ADMISSIONS POLICY



Blundell's

FOUNDED 1604

ADMISSIONS POLICY

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POLICY AMENDMENTS

Date of Amendment	Material Details
1st November 2024	Full update in line with ISBA template and other School policies reviewed internally.
1st September 2025	Pupil Numbers updated for 25/6 academic year.

CONTENTS

An Introduction to Blundell's	Page 4
The Entry Procedure	Page 4
Equal Treatment	Page 4
Information Sharing	Page 5
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)	Page 5
The Assessment Process	Page 6
Sibling Policy	Page 7
Scholarships and Awards	Page 7
Bursaries	Page 8
Financial Information	Page 8
Overseas Applicants	Page 8
Fluency in English	Page 8
Religious Beliefs	Page 8
The Parent Contract	Page 9
Complaints	Page 9
Records & Review	Pahe 9

OUR ADMISSIONS POLICY

AN INTRODUCTION TO BLUNDELL'S

1. Blundell's School is a co-educational independent School for pupils from ages 3 to 18. The School has broadly 220 pupils in the Prep School and 600 pupils in the Senior School; this number may fluctuate during the academic year.

2. Deciding on the right School for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your child will visit Blundell's. We hold an annual Open Day in the Autumn Term and a number of Guest Mornings throughout the year, which give a general introduction to the School. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times throughout the year for a personal visit and tour of the school.

3. To arrange a visit or enquire about an Open Day or Guest Morning, please contact the School's Admissions Team at any time:

   Telephone: 01884 232310

   Email: admissions@blundells.org

THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

4. 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. Selection is based upon interviews at the School and references and other relevant information from the candidate's previous Schools. Entry into Blundell's is not based on academic merit, the exception this this is entry to the 6th Form which requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 6 or above for pupils who have taken GCSEs prior to A Level study.

5. The usual points of entry are at 11+ (Year 7), 13+ (Year 9) and 16+ (Year 12). Places are also available in other year groups dependant on space within the relevant cohort. Please contact the Admissions Team for details.

EQUAL TREATMENT

6. Blundell's aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. We are mindful of our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 during the Admissions Process. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Means Tested Bursaries are available in order to make a Blundell's education available to as many pupils as possible who meet the Admissions criteria regardless of their financial means.

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

INFORMATION SHARING

8. We require parents to inform the School at the outset of the application process about any needs which their child may have or any other significant matters which the School should reasonably be aware of because, for example, it would necessitate tailored provision and would materially impact on their child's attendance at School or ability to engage in day-to-day School life. The School may wish to discuss these matters with the parents and require some further information.

9. Parents must ensure that information provided is accurate, complete and not misleading and relevant details and information (or changes to them) are shared in a timely and transparent manner.

10. A failure to disclose relevant information or the provision of inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information may, in some cases, lead to the withdrawal of an offer or termination of the School's Parent Contract.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

11. Blundell's School does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, provided we can reasonably 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 and inclusive environment in which to learn.

12. Our policy is to apply our admission criteria to all potential pupils. We require parents of children with special educational needs, disabilities or allergies (suspected and diagnosed) to discuss their child's needs with the School at the outset of the admissions process so that we can consider and make – to the extent reasonable – appropriate provision for them.

13. Parents are required to provide with the Registration Form full details of all relevant information about their child, including any reports (including any educational psychologist reports, medical reports or assessments or other relevant expert third party reports), materials or information about their child's needs (educational, health or otherwise), and this may include any final or draft EHC needs assessments (or applications for a needs assessment) or final or draft EHC Plans (or applications for an EHC Plan). This is so that the School can assess their child's needs and consult with parents about any adjustments which can reasonably be made and so that the School can ensure, for example, that their child will be able to meaningfully access the education offered and that we are able to ensure their health and safety, and the health and safety of others. This information should be provided prior to the admissions assessment process.

14. Where parents of a prospective pupil feel their child requires adjustments (in respect of the admissions process and/or with regards to education at School and participation in

School life in the event they are offered and take up a place at the School), parents should raise these with the School at the outset and the School may – depending on the circumstances - require some further information from parents or request further assessments in respect of the needs identified and will discuss with parents (and their child's medical advisers, if appropriate) the adjustments proposed and whether they can reasonably be made for the child if they were to become a pupil at the School.

15. There may be exceptional circumstances in which we are not able to offer a place for reasons relating to a child's special educational needs and/or disability. For example, if, despite reasonable adjustments (in the case of disability), we feel that a prospective pupil is not going to be able to meaningfully access the education offered, or that their health and safety or those of other pupils or staff may be put at risk, or where the School cannot reasonably accommodate the adjustments required or reasonably provide the nature or level of the support required.

16. Sometimes, the situation of pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs changes between an offer of a place being made and the pupil starting at the School. The School requires parents to be pro-active in updating the School as to any changes which mean that the information provided during the application process is out of date or incomplete. In the vast majority of cases, this will not affect a pupil's place at the School. However, the School may, in exceptional circumstances, need to reconsider the offer of a place if a pupil's circumstances change materially. It is in the pupil's interests that any such decision is made as early as possible to avoid any disruption to their education, so parents are urged to be forthcoming and transparent in their communications with the School about any material change to their child's circumstances.

17. In the event your child has an EHC needs assessment or EHCP (whether at the application stage, draft or final form) it is important that these (and the applicable supporting documentation, e.g. educational psychologist reports or other expert assessments) are shared promptly with the School and that the School is kept up to date with respect to any relevant decisions of the Local Authority or changes in provision.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

18. The aim of the process is to identify potential. Blundell's School is looking for well-rounded pupils with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, with interests that stretch beyond the confines of the academic curriculum. The School has strong traditions in sport, music, drama, art, community activities and outdoor pursuits. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

19. No specific preparation for our entrance tests is needed; all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their aptitude.

20. Assessment criteria at all entry points consists of a combination of written tests, online tests, interviews, references and reports, the details of which can be gained from the

Admissions Team. The specifics are dependant on the candidate's individual circumstances.

21. The dates for the Scholarship assessment process for the current year are published on our website, together with the closing dates for application and acceptance.

SIBLING POLICY

22. Often siblings join us at Blundell's, 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Categories

23. Blundell's offers a number of scholarships and awards each year for excellence in: Academic subjects, Music, Sport, Drama, DT/STEM and Art.

The Purpose of Scholarships and Awards

24. Scholarships are designed to reward excellence and to celebrate exceptional talent. In recognition of this achievement, the scholar is offered a reduction in the fees up to a maximum of 30% throughout their time at Blundell's. In addition, music scholars are sometimes offered free tuition in their scholarship instrument. Parents are asked to indicate on the Registration Form whether they are interested in applying for a scholarship. Details of the arrangements will be sent to all who express an interest.

25. We encourage parents of scholars who anticipate that they will experience difficulty in meeting the balance of the tuition fees to apply (at the same as registration of their child) for one of the School's means-tested bursaries described below.

Scholarship Assessment & Offer

26. Candidates who apply for scholarships and awards are required to submit to a variety of tests, exams, assessments and interviews, which are specific to each category and age group of entry – details of which can be found on the School's website and from the Admissions team.

27. 11+ Academic Awards into Year 7 are held until the end of Year 8, at which point candidates must apply for the 13+ Scholarship process. 11+ Music Awards are held for the duration of a pupil's time at the School, provided their conduct is satisfactory an their contribution to the musical life of the school remains strong.

28. 13+ Scholarships into Year 9 are held for the duration of a pupil's time at the School, provided their conduct is satisfactory and their contribution to their specialist area remains strong.

29. A scholarship may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or in accordance with the School's Parent Contract.

BURSARIES

30. Blundell's bursary programme is designed to make it possible for as many as possible of those who meet Blundell's entry criteria to take up a place here. The School offers means-tested awards annually to entrants at the usual points of entry, where the parents have indicated on the Registration Form that they require financial support. Bursaries are means-tested, and parents are required to provide proof of their income and assets. The level of support varies according to parental need; but can occasionally extend to full fee remission in cases of proven need. Before the offer of a bursary is confirmed, a member of staff or external assessor appointed by the School will sometimes visit the family at their home, this is always the case for Bursaries over 50%. Bursaries are always awarded at the School's discretion.

31. Bursaries are offered for 12 months at a time, and the family will be required to provide fresh information about its circumstances for every year that their child attends the School. Levels of support may vary with fluctuations in income or wealth.

32. A bursary may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or otherwise in accordance with the School's Parent Contract.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

33. Any applicant for a place at the School, including those who apply for bursary support and overseas applicants may, at the discretion of the School, be required to provide additional financial information and/or undergo checks to confirm that they are able to pay the School's fees (or any percentage of the fees still payable if a bursary or scholarship is granted).

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

34. We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at Blundell's School as a boarder provided that they have the legal right to enter, live and study in the UK and they have an AEGIS approved guardian, more details of which are contained in the School's Parent Contract.

FLUENCY IN ENGLISH

35. Fluency in English will be part of the assessment process and this will have a bearing on our offer.

36. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) can be arranged at the parent's expense, and this may be a requirement of the place.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

37. Blundell's welcomes applications from prospective pupils of all faiths and of no faith.

38. Although Blundell's has Church of England roots, the School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it offers the opportunity for practitioners of other religions to practise their own faiths.

39. Parents should be aware that attendance of some Chapel services are compulsory.

THE PARENT CONTRACT

40. The terms & conditions upon which the School educates each pupil are set out in the School's Parent Contract which will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

COMPLAINTS

41. 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

42. Applicants' details will be held on file with due regard to data protection legislation. Please see the School's Privacy Notice for further information about how the School collects, uses and processes personal data.

43. The School will not hold the personal data of you or your child for longer than is necessary for a lawful purpose and in accordance with our Data Retention Policy.

END

Blundell's School
Tiverton
Devon
EX16 4DN

Tel: 01884 252543
E.mail: info@blundells.org

www.blundells.org