.
- All things being equal, the date of receipt of acceptance of a firm offer from the parent/guardian will be taken into consideration when allocating available spaces.

Scholarship Entry

Godstowe offers scholarships at 11+. Pupils should be 11+ and entering Upper Third (year 7) in September of the following academic year. The scholarship process is held over two days early in the spring term preceding entry. Enquiries should be directed to the Director of Admissions.

Equal Opportunities

Godstowe is committed to a policy of equal opportunities in admissions and the provision of education, and will not unlawfully discriminate between pupils or prospective pupils on grounds of race or disability.

Parents of children with disabilities are required to notify the School upon application of any disability suffered by their child. Parents may be asked to attend a meeting at the School in order to provide more information about the particular disability. A formal assessment may then be arranged by the School at the parents' expense. The School will then consider, on an individual basis, if appropriate and reasonable adjustments could be made to the application and assessment process in order to accommodate the child. Ultimately, any decision in relation to whether to offer a place will be taken in the light of the child's individual needs.