



## ADMISSIONS POLICY

### **This policy relates to the whole school: Senior, Junior & EYFS**

#### 1. Equal Opportunities

Northampton High School is a member of the Girls' Day School Trust. The Council of The Girls' Day School Trust is committed to equal opportunities in education. Admissions to GDST schools will adhere to the Trust's Equal Opportunities Policy.

#### 2. Admissions: Council Policy

As one of the 26 schools of the Girls Day School Trust, Northampton High School follows the Council's policy for admissions which states:

GDST schools shall be open to all pupils considered by the Head to be capable of benefiting from the education provided at the school and of contributing fully to the life of the School (as more particularly described below);

*· Admission is usually dependent on achieving an acceptable standard in an assessment or examination appropriate to the age group and academic pace of the school (as set out below). Such examinations and tests are expected to be free of bias in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Policy;*

*· Due consideration should however be given to educational experience in assessing pupils' achievement of an 'acceptable standard', and to maximising access for pupils to whom the school can add value;*

*· Schools do not accept pupils under the age of rising three\*;*

*· In relation to junior and prep schools, candidates will be admitted who are considered likely to progress through the usual pathways for pupils attending the school. In most cases in the all through context this will be the standard required to enter the senior school in due course, or to follow a range of complementary transfer routes;*

*· In relation to senior schools, candidates will be admitted who are likely to qualify for further education at post 16;*

Northampton High School educates girls who are, for the most part, of average and above average ability. The School aims to provide an ambitious and stimulating academic education together with a curriculum which helps to develop its pupils morally, spiritually, physically and creatively.

Northampton High School is a fee-paying independent school, but seeks to be as accessible as possible to all able girls, regardless of their parents' ability to pay by the provision of scholarships and bursaries at 11+ and 16+. The key criterion for admission, in addition to the

availability of places, is the girl's ability to access the curriculum of the School. Usual entry points are at Reception, 7+, 11+, 13+ and 16+, but girls are admitted at other times when vacancies occur.

## **Nursery and Reception**

There is no assessment or selection for entry into either Nursery or Reception class. Girls joining reception class mid-year would be expected to spend a morning in school.

## **Year 1 to Year 6**

Testing takes place throughout the year by appointment through the Registrar. Tests in Reading, English (spelling grammar and comprehension) and Mathematics are administered. Girls also spend time in a class with their peer group. Places are offered taking into consideration entrance test scores as well as prior school experience and academic potential. Girls offered places into Year 6 are given an automatic place into the Senior School when the time comes.

## **Upper Third to Lower Fifth (11+ to 14+, Years 7 to 10)**

Testing usually takes place in January, though can be throughout the year. Tests in Reasoning, English and Mathematics are administered. Some standardised tests are used and girls who achieve a standardised score of less than 100 (below average) on any of these are unlikely to be offered a place. Reports from current schools are used to help make judgements where necessary. Girls currently attending the Junior School are offered a place into the Senior School when they are in Year 5. Any girl not achieving a satisfactory level in the Junior School at this point will be required to pass the tests sat by external girls in the January of Year 6.

## **Upper Fifth Form (15+, Year 11)**

Girls at this age are only accepted in exceptional circumstances. The school report and current GCSE course are taken into careful consideration.

## **Sixth Form (16+, Years 12 and 13)**

The minimum entry requirement usually expected of new entrants to the Sixth Form is five GCSEs at Grade B or above to include English and Mathematics. Students whose profile does not match this will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Each A level subject has its own requirements in terms of expected grades at GCSE. These can be found in the Sixth Form Prospectus. Sixth Form Applicants to the Sixth Form are invited into school to meet the Headmistress and the Head of Sixth Form. For students applying from International schools a satisfactory performance in a sixth form entrance test is required as well as a reference from the current school.

Scholarships are awarded based on performance in the entrance examination and Bursaries are awarded based on financial need.

## **Key Stage Transfers within the School**

Continuity of education is anticipated throughout the age range and at the key stages of transfer unless, in the opinion of the Headmistress, after due deliberation, the pupil will not benefit from continuing to be educated at the School or has not attained a sufficiently high standard of work to benefit from continued education at the School. Factors such as poor behaviour or lack of motivation on the part of the pupil may be taken into account. If there is a likelihood that a pupil will not be able to transfer to the next year, a term's notice of withdrawal will be given. In such cases, parents will be given clear advice on how the school will support the pupil and monitor progress. For transfer from Key Stage 4 to Sixth Form, parents of girls who are showing cause for concern will be advised in writing and an agreed monitoring programme put in place to support the pupil and inform guidance given about the feasibility of transfer to the Sixth Form.

December 2016

Next Review December 2017 Deputy Head Pastoral Care and Guidance