



Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation

Admissions Policy

1. Policy

- 1.1 All admissions to Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation (hereafter called The Foundation) are considered within the broad framework of its educational aims which are: 'to provide an outstanding educational experience which promotes equality of opportunity for all our pupils, 3–18, allows them to fulfil their potential, and fully prepares them for further education and the global environment beyond.'
- 1.2 The Foundation is academically selective, but a large emphasis of the selection is placed on identifying potential in pupils to develop a range of interests and aptitudes which the schools believe is important to foster and develop.
- 1.3 Admissions to The Foundation are governed by the wish to build up a community of students with a wide and diverse range of skills who are capable of pursuing an academic curriculum.
- 1.4 All admission processes will take due regard to:
 - Entrance examinations criteria
 - Reference from previous schools including pastoral information
 - Legislation, specifically the provision of the Equality Act 2010, in as far as they relate to reasonable adjustments during entrance examinations or ongoing support for a pupil who joins the School.
- 1.5 Admissions may be accepted at any year but approval is strictly subject to:
 - Completion of the relevant exam papers and achievement of required assessment standard
 - Providing relevant paperwork– school report, reference/evidence of all external assessment results
 - Interview with the Principal or delegated member of staff.
 - The Principal's formal decision to offer a place
- 1.6 Once admitted to The Foundation, admission to the next year group is automatic except between Year 6 and Year 7, Year 11 and 12 and Year 12 to 13 where separate criteria exist. All pupils in Year 6 progressing to Year 7 will take the 11+ entrance papers for the purpose of assessment, setting and scholarships, and admission may be refused based on the results of the tests.

- 1.7 This policy adheres to the philosophy underlying the Equalities Act 2010. The School commits to observing its principles and does not discriminate on any grounds.

2. Procedure

2.1 Enquiries

- Enquiries are normally made to the Admissions Officer. Formal Registration will include payment of a non-refundable administrative charge. The Admissions officer will then arrange for the collection of references and the sitting of the relevant entrance examination for Durham School (11+, 13+, and English Grammar test in the case of students for whom English is not the first language) and an interview with the Principal or delegated member of staff. Online interviews are conducted if a student is not able to attend in person. In the case of students for whom English is a second language, this will normally be undertaken by the Director of International Students, a member of SLT or a member of the Admissions Team.
- Any requests for bursary funding are dealt with initially by the Bursar and the Bursary Awards Panel.
- A formal offer will include Terms and Conditions and Acceptance Letter. At this stage a deposit is required, refundable when a pupil leaves the School.

2.2 Entrance Examination

- It is a requirement that all students joining The Foundation take some form of assessment.
- Access arrangements for pupils with specific educational needs are provided, in consultation with parents and current school as well as any educational statement if applicable.
- For pupils with other needs, such as a disability, additional arrangements can be made as required.
- The results of entrance examinations are not routinely reported to parents.
- Entrance requirements are laid out in the table below.
[All pupils joining the academic year mid-way through will take the most age-appropriate test.]

Year at point of test	Test	Criteria
3-5	Taster day. Feedback from class teacher. Age appropriate assessments of literacy and numeracy	Ability to adapt to Chorister School curriculum Acceptable school report and reference
6	Durham School 11+ - English and Mathematics - VR and Non-VR test [GL Assessment]	% Pass Standardised score of 90+ Acceptable school report and reference

3-6	Singing assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared piece • Aural test • Reading test 	Cathedral Choristers have separate admissions criteria administered by the cathedral. They are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment panel satisfied with candidate's musical potential • Acceptable school report They also need to meet the school criteria above.
7	Durham School 11+ - English and Mathematics - VR and Non-VR test [GL Assessment]	% Pass [Age adjusted] Standardised score of 90+ Acceptable school report and reference
8	Durham School 13+ -English and Mathematics	% Pass Acceptable school report and reference
9	Durham School 13+ -English and Mathematics	% Pass [Age adjusted] Acceptable school report and reference
10	School Report	Good/excellent progress/ability to fit option blocks/exam board compatibility [EAL- online interview/Durham School English & Mathematics Test 70%+] Acceptable school report and reference
11	GCSE or other recognised qualifications School Report	GCSE 5 Grade 6s (or equivalent) and English Language/Mathematics at Grade C/4 [EAL- IELTS score of 5.5/online interview/Durham School English & Mathematics Test 70%+] Acceptable school report and reference
12/13	School Report	GCSE 5 Grade 6s (or equivalent) and English Language/Mathematics at Grade C/4 Excellent progress/ability to fit option blocks/exam board compatibility Acceptable school report and reference

2.3 Reasonable Adjustments

- The School is mindful of its obligation under the Equality Act 2010 to undertake to make reasonable adjustments to ensure pupils who meet the necessary entrance examination standards are able to join the School.
- Each case will need reasonable adjustments as required and will be looked at individually and on merit, in consultation with parents and where appropriate off-site agencies.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The Admissions Officer is responsible for handling enquiries and ensuring age-appropriate tests are conducted and references requested and processed.
- 3.2 The Deputy Head [Academic] will have oversight of the entrance examinations process as delegated to the Heads of Section and Examinations Officer and will, alongside the Deputy Head [Pastoral] provide advice on suitability of admission enquiries.
- 3.3 The Head of Chorister School will make all final decisions with regards to admitting pupils to Chorister School.
- 3.4 The Principal will make all final decisions with regards to admitting pupils to Durham School.

4. Links to other policies and documents

- 4.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with
- Gender Identity Policy
 - Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy
 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

5. Oversight

Oversight of this policy is undertaken by the Education Committee. The policy will be reviewed at least every other year.

Policy written:

19/10/2014

Reviewed:

14/04/2015
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By Andrew Pearson, Deputy Head (Academic) 12/06/25