



Exeter School

Admissions Policy

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General statement of the School's admissions criteria

1. Exeter School is an independent school for pupils aged between 7 and 18, which aims to be as accessible as possible to boys and girls who would benefit from its academic, cultural, sporting and wide extra-curricular provision. The governors of the School recognise that many of its parents have to make personal sacrifices to secure their children's education. Fees are set at levels which offer excellent value for money, particularly in the light of what is on offer to all pupils at the School; means-tested awards (bursaries) are available to widen access.
2. Parents with prospective pupils are encouraged to visit the School to assist their decision-making process and several open events are held each year which give a general introduction to the School. For a more personal visit during the working day the admissions department may arrange an appointment.
3. Exeter School is academically selective and offers of places are made on the basis of an assessment of broad academic potential appropriate to the age group. Depending on entry point this is determined through an entrance assessment and a reference from the candidate's current school. Assessments vary for each age and stage of entry to the School and there is an interview with the Head or member of the senior school leadership team for pupils wishing to enter the School at Year 9 and above.
4. The usual points of entry are at 7+ (Year 3), 9+ (Year 5), 11+ (Year 7), 13+ (Year 9) and 16+ (Year 12), although applicants may also be considered for entry at other ages where places are available.
5. Exeter School'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.
6. Exeter 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.
7. A pupil must first be registered with the School to be eligible for entrance assessment.
8. All pupils admitted to the junior and senior school must ordinarily reside with a parent or legal guardian in accommodation that enables regular attendance at school. The school will admit pupils to the sixth form whose accommodation is arranged with a home stay family through our guardianship partner.



ADMISSIONS SYSTEM - OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES

The aim of the process is to identify potential. Exeter 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. Our rich co-curricular offer is a key part of the development of character in pupils, which is a unique element of an Exeter School education.

No specific preparation for our entrance tests is needed; all candidates have identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude.

1. The school admissions register is contained within the School's admissions system (OpenApply).
2. The day-to-day updating of OpenApply is operated under the responsibility of the Director of External Relations (DER). Pupil details are entered, either by parents or the admissions team and updated as appropriate from the first enquiry to the time of joining the School, when the record is transferred to the current pupil section of iSAMS, and the responsibility transfers to the Head's PA in either the senior school or junior school as appropriate.
3. Details of enquirers and applicants who have not progressed to join the School will be archived on OpenApply once their age would prevent joining the School being an option, or at any other time at parents' request. Personal data collected during the admissions process will be processed in accordance with the School's Privacy Notice.

ADMISSIONS SYSTEM – FROM INITIAL ENQUIRY TO PUPIL ATTENDANCE

1. Information on the School is sent from the admissions office upon request. This may include details of open events, taster days, registration, fees, scholarships, and bursaries. Parents may then register their child as an applicant to join the School by submitting the appropriate form electronically.
2. Following a successful assessment at the appropriate level, places are offered through OpenApply. Parent contract and acceptance form for completion will then be available on their parent account in OpenApply.
3. Once a registration for the junior school has been received, a pupil file is created. Once a place is accepted, a form is allocated by the Junior School Head or Deputy Head. The pupil file, together with any transfer documentation provided by the previous school is passed to the Junior School Head's PA with whom it remains during the pupil's time at the junior school.
4. Once a registration for the senior school has been received, a pupil file is created. Once a place is accepted, a house and form are allocated by the relevant member of Exeter School staff. The pupil file, together with any transfer documentation provided by the previous school, is passed to the Head's PA, where it can be consulted by the appropriate staff including the form tutor and head of year. It remains with the Head's PA throughout the pupil's time in the senior school.
5. If a pupil joins or leaves the School at a non-standard transition point, the relevant Head's PA will notify the local authority within five days of the addition of the pupil to the admission register.



ADMISSIONS: ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Junior School

1. Selection of pupils for admission to the junior school is by assessment, school reference and a school report from the applicant's current school early in the spring term. During the assessment, applicants will be given the opportunity to demonstrate literacy and numeracy skills appropriate to their age. Prospective pupils will be invited to attend either a group or individual taster day, and this will form part of the assessment process.
2. The Junior School Head and the DER are responsible for the organisation and conduct of the entrance assessment of applicants to the junior school. Children attending Exeter Pre-Prep will sit the standard assessment papers to enter Year 3 also.
3. The decision on whether to offer a place is made by the Junior School Head, following consultation with the DER.
4. Reassessing children within the same academic year is at the discretion of the Junior School Head and DER.

Admissions procedure at Year 7 and Year 9 (for all applicants except those already attending Exeter Junior School)

1. Selection of pupils for admission at Year 7 and Year 9 is based on examination, reference and a report from the applicant's current school in January. An interview with the Head should be expected for a Year 9 admission. An interview with the Head or a senior leader may be included for a Year 7 admission.
2. Examinations for entry at Year 7 and Year 9 are normally held in January for entry in the September of the same year. Late assessment is possible if there are places within the year group.
3. The decision on whether to offer a place is made by Head, following consultation with the senior leadership team and the DER.
4. Reassessing children within the same academic year is at the discretion of the Head and DER.

Admissions procedure at Year 7 (for applicants already attending Exeter Junior School)

1. Pupils in form Upper Two (Year 6) who have attended the junior school from the start of Lower Two (Year 5), or before, will have been continuously assessed since joining the School.
2. The Head, in agreement with the Junior School Head, using the data from the continuous assessment and in consultation with the DAM will confirm the transition of Upper Two (Year 6) pupils to the senior school. Only in exceptional circumstances will the senior school expect an Upper Two (Year 6) pupil to sit the Year 7 entrance assessments.
3. Pupils in Upper Two (Year 6) who have joined the junior school after the autumn term of Lower Two (Year 5) may be required to take the entrance examination for the senior school alongside external Year 7 candidates.
4. The Junior School Head is responsible for the continuous assessment of pupils in the junior school.



Admissions at Year 12

1. Selection of pupils for admission at Year 12 is based on:
 - An interview with the Head (or other member of the senior school leadership team).
 - An interview with the Assistant Head (Sixth Form).
 - Interviews with the heads of departments of the four subjects a pupil wishes to study in the sixth form. These are designed to discover a candidate's motivation, future potential, and existing subject knowledge.
 - A CAT4 pre-A Level online assessment.
 - Evaluation of a reference provided by the candidate's present school.
2. The offer of a place will include a minimum GCSE grade requirement to include English and maths. Where pupils are not completing these standard qualifications, perhaps because their school does not offer them, then additional tests may be required.
3. Selection for entry at Year 12 occurs during sixth form interview days, held in November and the spring term.
4. The DER and admissions team is responsible for the organisation of sixth form interview days and the timetable of interviews and tests.

Admissions of Exeter Cathedral Choristers

Exeter School works in partnership with Exeter Cathedral and welcomes applications from children who are applying to be an Exeter Cathedral chorister or who have been offered a place as a chorister. Choristers are required to register for an Exeter School place in the usual way and meet the School's admissions requirements in addition to the Cathedral's voice trials. Admission will be subject to the School being satisfied that it can meet the educational needs of the child and that the child is likely to benefit from and contribute positively to the life of the School. Decisions regarding admission remain at the discretion of the Head.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION

When admission to a year group is oversubscribed with successful candidates, a waiting list system is applied until such time as a place becomes available or the pupil's name is withdrawn. Places will normally be offered from the waiting list in accordance with the School's assessment of suitability and the availability of places, although the School reserves the right to take account of factors including the balance of the year group and the needs of the School community.

SIBLING POLICY

Many siblings, following the usual entry procedure, join existing pupils at Exeter School. Consideration will be given to siblings; however admission is not automatic, the usual entrance assessments must be taken, and there may be occasions where the School judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

Sibling discounts are available when two or more children from the same family attend the School simultaneously. They are not available where pupils already receive fee discounts through scholarships, bursaries or other discounts. Sibling discounts are applied to the youngest child's fee. Where applicable, the discount for a second child is 5%, and for subsequent children the discount is 10%. When an older sibling leaves the School, the sibling discount will be reduced accordingly.



BURSARIES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The governors of Exeter School recognise that many parents must make personal sacrifices to secure their children's education. Fees are set at levels which represent excellent value for money, particularly considering the opportunities offered by the School.

Honorary Scholarships are available in music, sport, drama and art, more details of which can be obtained from the DER.

Children appointed as choristers of Exeter Cathedral are normally eligible for a remission equivalent to 25% of school fees, funded by the Cathedral. Additional assistance may be available through other charitable organisations; parents are encouraged to discuss potential sources of support with the Director of External Relations.

Entrance prizes

Entrance awards and commendations, awarded at 7+ (Year 3), 11+ (Year 7) and 13+ (Year 9), offer a prize to top performers in the entrance assessments and examinations taken in January.

Bursaries

Bursaries are means-tested awards based on parental circumstances and are awarded on an annual basis. They are available to external candidates who meet the School's academic entry requirement and whose parents could not afford to send their child to Exeter School without financial assistance.

The financial support available through the School's bursary programme is necessarily limited and applications must be supported by a full, written, verified statement of financial circumstances. Parents who wish their child to be considered for a bursary should make an application by completing a bursary application form, available from the DER, once they have confirmed their child is a candidate for the coming year, the child has been registered and the registration fee paid.

As a general guide, gross parental income will need to be below £70,000 p.a. to allow consideration for a bursary. Any family in receipt of bursarial support can only receive one full fee (100%) per family. The assessment process may include a home visit. Please note that a bursary may be awarded in addition to a scholarship award. For further guidance on the School's bursary programme please contact the DER.

REMISSIONS

Please note that where more than one remission or discount with a financial value is applicable, only the highest value will apply.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND DISABILITY

All candidates for admission will be treated equally, irrespective of their, or their parents', race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy or maternity, gender reassignment, disability, marriage or civil partnership. Candidates will also be treated equally in respect of their parents' age, gender or marital or civil partnership status.

The school is inclusive and welcomes applicants with disabilities and special educational needs. The school currently has limited facilities for pupils with disabilities but 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 to accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the School can cater adequately.



Parents are required to provide within the online application form full details of all relevant information, including any reports (including any educational psychologist reports, medical reports or other relevant expert third party reports), materials or information about their child's needs, and this may include any final or draft EHC Plans. 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.

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, if possible, we can make adequate provision for them.

The school shall determine the reasonable adjustments that are required for the applicant based on the information provided, in accordance with the School's obligations under equality legislation. The school will 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 child should an offer of a place be made.

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 significant changes which mean that the information provided during the application process is out of date or incomplete. The School may need to reconsider the offer of a place if a pupil's circumstances change materially. Any such decision will be made following consultation with the parents and consideration of the School's obligations under the Equality Act 2010. 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 in their communications with the School about any material change to their child's circumstances.