



Admissions Policy

Purpose:	To inform all Tabernacle School and Candidates of Tabernacle School's Admissions Policy
Approval Body:	The Trustees of Tabernacle School
LT Lead Person:	Mrs P. A. Wilson
Lead Trustee for Policy:	Mrs V. Shaw
Date of Approval:	May 2022
Proposed Review Date:	May 2024

Tabernacle School is a Christian co-educational, diverse school and candidates from all ethnic groups are welcomed.

1. Entry Procedure

1.1 Tabernacle School admits pupils by selection. Our selection process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from our holistic approach to education and make a positive contribution to the life of the school. The school's selection process includes an academic entry test, for year one and above, designed to ensure the pupils to whom places are offered will thrive. However, where a child has failed to meet the requirement of the entry test, we will consider the child on an attributional basis. This means a child who demonstrates that they would thrive from the school's environment.

1.2 The Test entails:

PRIMARY

Maths
Reading and Writing
Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation

SECONDARY

Mathematics
English
Science

1.3 Both pupils and parent(s)/carers are invited to an interview to discuss the school's suitability. Parent(s)/carers will be informed if their application is successful or not in writing within 7 working days of the interview. The order in which places are offered has no bearing on a first come first served basis.

1.4 References from the current school are always sought and where appropriate, discussions take place with the head or staff of the feeder school.

2. Admission Criteria

Pupils will be offered a place providing they meet the school's standards with regard to the following admission criteria:

2.1 **Ability:** An assessment of the child’s academic ability or attainment in comparison with his/her age cohort. This is measured by teacher assessment and/or by examination depending on the age of the child. Parent(s)/carers should disclose all relevant information, (such as SEN statements, an Educational Psychologists report etc.) which would enable us to judge whether we are able to meet the specific needs of a pupil. Failure to do so may result in the withdrawal of any place offered.

2.2 **Potential:** A measure of the child’s ability to make academic progress in relation to his/her current ability. This is measured by interview, teacher assessment and/or examination or school reports.

2.3 **Suitability:** A measure of the child’s enthusiasm, behaviour, work ethic, willingness to learn and general conduct. This is done through an interview, previous school report and/or by teacher assessment.

2.4 **Parental Support:** The parents’ willingness to support the aims, objectives and ethos of the school is measured through an interview with the Senior Management Team and the home/school partnership agreement.

3. Equality for All

3.1 Tabernacle school encourages applications from candidates with as diverse a range of ethnicity and background as possible. We believe this enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today’s world. This reflects Tabernacle School’s inclusion policy which also caters to SEND pupils.

3.2 In circumstances where a pupil has been refused admission, a parent may make a written appeal stating their case for reconsideration. Such reviews will normally involve discussions between the Principal and the Senior Leadership Team.

3.3 Should the school be over-subscribed then a reserve list will be held and all applicants on the list will be eligible for entry into Tabernacle School should a vacancy occur.

3.4 Tabernacle School offers pupils the opportunity of continuity from ages 3 to 16 years. Priority for promotion from the Early Years, to Middle school, to the Upper School is given to existing pupils.

4. Assessment Process

4.1 We expect all our prospective pupils from Year 1 to take entrance tests to identify their strengths and weaknesses, enabling all our students to benefit from the holistic education on offer, both inside and outside of the classroom. The core tests for all primary pupils are Mathematics, Reading and Writing and Spelling Grammar and Punctuation; for secondary pupils tests are in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. Preparation is necessary for the entrance tests which are designed to reflect the expectations of the National Curriculum.

4.2 In addition to the formal tests, we also expect to receive a copy of the latest report from the prospective pupil’s current school. Not only will this provide a broader picture of the pupils’ abilities and interests, but also serves as an important “safety net” in case the pupil significantly under-performs on the test day itself – which can be an issue with younger pupils.

5. Sibling Policy

5.1 Most siblings join us at Tabernacle, however, admission is not automatic, and there may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

6. Fluency in English

6.1 There is an expectation that all pupils at Tabernacle School will have a reasonable working knowledge and understanding of English, although additional help with English as an additional language is provided for pupils who require it.

7. Religious Beliefs

7.1 Tabernacle School is a Christian school, however, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and pupils from other religious and non-religious backgrounds are considered for entry. All pupils are expected to attend and participate in the religious practices and principles of Tabernacle School.