

**Queen's College, Taunton**  
**Education and Curriculum Policies**  
**Admissions Policy**



**Scope**

This policy applies to the whole College.

**Policy statement**

The policy of the College is:-

- To ensure compliance with the College's charitable purpose as an independent boarding and day school and its Methodist Mission Statement
- To establish selection criteria and procedures that are consistent with the College's charitable status and fair to all applicants
- To identify and admit those boys and girls whose academic and other abilities match the ethos and standards of the College and whose personal qualities suggest they have the potential to contribute to and benefit from the ethos and activities of the College community.
- To ensure that the College remains balanced and dynamic and in line with its inclusiveness, accessible to a broad social range.

**Entry Points**

Entry may take place in any year, though not normally for years 11 or 13.

The College normally uses the 1st September birthday watershed for determining the applicant's eligibility for 11+, 13+ or 16+ entry. The College will need to be satisfied that an applicant whose age falls outside the normal age for a year group will be appropriately accommodated both academically and socially.

EAL pupils may be placed in the year behind their age cohort.

**Admissions Procedure**

The College will write to parents of pupils registered at an appropriate point before entry to confirm details of the admissions criteria and also of scholarships available.

Applications for places in Junior School and below the Sixth Form in Senior School will be required to sit entrance tests in Mathematics, English and verbal reasoning, except for EAL pupils, or alternatively Common Entrance at 13+.

Details of the College's entry tests are available from the Admissions Secretary.

For entry into the Sixth Form, candidates are required to have passed five subjects at GCSE grade C or above with preferably at least B grades in subjects chosen for Sixth Form study.

For all candidates a report on academic progress and potential for further study, together with details of conduct and of involvement in school life and activities and other learning needs, will be sought from the current school.

In the case of applicants for scholarships, and in certain other cases, an interview will also be required. The purpose of the interview will be to explore further whether the candidate fulfils the selection criteria.

**Scholarships**

A limited number of scholarships worth up to 50% of the fees (boarding and day) are available for entry at 11+, 13+ and 16+ for pupils with marked academic, musical, dramatic, artistic, sporting or all round ability and potential.

**Bursaries**

In line with the College's mission statement and inclusive nature a number of bursaries are available for pupils of limited means who satisfy the admissions criteria. Applications for bursaries are made by completing a Confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances form available from the Admissions Office. The level of bursary is determined according to need.

**Responsibility for Admission**

The Headmaster is responsible for admissions and for the operation of this policy. The selection criteria are determined and reviewed periodically by the Governors.

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Documents supporting each application for admission, together with any selection and interview notes, will be retained by the College for at least one year, whether or not the applicant is offered a place.

**Selection**

**Preconditions for admission**

The applicant is of an appropriate age and maturity

The applicant enjoys sufficient general health to be able to attend lessons and participate fully in the life of the College

Any suspected evidence of Learning Difficulties, family history of Learning Difficulties, medical and psychological reports relating to Learning Difficulties or other needs and disabilities, have been disclosed to the College, and that these needs can reasonably be met, and are, in the reasonable judgement of the Headmaster, within the capacity of the College to help and encourage progress in learning without unreasonably affecting the progress of others. The College may require an educational psychologist's report.

The applicant's needs, including any disability, can be catered for reasonably within the classroom and in the College and generally to comply within the disability laws.

The College receives satisfactory reports from the applicant's present school as to matters of attitude and conduct on the part of the applicant and his/her parents

The applicant and his/her family are comfortable with the Christian ethos and traditions of the College

Fees (if applicable) at the present school have been paid in full

**Academic criteria**

Satisfactory performance in the College's entrance tests or Common Entrance at 13+ or five GCSE passes at grade C or above for Sixth form entry

A positive recommendation from the Head of the applicant's present school

**Over-subscription**

Some year groups in the College may be over-subscribed. In order to decide between two or more candidates who have satisfied the pre-conditions and academic criteria detailed above, the relevant factors are that

- The applicant has special aptitudes or gifts. The College is looking for well-rounded and balanced pupils and for those with special ability who would enrich the life of the College and provide an example and inspiration to other pupils
- The applicant has a sibling in the College
- The applicant's mother or father is a former pupil of the College
- The applicant's mother or father is a current member of staff
- Boarding is preferred
- The applicant has been registered for a considerable time
- Queen's College is the first choice school

**Special Educational Needs**

In order to comply with the College's learning support policy, there is a limit to the number of pupils with special educational needs who can be admitted to each year group.

**English as an Additional Language**

In order to comply with the College's EAL policy there is a limit to the number of pupils requiring EAL teaching who can be admitted to each year group.

Overseas pupils who come to Queen's College do so because they want to enjoy a British education and to learn English in a school in which the vast majority of pupils have English as their first language.

For overseas pupils the following additional admissions criteria apply:



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- A good standard of written and spoken English appropriate for the year of entry and course applied for in line with the College's EAL policy
- A determination to use English as the language of learning and socialising whilst at Queen's College
- A satisfactory guardianship agreement

**Equal Opportunities**

We welcome applications from many different ethnic groups, background and creed. Human rights and freedom are respected but must be balanced with the lawful needs of the College community and the right and freedom of others. All applicants will be treated equally, irrespective of their, or their parents', race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, association with a national minority, orientation, prosperity, birth or other status.

All pupils are expected to attend College assemblies and services which are of a Christian nature and central to our Christian ethos.

**The offer of a place**

The parents of each applicant will be informed in writing whether a place is being offered or not.

**Methodist Schools' Mission Statement**

Queen's College is one of 14 British schools which are managed by the Board of Management for Methodist Residential Schools and Colleges. The aims of the Methodist schools are:

- To be caring Christian family communities committed to the development of the full potential of each individual, having regard for their personal attributes in addition to their academic aspirations.
- To maintain high educational standards in all their academic, cultural and sporting activities, stimulating excitement in learning and requiring discipline in study whatever the ability of the child.
- To work with and in the communities they serve.
- To worship as Christians in the Methodist tradition; to uphold Christian values in practice as well as in theory and to make religious education a strong feature of the curriculum, whilst welcoming members of other faiths (and none) in a spirit of openness and tolerance.
- To encourage pupils in a critical examination of the standards and values current in society and to discover and develop a personal faith to guide them throughout their lives.

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