

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Queen Margaret's School is an independent boarding and day school for girls from ages 11 to 18.

The school has 300 girls of whom around 90% are boarders. Deciding on the right school for your daughter is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your daughter will visit QM. We hold regular Open Days which give a general introduction to the school and we are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their daughters at other times. Please contact our Admissions Officer, Mrs Jackie Hallewell on 01904 720072 or email on admissions@queenmargarets.com to arrange a visit.

The Entry Procedure

Queen Margaret's is a selective school. Our selection process is designed to identify girls 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 age 11+, 12+, 13+ and 16+. We admit approximately 30 girls a year at 11+, 5 girls at 12+ and 20 girls at 13+. Numbers at 16+ vary depending on vacancies available. We may also have occasional places at other ages. Please contact the Admissions Officer for details.

Applicants for admission should register as soon as possible to indicate definite interest, and certainly by the December before anticipated entry the following September. Applications must be accompanied by a non-refundable registration fee, details of which are provided on the application form.

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 girls for today's world. Bursaries are offered to allow as many girls as possible who meet the school's admission criteria to attend the school. Further information about bursaries is available from the Bursar, Mr Stephen Bentley – bursar@queenmargarets.com

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

Applicants with Disabilities and/or Learning Difficulties

Entry to Queen Margaret's is selective according to academic ability. We welcome girls with learning difficulties, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer the support that they require. We welcome girls with physical disabilities provided that our site can cope with them. However, we advise parents of girls with learning difficulties or physical disabilities to discuss their daughter's requirements with us before she sits the entrance exam so that we can make adequate provision for 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 their daughter if she becomes a pupil at the school. [See also Accessibility and Disability Policies.]

The Assessment Process

The aim of the process is to identify potential. We are looking for girls 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 potential.

Candidates for entry at 11+, 12+ and 13+ sit papers in English and Mathematics which are designed for their age group. Additionally all girls sit the Ann Arbor Dyslexia Screening text and have an individual interview with a member of staff.

The offer of places at 16+ is conditional upon candidates achieving a minimum of 2 Grade As and 3 Grade Bs at GCSE, including at least Grade B in the subjects proposed for study at AS and A2. Candidates are also required to attend the school for Academic and Pastoral interviews.

We offer Academic, Art, Drama, Music and Sport Scholarships. Further details may be found in the Scholarship Booklet which is available to download on our website or from the Admissions Officer (contact details above).

Sibling Policy

Most sisters of girls already at Queen Margaret's School join their sisters at the appropriate time. However, admission is not automatic, and there may be occasions where we conclude that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

Overseas Applicants

We welcome girls from overseas, who can study at Queen Margaret's School as a boarder. They are required to have a UK guardian.

Fluency in English

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Queen Margaret's School, girls must have a high level of spoken and written English. Written English is assessed prior to entry. One lesson of tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) is timetabled each week and extra sessions can be arranged for an additional charge.

Religious Beliefs

Queen Margaret's School is an Anglican foundation and attendance at Chapel is a central part of school life. However, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and we offer the opportunity for girls of other beliefs to practise their own faiths. Parents should be aware that there is compulsory Saturday morning school. [See also Equal Opportunities Policy]

Complaints

We hope that you and your daughter do not have any complaints about our admissions process. However, if any aspect of our admissions procedure gives you cause for concern, a copy of the school's complaints procedure is available on request.

RJH, January 2010

This policy is reviewed annually.