

Hereford Cathedral Junior School

ADMISSIONS POLICY

This policy applies to all pupils at Hereford Cathedral Junior School including those in our EYFS settings.

GENERAL

Hereford Cathedral Junior School is a co-educational independent school for pupils from ages 3 to 11. 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 our school. You will get a good idea of our school from our website. We are always very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children to our school. Please contact our School Registrar, Sally Stick on 01432 363511 or email on s.stick@herefordcs.com to arrange a visit.

AIMS OF THIS POLICY

The aims of the policy are to ensure that the selection criteria and admission procedures are consistent with the school's charitable purpose and fair to the applicants. Hereford Cathedral School's charitable purpose is to provide a structured and stable environment in which pupils may flourish and develop their full potential in academic, aesthetic, physical and personal terms.

THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

Hereford Cathedral School is a selective school. Our aim is to offer places only to those prospective pupils who demonstrate that they will be able to take full advantage of the education we have to offer and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the school. Places are offered, within the stipulations of this policy, at the discretion of the Head of the Junior School.

The school must feel reasonably sure:

- that we are able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his or her potential and in line with general standards achieved by the pupil's peers, so that there is every chance that the pupil will have a happy, fulfilling and successful school career, and
- that the prospective pupil will not compromise the progress and happiness of the children already at the school

These aims must continue to be met throughout the pupil's time at Hereford Cathedral School.

The usual points of entry are into our Nursery (from age 3) and into Reception (from 4 years of age). We also regularly admit pupils into other year groups, and throughout the year, depending on places being available. Please contact the School Registrar for details.

REGISTRATION

Parents expressing an interest in the School are sent a pack of details which contains a Registration Form for Admissions. Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit the school prior to completion of the registration form.

Parents are expected to visit the School prior to any admission and are invited

to make a suitable appointment. Each visit lasts for about 90 minutes and involves a talk with the Head and a tour of 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, community activities and sport. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

We require all children joining Year 1 and above and children joining Reception mid-year to come in for a taster day so that we can assess their needs and abilities within the classroom and, if appropriate, observe informal play and social interaction.

During the day, for pupils in Year 1 and above, the pupil's Maths and English will be assessed. This is not an entrance assessment but provides an insight into the current ability of the child and how best the Junior School can provide for their needs. It is also important for children to have an opportunity to get a feel for the school and have the chance to meet other pupils in their year group.

Following on from this, the school may, if necessary, ask a child to come in for further, more formal, testing. We also require parents to supply copies of reports from a child's current school where appropriate before any offer of a place can be made. An offer of a place will usually be made at this time but on occasions when we have limited spaces in a year group, we reserve the right to delay making any offer until later in the academic year. For children aged five and above, all offers of places made are subject to the receipt of satisfactory references and/ or school report from a child's current school.

A child would not normally be offered a place at this stage (aged five and above) if it seemed probable that they would not progress to the senior school.

TRANSFER TO THE HEREFORD CATHEDRAL (SENIOR) SCHOOL

Whilst a place in the Junior School does not necessarily guarantee a place in the Senior School, generally children who join the Junior School before Year 5 are admitted to the Senior School on the recommendation of the Head of the Junior School and without the need to sit the senior school 11+ Entrance Exam. Such a recommendation is based on the pupil's academic attainment, progress and potential to flourish within the Senior School. It is expected that there will be dialogue between parents and the Junior School at an early stage if it is felt that automatic transfer to the Senior School is unlikely. Such early notice provides parents of such pupils the opportunity to look for alternative schools.

Children who join the Junior School in either Year 5 or Year 6 are expected to take the senior school 11+ Entrance Exam.

COMMUNICATION

In the interest of the child, it is imperative that parents inform us of any factors – social, medical, emotional or academic – that might affect their child's learning and other school activities before accepting an offer of a place. All information will be treated with confidence and will only be disclosed if that information has a direct bearing on safety or the provision of an appropriate

education. We welcome any information and discussion that will help us to provide for children in the best possible way.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We do not discriminate in any way regarding entry. We welcome pupils with special educational needs, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with physical disabilities provided that our site can cope with them. However, we advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with Hereford Cathedral Junior School before applying. Parents are asked to provide a copy of any Educational Psychologist's report or relevant medical report. Our Curriculum Policy contains further details which may be of interest to parents of children with an EHC or who have English as an additional Language (EAL).

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.

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.

We are committed to ensuring that admission decisions will be made by a process that is free from any discrimination on the grounds of disability, gender reassignment, race, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

In the case of religious belief, parent should be aware that, whilst we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, Hereford Cathedral Junior School has Christian roots. Therefore

- we expect the prospective pupil and parents to adhere to the religious ethos of the school, and
- there are school services which all pupils are expected to attend.

SIBLING POLICY

Most children with siblings at the senior school go on to join them. However, admission to Hereford Cathedral School is not automatic, and there may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

Copies are on the School's web site and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process. Offers will be based upon the reference provided by your child's current school and the School's judgement about the pupil's ability to benefit from the education provided by the School. For pupils currently at Independent Schools we will ask the existing School for confirmation that there are no outstanding fees due.

ADMISSIONS REGISTER

On taking up a place at the school, and in line with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, an entry for each pupil is made in the School's Admissions Register. The entry is stored in electronic format, but backed up and printed out on a monthly basis. Copies of the Admissions Register are held at the school for a minimum of 3 years. For each pupil, our admission register contains:

- (i) name in full;
- (ii) sex;

- (iii) name and address of every person known to us to be a parent of the pupil (and an indication of the parent with whom the pupil normally resides and which parents hold parental responsibility as defined by Section 3 Children Act 1989). (We are aware that parents holding parental responsibility, even if not actually caring for the child, have a right to receive relevant information from the school in respect of any pertinent matter affecting the child, unless a court order indicates otherwise.)
- (iv) where a parent notifies the school that a pupil will live at another address, in addition or instead, our admission register will contain the full name of the parent with whom the pupil will normally live in future and the date from which it is expected the pupil will normally live there (where it is reasonably practical for the school to obtain this information)
- (v) at least one telephone number at which the parent can be contacted in an emergency;
- (vi) day, month and year of birth;
- (vii) day, month and year of admission or re-admission to the school;
- (viii) name and address of the school last attended, if any;
- (ix) the name of any destination school notified by a parent and the first date of attendance, where it is reasonably practical to obtain this information

We include the name of a pupil in the register from the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed, or has been notified, that the pupil will attend the school.

We are aware of our obligation to inform the Local Authority where a pupil's name is going to be deleted from the register where:

- the child has been taken out of school to be home educated.
- the family has apparently moved away
- the child has been certified as medically unfit to attend
- the child is in custody for more than four months
- the child has been permanently excluded.

In addition, we are aware of our obligation to inform the local authority when a pupil's name is added or deleted from the admissions register at non-standard transition times. We have agreed with the local authority that we will inform them of children who leave the Junior School except those who transfer to Hereford Cathedral (Senior) School, and also of all children who join the Junior School, at whatever stage. Sally Stick, Junior School Registrar, is responsible for liaison with the Local Authority.

It is our practice to inform the Local Authority of additions to the admissions register (at non-standard transition times) within 5 days, and of deletions (at non-standard transition times) as soon as the grounds for deletion are met, and certainly before deleting the child's name.

We are aware of the fact that a child missing education should be recognised as potential safeguarding issue, particularly if a child leaves with no known destination.

We will not delete a pupil's name from the admission register on the grounds that he/she has not returned within 10 school days after an authorised absence of 10 school days or more, or after 20 school days unauthorised absence (in both cases, in the absence of illness or other unavoidable cause), unless both the school and the local education authority have jointly made reasonable enquiries (as described in the guidance Children Missing Education 2016) as to the pupil's whereabouts and failed.

We are aware that we are obliged to inform the Local Authority when a child or pupil fails to attend school regularly or is absent without leave for more than 10 school days (continuous).

This policy reviewed Nov 2016, by SS & CMW with reference to ISI Commentary on the Regulatory Requirements (September 2016), and again in September 2017 by CW with reference to ISI Commentary on the Regulatory Requirements (January 2017) and comments from Governors arising from their review of this policy during the school year 2016/17.

Policy reviewed by CW Jan 18 in the light of advice from ISI RI during RCI inspection of Jan 18.