



PINEWOOD

Est. 1875

ADMISSIONS

A Whole-School Policy including the EYFS

This policy is published on the School's website. This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy has been authorised by the Council of Pinewood School (the "School") who may review the selection criteria and procedures from time to time. It is addressed to prospective parents and to all members of the School's staff. The admissions process is supervised by the Headmaster.

2. Aims

- 2.1 To ensure compliance with the School's charitable purposes.
- 2.2 To set selection criteria and procedures that are consistent with this charitable status and fair to all applicants.
- 2.3 To ensure that academic and other abilities of successful applicants appear to match the ethos and standards of the School and whose personal qualities suggest that they will benefit from the many opportunities that are offered here and that they have the potential to contribute to the success of the School community.

3. Disability and Special Educational Needs

- 3.1 The School currently has limited facilities for the severely disabled. However 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 Code of Practice 2014 (ref: Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014), in order to accommodate the needs of applicants 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. Parents of a child who has any disability or special educational needs should provide the School with full details prior to the admissions procedure, at registration, or subsequently before accepting the offer of a place.

- 3.2 The School needs this information so that, in the case of any child with particular needs, the School can assess those needs and consult with parents about the adjustments which can reasonably be made to ensure that the application procedure is accessible for the child and that the School can cater adequately for the pupil should an offer of a place be made.
- 3.3 The School will do all that is reasonable to ensure that the information and application procedure is accessible for disabled candidates and will make such reasonable adjustments as necessary. For example, the School may be able to provide an examination paper in large font for a visually impaired pupil.
- 3.4 Parents of disabled children are offered the opportunity to discuss their child's needs with the School's **Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator** and/or the Headmaster.
- 3.5 Arrangements can be made for discussions between the form tutor/teacher and the parents prior to entry in order to establish clear procedures and to ensure that the School has the correct medical supplies and any training.
- 3.6 Similarly, 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 child to continue at the School.

4. Bursaries

- 4.1 The School offers bursaries, normally to day children from the local area, who can demonstrate genuine financial need through means-testing. Please see the School's Bursary Policy for further information.
- 4.2 Current parents who are experiencing financial difficulties may apply for a Hardship bursary as well, through the route specified in the Bursary Policy.

5. Entry points

- 5.1 The usual entry points are the EYFS years and Pre-Prep Years 1 and 2. Children can also apply for a number of places available in Lower School (Years 3 and 4). Should places become available in other years (Years 5 and above) we are happy to consider applicants.
- 5.2 The School seeks to maintain a ratio of boys to girls in the order of 55 / 45 due to the facilities within the School.
- 5.3 There may be a restriction on intake in any one of these areas if numbers exceed places available.

6. Admissions

Pre-Prep and EYFS

- 6.1 The largest intake is through the Nursery and it is assumed that pupils will progress from the Nursery to the Pre-Prep and then to the Prep-School. The Parents will be consulted before the end of the Spring Term if there appears to be any reason why the Pupil may be refused a place in the next stage of the School.
- 6.2 The School is non-selective, however, parents may be asked to withdraw their child if, in the professional judgement of the Headmaster and after consultation with the parents, the School is unable to provide adequately for the Pupil's special educational needs or disabilities.
- 6.3 Order of registration is taken into account in the allocation of places.
- 6.4 If parents would like their child to be admitted to the Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they should complete a registration form following a visit to the School.
- 6.5 Children can be admitted later in the year provided spaces are still available. There is no formal testing at this age. Children are invited to a ½ day familiarisation morning in the summer. Other summer dates are available if the specified date proves difficult. EYFS parents and pupils are also invited to attend a visit to the EYFS classrooms on an afternoon in September, just before term starts.

Prep School

- 6.6 The School assumes that children in the Pre-Prep will progress to the Prep School.
- 6.7 Prospective parents are encouraged to arrange a visit to the School for a tour and meeting with the Headmaster. Availability of spaces will be indicated at the point of enquiry. If parents feel Pinewood is the right environment for their child they should complete a registration form and send this to the School together with a non-refundable registration fee of £40. Early registration is advised as allocation of places is by order of registration. Should prospective pupils outnumber places available we operate a 'waiting list' policy.
- 6.8 All prospective pupils registered in order of registration are invited in the September of the year preceding entry to come in for an assessment day in Autumn Term. The purpose of the day is to allow the School to assess the suitability of Pinewood to meet the needs of the child. The day involves some formal testing (a combination of a Verbal Reasoning test, Non Verbal Reasoning test, English and Mathematics testing) and a chance for the child to experience lessons and sport as well as whatever may be on offer as an extra-curricular activity that particular day. Children who do not meet the admissions criteria are notified by letter at this stage.

- 6.9 A waiting list is started when the number of prospective pupils exceed places available. Once numbers become clear by January we may be in a position to offer a number of places to those on the waiting list.

7. Selection and preconditions for entry

- 7.1 Admission to Pinewood depends upon a prospective pupil meeting the criteria required to maintain the educational and general standards for all its pupils commensurate with the ethos to which the School aspires. The School must also feel confident that it will be able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his or her potential and in line with the general standards achieved by the pupil's peers, so that there is every chance that the pupil will have a complete, happy and successful career and emerge a confident, well-educated and well-rounded young person with a good prospect of a satisfying life.
- 7.2 The School's policy is to apply these criteria to all pupils and potential pupils regardless of any disability of which it is aware, subject to its obligation to make **reasonable adjustments** not to put any disabled pupil or potential pupil at a substantial disadvantage compared with any pupil who is not disadvantaged because of his or her disability. We may not be able to cater for some severe educational or behavioural issues.
- 7.3 As explained above in section 3, the School asks parents to provide information concerning any disability or special educational needs in writing prior to accepting a place. Providing the School with details of the nature and effect of any disability enables us to consider any **reasonable adjustments** which we may need to make.
- 7.4 In assessing any pupil or prospective pupil the School may take such advice and require such assessments as it regards as appropriate. Subject to this, the School will be sensitive to any requests for confidentiality.
- 7.5 The parents understand and are in sympathy with the ethos of the School.
- 7.6 The child is of the appropriate age and maturity.
- 7.7 The child is able to access the full curriculum.
- 7.8 The School is able to provide adequately (by making **reasonable adjustments**) for any learning difficulties, disabilities and/or other special educational needs (if any) the child may have.
- 7.9 Payment of fees (if applicable) at the present school are up to date.
- 7.10 The present school reports satisfactory attitudes and conduct on the part of the parents and child.
- 7.11 The **academic criterion** for selection is the ability to access the curriculum with learning support (where agreed).

7.12 If the School is oversubscribed and we need to decide between two or more candidates who meet our admission requirements, we may give preference to candidates using the following **preference factors**:

- i. Date of registration
- ii. Sibling at the School
- iii. Parental or family connection with the School
- iv. That the candidate has special aptitudes or gifts. The School is looking for well-rounded and balanced pupils as well as those showing exceptional talent in a particular sphere.

7.13 **Special circumstances:** we recognise that a candidate's performance or a visit to the EYFS environment may be affected by particular circumstances, for example:

- i. if he / she is unwell when taking test or has a lengthy absence from his / her school;
- ii. if there are particular family circumstances such as a recent bereavement;
- iii. if there is a relevant educational history, for example education outside the British system;
- iv. if the candidate has a disability or specific learning difficulties;
- v. if English is not the candidate's first language.

In any of these cases, we may request further information such as a medical certificate or educational psychologist's report and any associated correspondence or details from the child's current school (including samples of work) or any family history of dyslexia, as we consider necessary to make a fair assessment. Additional visits to the EYFS environment would also be arranged if necessary.

7.14 **Factors which will not be taken into account** include the child's or parents' race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, culture, skin colour, area of residence, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic group.

8. Acceptance of a Place

If a child satisfies the admission requirements and a place is available, a letter containing that Offer and its Terms and Conditions will be sent to the child's parents. Acceptance of an offer of a place occurs when the deposit of £650 is paid and the child's parents sign the acceptance form agreeing to its terms and conditions within the timeframe stated in the letter of offer. The deposit will be held without payment of interest in the general account of the School until the child leaves the School in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions.

9. Deferment

Should parents defer the entry of the child to the School they do so on the understanding that it may mean forfeiting a reserved place and the child's name will go onto the bottom of the waiting list for the future year stipulated.

10. Complaints

Any prospective parent wishing to challenge an admission decision should follow Stage 3 of the School's formal complaints procedure.

Reviewed October 2018
Reviewed by Emily Miller, Registrar & HM Secretary
Next Review Date: October 2019