



Admissions Policy

Whole School Policy Including EYFS

The majority of children at Dolphin either join Nursery from the age of three, Reception in the autumn term following their fourth birthday, or Year Seven where scholarships are available. However, entry is possible at any time if spaces are available and we can also offer waiting list places.

Year One to Year Eight

Dolphin is a selective entry school where the curriculum is particularly suited to the academically able. We are looking for children with the potential and desire to learn and those who will relish the breadth and depth of our curriculum.

Children are considered for entry to our Year 1 class and above after they spend a day at Dolphin taking part in what we call an Assessment Day. Assessment Days can be arranged by contacting our Registrar on 0118 934 1277 who will ask you to complete an Assessment Application form and return it with a £75 non-refundable administration fee.

Visiting children will spend about half an hour with a Maths and an English specialist who will be looking not just at what the child already knows, but, more importantly, what they can be taught. For the remainder of the day they will attend lessons with one of the classes in their age group. We very much look on our Assessment Days as a two way process where the child has the opportunity to learn about Dolphin whilst we learn about them.

During the day, staff report back to the Headmaster who will then make the decision about whether or not a place will be offered. We would always seek to accept a child we feel would thrive in the Dolphin community and the decision is made based on a wide variety of factors, not just the academic. The Headmaster would then contact the parents of these children to offer a place if one is available. If not, an offer of a waiting list place may be made. The waiting list works on a first come first serve basis and parents will be notified if and when a place becomes available.

If at any point a child is appearing to be in need of support, having not responded to general strategies used for all children, the setting have parental permission to seek external advice from other professionals, such as the Early Years Inclusion Advisor and/or Health Visitors. This support may involve observation, advice and signposting. Parents will ordinarily be consulted and informed at each stage. The need of the child is paramount and, by registering with the setting, parents are giving the setting the authority to seek the appropriate support.

Acceptance of a place at Dolphin is by completion and return of our Acceptance Form together with the necessary deposit to secure the place.

Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

Entry usually takes place close to a child's third birthday or any time until they are eligible for a place in the Reception Class. A Nursery age child could be offered a place immediately if one is available. The child will usually attend a familiarisation session in the term before proposed entry to acclimatise. Acceptance of a place in Dolphin's Nursery is by completion and return of our Acceptance Form together with the necessary deposit to secure the place.

Progression from Reception to the Lower School will be at the discretion of the relevant Heads of Department and SENCOs, in consultation with the Headmaster. Parents will be contacted before the end of the Spring Term if the school considers that the Pupil may not progress to the next stage of the school.

Date reviewed: November 2016

Updated: February 2019

Next review: November 2019