



# ABBOT'S WAY SCHOOL

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*“Inspirational learning with a difference”*

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

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# **Abbot's Way School**

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

### **SUMMARY**

All schools are legally required to have an admissions policy that gives a clear account of their entry procedures (see the Education Act 2002, School Standards and Framework Act 1998, School Admissions Code 2014, and Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014 as amended by the Independent Education Provisions in England (Inspection Fees) and Independent School Standards (Amendments) 2018 (the **ISS Regulations**) and as articulated in the ISI Commentary on the Regulatory Requirements, September 2020 (the **ISI Commentary**).

In accordance with Part 6 of the ISS Regulations, schools are expected to apply their admissions policy fairly and consistently. The policy should be readily available on the School's website and in the material that is given to prospective parents, together with a statement about the School's ethos and aims.

The ISS Regulations do not require that the Complaints Procedure actively applies to prospective pupils and their parents and accordingly there is no requirement to offer prospective parents the right to an appeal of an admissions decision.

Admissions policies and admissions can raise a number of legal issues relating to equality, including around disability discrimination, discrimination on the basis of religion and belief and transgender issues. Schools may well wish to take legal advice on these in connection with their admissions procedures, and may wish to produce supplementary policies on specific issues where appropriate (for example, we are aware that an increasing number of schools have produced guidance on transgender issues).

### **GENERAL**

Abbot's Way School is a co-educational independent school for pupils from ages 7 to 16. Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit to see our school is invaluable as a school placement should be, solely student centred.

We aim to hold a number of open events, which give a general introduction to the School. Details are published on our website. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times by appointment only. Please

contact the School's Admissions Secretary, Sue McAuliffe on 01458 397497 or email office@abbotsway.co.uk to arrange a visit, discuss our admission procedure or request further information.

### **THE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE**

Abbot's Way School is a selective school based purely on suitability for our specialist provision which is assessed through the following;

- previous School reports
- professional assessments of need, to include an Educational Psychology report
- current or previous Educational Health Care Plan
- a meeting with the school heads and/or SENCO pending suitability as detailed above
  
- The admissions process then dictates a potential offer of "learning tryouts" where students are informally assessed over a 2 day period within the school day to ascertain suitability for the young person and indeed the dynamics of the potential peer group.

Our selection process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

Applicants for admission can register at any time of the year. The School's Registration Form is available from the Admissions Secretary once a place has been offered.

### **EQUAL TREATMENT**

Abbot's Way Schools' 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 pupils for today's world. Generous bursaries are offered in order to make it possible for as many as possible who meet the School's admission criteria to attend the School. The School's provision for bursaries is described below.

Abbot's Way School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or social background.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

Abbot's Way School is a specialist school for Specific Learning Needs and Learning Differences, it does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry.

The School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, provided we can offer them any support that they require and cater for any additional needs and that our site can accommodate them. We aim to ensure that all our pupils, including those with disabilities and/or special educational needs, are provided with a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment in which to learn and thrive.

Our policy is to apply our admission criteria to all potential pupils. We require parents of children with special educational needs or physical or mental disabilities to discuss their child's needs with the School. Parents should provide with the Registration Form a copy of an educational psychologist's report or a medical report if they have one. This is so that the School can assess their child's needs and consult with parents about the adjustments which can reasonably be made, and to discuss if the school is able to meet a child's needs through a consultation process. This enables the School to be sure, for example, that [he/she] will be able to access the education offered and that we are able to ensure [his/her] health and safety, and the health and safety of others.

There may be exceptional circumstances in which we are not able to offer a place for reasons relating to a child's disability or profile. For example, if, despite reasonable adjustments, we feel that a prospective pupil is not going to be able to access the education offered, or that [his/her] health and safety or those of other pupils or staff may be put at risk, we reserve the right to decline a place at the School.

### **SIBLING POLICY**

It is not unusual for siblings to join us at Abbot's Way School. However, admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where the School judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

### **SCHOOL'S TERMS & CONDITIONS**

The School's Terms and Conditions are on the School's website and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

### **COMPLAINTS**

The School's Complaints Procedure is on the School's website and can be sent to prospective parents on request. The Complaints Procedure is not available for use by prospective parents].

### **RECORDS AND REVIEW**

The School will not hold personal data for longer than is necessary for a lawful purpose. This will generally be e.g. no more than 6 months following an unsuccessful application, but reasons to retain for longer might include: e.g. if the parents express

an interest in the candidate re-applying for any reason at a later date, or in the potential candidacy of another sibling; or to deal with any ongoing matters or queries arising from the application.