

## Admissions Policy (including EYFS) **In-line with COVID-19 Government Restrictions**

Pupils are admitted to Ballard School, from the ages of 2 to 16 years (Nursery to Year 11). Ballard School is non-academically selective in so far as there is no entrance examination.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, and following Government advice and guidelines, we have made the following adaptations to the Ballard School Admissions process:

Admission is based on a variety of factors which will include some, but not necessarily all, of the following:

- It should be noted that pupils at Ballard will generally opt to study up to 10 GCSE subjects, although some pupils will study a reduced number, (no fewer than five) and the School does not offer any other level of qualification. The School will use all available information to make a judgement on whether pupils who are admitted are able to access the specific curriculum on offer at Ballard independently, within the normal confines of a lesson, and without in-class 1:1 support (unless an EHCP is in place). If the School believes this is not the case, a pupil will not be admitted.
- An online interview with the either the Headmaster, a Deputy Head or the Head of Section, or a combination thereof, will be required.
- For year groups with a high number of applicants, the School may run a Saturday Taster Day. Children wishing to join Ballard are required to attend the Taster Day, unless there are exceptional circumstances, e.g. living abroad, and will be involved in a number of academic, sporting, performing arts, and team building activities.
- A review of the latest available reports and / or a written reference from the prospective pupil's previous school, nursery, playgroup or day-care centre is required before a pupil starts. On occasion, a member of the Leadership Team or Marketing & Admissions team may make a telephone call to a pupil's previous school, nursery, playgroup or day-care centre to clarify something in a reference or report.
- Consideration of the number of children in any given year group who may already need individualised support for any reason.
- The completion of a signed declaration by all prospective parents, which informs the School of all known special educational needs of the prospective pupil(s) concerned. The School has a Disability Policy which takes note of recent legislation regarding 'reasonable adjustments'. The accurate and full completion of this form is a pre-requisite of a successful application, and a child's place may be reviewed, and potentially withdrawn, if information comes to light that was withheld at the time of the application that suggests that, even after the reasonable adjustments, we may not be able to support the needs of a pupil, whilst supporting the needs of other pupils at the School.

- The parental agreement for their child(ren) to attend individual support lessons provided by Specialist Teachers, as decreed necessary by the School or following professional assessment. In most cases, there will be an additional charge for all extra 1:1 tuition. (See fee schedule.)
- Pupils who are in Kindergarten and who wish to proceed into Reception will have to reach a certain acceptable standard of behaviour, academic progress and social interaction before a place in Reception is guaranteed.
- For admission to Reception Class we expect a child to attend a minimum of three full days and two short mornings until 1.00pm, with full time attendance in the Summer Term or the term after their 5th birthday, whichever comes first.
- For children in Reception and above parents may be asked to provide an exercise book(s) to the Registrar prior to the conversation with the Headmaster, which will support us in establishing a pupil's potential.
- Children in Reception and above will be asked to provide assessed written (e.g. English or History) and Maths work from your child's current school from the Autumn 2020 term. This will need to be scanned and emailed through to the Registrar prior to having a conversation with our Headmaster. Some pupils may be asked to complete a CAT4 test.

### **Scholarships**

The Head may award a limited number of scholarships to children who excel academically or in another field such as Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology / STEM, All Round or Sport. (Further details may be obtained from the [Website](#).) Scholarships are awarded for entry in Years 3, 7 and 9 only and assessments are in late January / early February prior to the September entry.

Scholarships are reviewed annually to ensure the scholar is reaching his or her potential and may be removed if a pupil does not continue to make satisfactory progress or he / she fails to participate in activities associated with the Scholarship concerned; e.g. music / sport / art. Year 3 scholars need to re-sit for a Scholarship in Year 6 if they want to be considered for Year 7 and beyond. Year 7 scholars may re-sit for a Year 9 scholarship (in order to enhance the level of the award) but will not lose their Year 7 award so long as the criteria mentioned above are met.

### **Bursaries**

Means-tested bursaries are available. Parents should note that bursaries are reviewed annually. All details are available from the Bursar. Pupils may be in receipt of both a scholarship and a bursary at the same time.

The above information is in-line with current Government advice and guidelines and is subject to change as and when appropriate.