



King Edward's School, Birmingham

Admissions Policy and Procedure

1. Introduction

King Edward's School ('The School') is an academically selective, independent day school for boys from the age of 11 to 18. The School's stated aim is

'to make available to the widest possible range of able boys an educational experience that is the richest, most diverse, and most exciting possible in an atmosphere that provides support, encouragement and care for everyone, pupils and staff, here. We want our pupils to love coming here and to go from here prepared for all that human life has to offer.'

Throughout its history the School has striven to be open to all boys of ability. In the last seventy years, that purpose was supported by government funds, first through the Direct Grant scheme and then through the Government Assisted Places scheme. Since the abolition of the latter in 1997, the school has created its own Assisted Places scheme with funds provided by the Foundation of the Schools of King Edward in Birmingham and, increasingly, by alumni and other institutions with close links with the School. The School is deeply committed to the extension of its provision in this area. At the moment, there are over 30% of pupils who receive some kind of financial support and well over 10% of pupils have full fee remission. The School's total expenditure on Assisted Places each year is over £1.5m and over £10m has been raised from alumni for that purpose in the last five years.

The purpose of our Admissions Policy is to ensure that we continue to fulfil that aim of accessibility to all pupils of ability and potential. The School also provides over 20 academic and music scholarships each year, awarded purely on the basis of merit, to attract the most able pupils.

The School strives to ensure that its existence and accessibility are known to as wide a range of parents and potential pupils as possible. This is pursued through the school's publications, the prospectus, the website, termly school newsletters, regular and well-advertised Open Days, extensive and increasing communication and collaboration with a wide range of junior schools through our extensive Outreach programme, press advertising and articles and a very active Admissions and Marketing and Communications Department. In addition, the King Edward's Foundation shares information about candidates for the grammar schools to ensure that they, too, are made aware of the opportunities here.

The School understands that families are often keen to have siblings in the same school. However, in a competitive examination we cannot give preference to siblings and each candidate is assessed on his individual merits. There is currently a 25% sibling discount when a third sibling joins KES or KEHS.

Sons of members of staff at King Edward's School, King Edward's High School for Girls and the Foundation Office will be subject to the same selection procedure as external applicants. However, members of staff are given a fee discount.

2. Equal opportunities

The School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's or their parents' race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background. In a city and a school of such ethnic and cultural diversity, it is vital that we take due account of these differences. Indeed, the School is one of the most socially and ethnically diverse independent schools in this country.

We also welcome pupils with disabilities and special educational needs, and the School will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001, in order to accommodate the needs of candidates who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the School can cater adequately.

The School needs to be aware of any known disability or special educational need which may affect a child's ability to participate in the admissions procedure and take full advantage of the education provided at the School. We advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with the School at registration or subsequently before the entrance exam so that we can consult about the adjustments which can reasonably be made to ensure that the admissions procedure is accessible and the School can cater adequately should an offer of a place be made.

Generally, candidates will be allowed extra time in our examinations at 11+ and 13+ on the presentation of the relevant information from an educational psychologist or appropriate medical evidence which meet the current criteria for special arrangements in the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) and, in the process of selection, due cognisance is taken of all relevant factors to ensure that selection is fair. In particular, the Head of Learning Support will be closely involved in the whole process of admissions, making contact with parents and the candidate's previous school, supervising the examination and participating in any interviews that take place.

There may be a number of candidates whose experience of English may be limited for reasons of their family and educational history. Every effort is made to ensure that these candidates are not disadvantaged as a result of this situation.

If special education needs or a disability become apparent after admission, the School will consult with parents about reasonable adjustments in order to allow the boy to continue at the School.

3. Entry procedure

The application form is available not only from the School's Director of Admissions, but can also be downloaded from the School's website.

The school's entry process is centred upon entry through examination at 11+ and, to a lesser degree, 13+. At 16+ entry is by interview and predicted GCSE grades. However, in special circumstances the school will consider pupils who apply on an individual basis and are not able to take the school's exam at the appropriate time. However, such candidates, of whatever age, are required to sit written papers and are interviewed.

Occasionally, an application from a boy below the age limit may be accepted; in these cases, if a place is not offered, an application would not normally be accepted when he reaches the appropriate age. Boys who are above the age limit are only accepted for registration in exceptional circumstances.

In its search for those pupils who will be best suited to the education here, the School makes use of as many forms of evidence about the pupil as possible and invests a great deal of time in the process of selection. It also strives to ensure that its examination papers are accessible to pupils from a wide range of educational, family and ethnic backgrounds and that due consideration is given to the individual circumstances of candidates. The School is making individual choices about individual candidates.

The School requires the payment of an entry fee of £25, unless the family is in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance or Income Support. A payment of £400 is required to secure a full fee place and a lesser amount for a partially funded Assisted Place.

See also the School's separate policy on scholarships and Assisted Places for details about the awards available and how an application can be made.

a) 11+

i) The examination

The School's main entry point is at 11+ and each year about 125 pupils are accepted into five forms. The 11+ examination take place in the October prior to the September of enrolment and candidates must register for the examination by late September by filling out an Application Form (Appendix A). The examinations all take place on one day and every effort is made to ensure that the experience is friendly and not daunting.

All of the examinations are based on the National Curriculum, so that there should be no need for pupils to make extra preparation for them. Specimen questions in English and Mathematics are made available on the website and an advice sheet is available giving an outline of what is expected in each exam. (Appendix B).

The 11+ examinations consist of three papers:

English (1 hour + 10 minutes reading time): a comprehension and a piece of continuous written English in response to a title or range of titles.

Mathematics (1 hour): a paper of three sections of increasing difficulty, designed to enable all

to cope and the best to show their excellence.

Verbal Reasoning (1 hour): a paper of questions similar to the nationally recognized and commercially available tests leading to an age standardised score.

ii) Other information

The School also requests detailed information, both academic and non-academic, from every candidate's junior school and this information forms a significant part of the selection process.

In addition, the School conducts a large number of interviews (over 150 each year on average) of candidates who fall mainly into three categories:

1. Scholarship candidates
2. Candidates for Assisted Places
3. Borderline candidates

The interviews are conducted by the Chief Master and other senior members of staff. In particular, the interview process enables the School to assess pupils whose performance in the different elements of the examination is disparate. The School will also speak directly to the Heads of junior schools for guidance, particularly in circumstances where a candidate's performance has been out of line with expectation.

The final decision on selection is taken by the Chief Master in consultation with other members of staff who have been involved in the interview and examination process. Decisions will be made based on the performance in the examinations, the interview (where this has been conducted) and the reports from previous schools.

b) 13+

There is a much smaller entry and acceptance at 13+, with, on average, fewer than 5 pupils being accepted. The procedure for registration and examination at 13+ is the same as that for 11+.

At 13+ all candidates who have performed well in the examination are interviewed by the Chief Master and another senior member of staff. Scholarships are only awarded at 13+ in exceptional circumstances and there are no Assisted Place available.

The 13+ Examinations consist of three papers:

English (1½ hours): a comprehension and a piece of continuous written English in response to a title or range of titles.

Mathematics (1½ hours): a paper with questions based on Level 6 of the National Curriculum.

Verbal Reasoning (1 hour): a paper of questions similar to the nationally recognized and commercially available tests leading to an age standardised score.

c) 16+

Candidates for entry at 16+ are required to register by February of the year of entry. Admission at 16+ is based upon the existing school's report and predicted grades and on an interview with the Chief Master and a senior member of staff.

On the basis of this evidence offers are made to the successful candidates. It is likely that external candidates will be asked to achieve some combination of A* and A grades at GCSE which will equip them for the IB Diploma. The standard offer is 5 A* grades at GCSE.

There are funds available for the award of scholarships at 16+ and some funds are also made available for candidates eligible for Assisted Places at this age-group. See the School's separate policy on scholarships and Assisted Places.

4. Offers at 11+ and 13+

The announcement of offers is usually in mid-December. The deadline for acceptance, usually mid-March, is co-ordinated, as far as possible, with other local independent schools and the local Education Authority to ensure that there is a fair chance to make a decision.

All candidates are informed of the outcome of the entrance exam, either being offered a place or being informed that we are not able to offer a place. A number of candidates are offered waiting list places and may be offered a place after the deadline for acceptance, if there are still places available.

To accept a place, parents are required to sign the Acceptance Form, indicating that they have read, and agree to, the Terms and Conditions under which the place is offered and return it to the School, together with payment of the required deposit.

5. Information on examinations, appeals and complaints

The School will do all that it can to ensure that the process of selection is fair and meticulous. After the examination, the School is willing to offer guidance as to the strengths and weaknesses of a candidate's performance, but it does not reveal exact details of the performance of individual candidates.

The decision of the Chief Master in awarding places, Scholarships and Assisted Places is final and not subject to appeal.

6. Additional Information

If parents require further information, they should contact Mrs Nicole Phillips, the Director of Admissions, on 0121 472 1672 or admissions@kes.org.uk. Attached to this document are the following Appendices:

Appendix A: Application Form

Appendix B: Examination Advice Sheet