



MILTON ABBEY

ADMISSIONS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Milton Abbey is a co-educational independent day and boarding school for students aged 13-18. An inclusive school, Milton Abbey has a proud tradition of providing transformational education to young people, many of whom have identified learning differences, including dyslexia, dyspraxia or challenges with their attention, working memory or language processing. Other students do not have an identified learning difference but benefit from being educated in a small school in which they are individually known. We recognise that all our students learn differently and seek to differentiate our teaching and our provision to meet the needs and interests of each individual.

We balance support and challenge to ensure all students can experience success, through effort, whatever their starting point. We are committed to removing barriers to learning and equipping students with the strategies they need to succeed. Small classes with individual attention and differentiated teaching, the focus on achieving personal best and the specialist support of our Learning Development Department contribute to our students' success.

Milton Abbey's broad academic offer includes traditional GCSEs and A-Levels alongside more vocational Level 2 and Level 3 BTEC subjects. The range of subjects and qualification types within our academic offer ensures that we can offer each student a stimulating, accessible and stretching programme of study, with the right balance of challenge and support.

Our focus is on the holistic development of each individual. Wellbeing underpins optimal development and achievement in all areas. We seek to provide an environment for our students that combines high challenge with moderate pressure.

The school is selective in that it only admits pupils whose learning needs it can meet, with reasonable adjustments. The admissions process is designed to ensure that the pupil's learning needs are understood by the school and can be met. We assess prospective pupils to determine whether they are ready and able to make the most of a Milton Abbey education, to meet community expectations of behaviour and participation and to make a positive contribution to community life.

The school recognises its duties under the 2010 Equality Act, celebrates diversity and is committed to achieving equality for all. Those of all faiths and none are equally welcome in our community. The Abbey is central to our school life. Community worship is in the tradition of the Church of England.

We are committed to making the admissions process as fair, smooth and positive as possible for prospective pupils and their parents. Admission will be subject to the availability of a place and the satisfactory meeting of the admission requirements at the time of offer.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

Prospective parents are encouraged to arrange a visit to the school (in person or virtually) between two and three years before the year of entry. Parents and children are welcome at termly Open Days (either in person or online). In order to make an individual Admissions Visit, parents must register the child for entry.

An Admissions Visit to the school usually includes a meeting with the Head or Deputy Head, the Head of Admissions and a Housemaster/Housemistress; the Admissions Visit also includes a tour of the school with pupils.

We offer Introductory Visits, offering a window into Milton Abbey, for those wishing to visit the School ahead of registration; these take place several times a term, on a week day during term time for small groups of families. Once ready to have their child assessed for a place, parents are invited to Register their child and come in for an Admissions Visit. Where appropriate, the Lead SENDCO will meet the child and parents.

Parents are welcome to express a preference for a particular boarding house but the school makes final decisions on boarding house allocation.

REGISTRATION

A child may be registered for admission at any time after birth. A non-refundable registration fee of £200 is charged and on receipt the child's name is added to the Provisional List, which reserves a place. Registration does not in itself guarantee a place at the school; the offer of a place is confirmed following the Admissions Visit, incorporating a meeting with the Head and the receipt of a satisfactory school reference which includes recent cognitive scores. Parents are asked to provide any reports including, where applicable, a recent Educational Psychology Report or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Upon Registration, a reference from the pupil's current school will be sought. At the time of Registration, the School will request documentation to confirm identity.

ACCEPTANCE OF A PLACE

Once an offer of a place has been given, parents are provided with the Terms and Conditions and asked to accept the place within the deadline stated on the letter. In order to confirm the place, parents are asked to pay a deposit of £1000 and return the Acceptance Form. The deposit does not in itself guarantee a place at the school and entry is subject to candidates satisfying any entry requirements set out in the offer letter. If registration takes place within 18 months of the proposed date of entry to the school, the deposit is payable at the same time. The deposit is credited without interest to the final payment of fees or other sums due to the school. The order in which the Provisional List for any given year fills up is on a first-come first-served basis.

INTERNATIONAL PUPILS

Eighteen months before entry, all international pupils (those whose normal residence is outside of the United Kingdom) on the Provisional List are asked to confirm that Milton Abbey is their first choice and to pay a fee deposit of £1000. The deposit does not in itself guarantee a place at the school and entry is subject to candidates satisfying the entry requirements. In addition, no later than 28 days from the date of acceptance or two months prior to the date of joining the school, the Overseas Deposit,

which is one full term's boarding fee, is required; whereupon the £1000 deposit is credited to the Overseas Deposit. Pupils accepted into the school within two months of the start of term will be asked to pay the Overseas Deposit only and not the £1000 Confirmation Fee.

A pupil of any age whose parents are resident outside the United Kingdom must have an education guardian in the United Kingdom who has been given legal authority to act on behalf of the Parents in all respects and to whom the School can apply for authorities when necessary.

CHILD STUDENT VISA APPLICATION

Milton Abbey is a Child Student Visa Sponsor for UK Visas and Immigration (UKV&I) and therefore, licensed to support Confirmations of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) for Child Student Visas. Parents/Guardians will be provided with the school's guide on the documentation required; only once the Milton Abbey UKV&I Compliance and Audit Manager is satisfied with the documentation provided will the school proceed with the CAS application.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Our usual entry points are in Third Form (Year 9) and Lower Sixth (Year 12) but occasional places are available in Fourth Form (Year 10).

Our offer will be based on a satisfactory current school reference, including CAT4 or equivalent cognitive test scores, and the prospective pupil's interview with the Head, Deputy Head or Head of Lower School. Where a candidate's school does not offer CAT4, we can make arrangements to provide the testing to schools.

Should pupils be following the Common Entrance curriculum, offers will not depend on Common Entrance results. We will make it clear to applicants that we will expect them to maintain high levels of application throughout their prep education.

Parents must declare if their child has a learning challenge or other disability so that reasonable adjustments may be assessed and any necessary adjustments put in place for the admissions process.

We are often well equipped to support pupils with complex learning needs who have been assessed by an Educational Psychologist. Where this is the case, parents are required to provide this information well in advance of their visit, so that our Lead SENDCO can make informed decisions. An evaluation of the appropriate support can then be made in the light of the school's available resources. A charge is made for extra learning development sessions, the current rates of which are available upon request.

Should the Head or Senior SENDCO see value in a visit to the child's current school as part of the admissions decision, this will be arranged with the parents' consent. The Learning Development Department may recommend that specific support sessions should be put in place upon entry and this may be a condition of admission.

The school may ask parents to provide updated psychological reports for examination or other purposes. The school may also ask parents for permission to have their child assessed by an educational psychologist should there be a need for a more detailed understanding of their learning profile or to apply/re-apply for exam concessions where applicable.

During the admissions process, we will be in touch with the pupil's current school SENDCO for further information as appropriate to ensure that we are able to meet the pupil's needs, with reasonable adjustments. We work closely with current schools and parents to ensure a smooth transition.

The school expects pupils to take an interest in the activities programme and contribute positively to the wider school community. We look to see evidence of participation and effort in the school reference and during interview.

Sixth Form students are judged on individual merit regarding suitability for courses. We do not have minimum GCSE grades for entry and we are always open to discussing individual cases. Where necessary the opportunity to retake Maths and English GCSE during Sixth Form can be arranged. Prior learning may be required to access certain courses. Course choices are made in consultation with the Head and the Head of Sixth Form.

In addition to the above, a pupil with English as an additional language (EAL) should have, as a minimum, English level B1 (equates to PET, Cambridge Preliminary English Test) for pupils entering Third Form (Year 9) and B2 (equates to FCE, Cambridge First Certificate in English) for those entering Lower Sixth (Year 12), although final decisions are made on an individual basis.

SIBLINGS

Siblings will not be offered automatic entry, but will have to fulfil our admissions criteria at the time of their entry, subject to the availability of a place. Siblings are entitled to a 5% discount on the fee during the period when the siblings are in the school together. Places in the same boarding houses cannot be guaranteed for siblings, but parents' wishes will be taken into account where possible.

ADMISSIONS APPEALS

In the event that a place is not offered, parents will be informed. Any parent who wishes to appeal an admissions decision must write to the Head as soon as possible after the decision not to offer a place has been communicated, and within seven days, setting out the reason for the appeal. The Head will refer the matter to the Chairman of Governors who will communicate a final decision to parents within fourteen days of the decision letter.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are awarded on merit in the following categories:

Academic, Art and Design, Music, Sport, Performing Arts, All-rounder (at least two disciplines) and Round Square (celebrating potential and achievement in any of the Round Square ideals: (Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership, Service).

Scholarships will be reviewed on an annual basis and are held on the basis of continued good attitude, effort and contribution in the area of specialism.

Scholarships at 13+ and 16+ carry a remission of up to 10% on published school fees but may be awarded in conjunction with bursaries (see below) where financial need is demonstrated.

A Head's Award may also be made to a pupil with outstanding potential in an area not named above or on the basis of an exceptional school reference and interview.

Parents who wish their child to be assessed for Scholarship should indicate this to the Head of Admissions on Registration. Scholarships may be awarded as part of the Admissions Visit, on the basis of interview and school reference, or students may be invited to attend a Scholarship Assessment, following their Admissions Visit, at the discretion of the Head.

The Dorset Scholarship is available to applicants in Year 6 who live in, or are at school in, Dorset. The scholarship will offer a 20% reduction of the Day Fee and must be accepted whilst still in Year 6.

BURSARIES

The school is committed to broadening access to those who might not otherwise be able to afford a Milton Abbey education. Means-tested, annually reviewed, bursaries are awarded on the basis of financial need and may either stand alone or offered in addition to scholarships. Early application is advised. Further details can be found on the School's website.

Judith Fremont-Barnes
Head
September 2021