



MILTON ABBEY

ADMISSIONS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Milton Abbey is an independent school for boys and girls aged 13-18 that accepts both day and boarding pupils. It is a mainstream school which offers comprehensive specialist learning support to pupils with mild to moderate learning difficulties like dyslexia. Small class sizes, 1:4 teacher to pupil ratio and specialised learning support, three times per week or more where necessary, all contribute to a strong pastoral provision. Milton Abbey's broad academic offer includes traditional GCSEs and A-Levels alongside more vocational BTEC subjects.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

Most prospective parents arrange to visit the school at least three years before the pupil is due to join. Parents and children are welcome at termly Open Days or to make an individual appointment at a time to suit themselves. Every visitor to the school meets the Head, the Head of Admissions and a Housemaster/Housemistress, as well as having a tour of the school with a pupil. We offer Introductory Visits, for those wishing to visit the School looking for an overview ahead of having their child assessed for a place; these take place on a Tuesday and Friday during term time and could include up to three other 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. The Admissions Visits are private and tailor made to take into account the pupil's interests; an interview with the Head or her Deputy will take place alongside a visit to the Boarding House and a tour of the School. Where appropriate, the Head of Learning Support will meet the child and parents. In the two years before entry, pupils are welcome at a Taster Day.

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 their visit incorporating a meeting with the Head and, the receipt of a satisfactory school report which includes recent cognitive scores and any relevant reports including, when applicable, a recent Educational Psychology Report or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Upon Registration, a reference from their current school will be sought.

ACCEPTANCE OF A PLACE

Once an offer of a place has been given, parents are 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 the entry requirements. 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 (NON EU / EEA)

Eighteen months before entry, all international pupils (ie non EU/EEA) 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.

TIER 4 VISA PUPILS

Milton Abbey is a Tier 4 Sponsor for UK Visas and Immigration and therefore, licensed to support Confirmations of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) for Tier 4 Student Child Visas. Parents/Guardians will be provided with the school's guide on the documentation required; only once the Milton Abbey UKVI Compliance and Audit Manager is satisfied with the documentation provided will the school proceed with the CAS application.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry points: Third Form, Fourth Form and Lower Sixth.

Our offer will be based on a satisfactory current school reference, including CAT4 or equivalent cognitive test scores, and the interview, with the Head or Deputy Head. 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 senior school prep years.

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, we encourage parents to provide this information well in advance of their visit, so that our Head of Learning Development can make informed decisions. We may then be in touch with your school SENCO for further information to ensure that we are able to meet the pupil's needs, with reasonable adjustments. Our Head of Learning Support works closely with SENCOs and parents to ensure a smooth transition.

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. The school expects pupils to take an interest in the activities programme and contribute to the wider school community.

Sixth Form students are judged on individual merit regarding suitability for courses, and course choices are made in consultation with the Head and the Head of Sixth Form. For A level students we would usually require a B grade (6) in the relevant subject where appropriate but are always open to discuss individual cases. We have a full range of BTEC courses with more flexible admission requirements.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Parents must declare if their child has a learning difficulty or other disability that may require specialist arrangements. Pupils with a history of learning difficulties will be invited for an assessment during the Summer Term of Year 7, at a time that is convenient for them. The visit also enables the child to take a closer look at Milton Abbey to see if he or she really likes the school community. It also gives the school the opportunity to assess the pupil's academic suitability and, at the same time, his or her compatibility with the other pupils in terms of shared community values and personal behaviour.

If the Learning Support department recommends that support sessions should be put in place upon entry, this will be a condition of admission. In some circumstances it will be recommended that a child does not study a foreign language but instead uses the time to reinforce his or her basic skills. In addition, some pupils will be offered a place on the basis of a reduced GCSE timetable.

The Learning Support department must have all the available relevant information and any requested documentation (including Educational Psychologists' assessments and previous school reports) before the offer of a place can be made. 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 support sessions, the current rates of which are available upon request.

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 to further understand their learning profile or to apply/re-apply for exam concessions where applicable.

SIBLINGS

Siblings will not be offered automatic entry, but will have to fulfil our admissions criteria at the time of their entry. A sibling will, however, be given preference in cases of oversubscription to a year group. Siblings are entitled to a 5% discount on the fee during the period when the siblings are in the school together.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

The school is committed to broadening access and helping children who aspire to an education at Milton Abbey. Scholarships are awarded in competition and on merit in the following categories at:

13+ Disciplines

Academic, All Rounder, Art, Design Technology, Music, Sailing, Sport, Sport – Golf, Sport - Cycling

16+ Disciplines

Academic, Art, Music, Performing Arts (Drama) and Sport

Scholarships at 13+ and 16+ carry a 10% remission on school fees but may be increased 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.

Dorset Scholarship

The Dorset Scholarship was an initiative launched in September 2015 aimed at Year 6 children who live in, or are at school in, Dorset. The 11+ scholarship will offer a 20% off the Day Fee and must be accepted whilst still in Year 6.

Bursaries are awarded on the basis of financial need and may either stand alone or may be available in addition to scholarships. Further details can be found on the school's website.



Claire Low

Head of Admissions, May 2019