



King's Schools

TAUNTON

Admissions Policy

(This policy is applicable to all pupils, including those in the EYFS)

Responsibility

Individual: Headmasters

Council Committee: Full Council

Review

Last review date: March 2021

Next review date: March 2022

STATEMENT OF INTENT

It is our intention to make our Schools accessible to families from all sections of the local and international community who have made the choice to educate their child/children in the independent sector.

AIM

We aim to ensure that all sections of society have access to the Schools through open, fair and clearly communicated procedures.

GENERAL

King's Schools, Taunton provides co-educational, day and boarding independent schooling for pupils from ages 2 to 18. It comprises King's Hall School, which has approximately 300 children from the ages of 2 to 13, and King's College, which has approximately 470 pupils from the ages of 13 to 18. Both Schools provide exceptionally well for boarders and the proportion of boarders has reached about two-thirds by the time children are at King's College.

Deciding on the right school for a child is very important and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that children and their parents will visit the appropriate School to inform their decision. We hold four Open Days every year, one at each School in the Michaelmas and Summer Terms: these give a general introduction to the Schools and details are published on our websites. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times. Please contact the Admissions department to arrange a visit as below:

King's Hall School	☎ 01823 285928	✉ admissions@kingshalltaunton.co.uk
King's College	☎ 01823 328204	✉ admissions@kings-taunton.co.uk

REGISTRATION AND THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

Parents, grandparents, guardians and/or carers usually make an appointment to tour the School.

If they wish their child(ren) to attend the School they may register their child(ren) at any stage in advance of the date of entry, although early registration is advisable in order to be certain of a place. A non-refundable registration fee is charged. An offer of a place where available is made and payment of an Acceptance Deposit guarantees a place, provided usual entry requirements are met. The deposit will be refunded if entry requirements are not met, otherwise it will be retained by the School and repaid, after outstanding charges have been deducted, on completion of the child's schooling at King's as per our Terms and Conditions. Should a deposit have been paid and the place not taken up then the deposit would be retained by the School.

The entry requirements are different for different age groups. The older the child, the more academically selective the procedure. Where assessment is required, the aim of the process is to identify potential. We are 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. The Schools have a strong reputation for success in sport, music, drama, art, outdoor pursuits and community activities. There is a rich programme of co-curricular activities, which is important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

KING'S HALL SCHOOL

Once a child is registered for the School an appointment is made for the child to spend some time here before they start, and undergo assessments where required as follows:

Children joining between ages 2 to 8 (Nursery to Year 3) have no formal assessment although their class teacher will observe them carefully during their day here.

Children joining between ages 8 to 13 (Year 4 to Year 8) are assessed in English/Literacy, Mathematics/Numeracy and verbal reasoning. The child and parent/s will be met by the Deputy Head (Academic) and/or tutor and/or the Admissions team. Often the child spends time in the School, either on the same day or a separate occasion, as well as being assessed and a boy or girl in their class will be assigned to help look after the new entrant and show them around the School.

The Headmaster/Deputy Head (Academic) and/or the Admissions team will aim to have a brief meeting with the class teacher prior to meeting the parents at the end of the day, so as to be able to inform parents as to how the day has gone. When assessments have been marked, if a child is very far behind in any of the core subjects the parents may be sent details of a programme of work to be undertaken before the child starts.

The school reserves the right not to offer a place to a child whose entry, in the view of the Headmaster, would either not be in the best interests of the child or would not be in the best interests of the school. A transfer report from the pupil's current school will be requested in the term prior to arrival and will be taken into account when deciding whether to offer a place.

KING'S COLLEGE

King's College is an academically selective school. Selection is based on academic merit, which is assessed through references and data from the candidate's current school, and an interview. Candidates are also required to take entry tests, either Common Entrance or the School's own tests, for purposes of setting. Our selection process is designed to identify pupils who have the potential to benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education and who will make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

The usual points of entry are at 13+ into Year 9 and 16+ into Year 12. We admit approximately 90 pupils a year into Year 9 and 25 pupils into Year 12. We may also occasionally have places available into other years. Please contact the Admissions department for details.

13+

Entry at 13+ (into year 9) is by completion of an interview with the Headmaster, receipt of standardised tests scores (giving the name of test agency and the date of tests) and the candidate's most recent school report.

Setting into year 9 will be based on school reports, standardised test results and Common Entrance results. While Common Entrance does not, formally, determine whether or not a pupil gains entry, we still value the exams and the results will be used for setting.

For the 13+ Academic Scholarship exams the school uses the ISEB CASE papers, which are based on the Common Entrance syllabus. Exams are taken at King's College in February. Candidates are also interviewed. Papers are marked and results sent to candidates' parents and schools. On the strength of these results, reports from the candidates' schools and the interviews, successful pupils are offered academic scholarships or exhibitions (collectively referred to in this document as "Scholarships"). Those who do not receive such offers are usually excused having to complete further testing.

Where a candidate wishes to enter years 10 or 11, assessment is by interview with the Headmaster, the School's own mathematics and English tests, a verbal reasoning test, a reference from the candidate's school and copies of school reports. The School will offer a place if there is space available and it is satisfied that the candidate will succeed academically.

The School has developed a programme for pupils, usually from overseas, joining at Year 11, who either intend to stay for one year or continue into the Sixth Form. A small number of places are available each year for this programme, and preference will be given to those who intend to continue into the Sixth Form. Details can be obtained from the Admissions Department.

Equivalent grades and satisfactory references are required for overseas pupils. The School will require non-native speakers to take proficiency tests in English and mathematics, as well as a verbal reasoning test. The English tests will determine whether, and at what level, the school can support the language needs of the candidate

The School may choose not to offer a place to a candidate whose level of English is deemed to be too low.

16+

Entry to King's at 16+ for candidates who are taking GCSE exams is subject to achieving at least 27 points in the candidate's five best subjects with, preferably, a grade 7 or better in the A level subjects chosen.

Equivalent grades and satisfactory references are required for overseas pupils. The School will require non-native speakers to take a proficiency test in English, for which their results should be at an appropriate level for the proposed course of study.

The School may choose not to offer a place to candidate whose level of English is deemed to be too low.

Choice of Academic Subjects

The School may insist, as a condition of entry, that certain subjects are or are not taken by a child joining the School for reasons of the child's academic or linguistic ability. This could be based on testing and other information before or after the child joins.

Misleading Information

If it becomes known that information concerning the academic or linguistic ability of a candidate supplied to the School prior to entry was incorrect or misleading, the School reserves the right either to insist on a change of subjects or to require the pupil to leave the School.

SCHOLARSHIPS

11+ Scholarships

King's Hall School offers a small number of 11+ Scholarships for excellence in Academic subjects, Music, Drama/Performing Arts and Sport. Information about 11+ Scholarships can be obtained from the Admissions department.

13+ and 16+ Scholarships

King's College offers the following scholarships at 13+ and at 16+

- Academic
- Music
- Sport
- Drama
- Performing Arts
- Art
- Design Technology

All-rounder scholarships may be awarded to candidates who perform well in the testing procedures for more than one of the above scholarships. There is no separate testing process for all-rounder scholarships.

Arrangements

Parents are asked to indicate on the registration form whether they wish to apply for a scholarship. Details of the arrangements will be sent to all who express an interest.

We encourage parents of candidates for scholarships who anticipate that they will experience difficulty in meeting the cost of the tuition fees to apply at the same time for means-tested bursarial assistance (as described below), when they register their child.

Academic Scholarships

Candidates, both at 13+ and 16+, who apply for academic scholarships sit scholarship exams at the School. A pupil who has not succeeded in obtaining an academic scholarship may be exempted from taking other entrance assessments, providing that he/she has performed sufficiently well.

All 13+ candidates will be interviewed by the Headmaster and other senior members of staff and will be required to take a verbal reasoning test and a general paper in addition to sitting CASE papers in Mathematics, English, Science, History, a Modern Foreign Language, Geography, Religious Studies and Latin. In the case where a pupil has not studied a particular subject the requirement to sit that paper may be waived.

At 16+, candidates will be interviewed and required to take papers, set by the school, in two subjects which they intend to study at A level, as well as a verbal reasoning test.

Music Scholarships

Music scholarships are awarded to outstanding musicians who play any instrument, or sing, with exceptional ability. Candidates must obtain a specialist reference from their current Head of Music in addition to a reference from their Head. They will be required to perform two short pieces each on up to two instruments (one of which may be the voice) and to complete aural and practical tests. There will be interviews with the Director of Music.

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate enthusiasm for and commitment to music, and, if successful, will be expected to make a major contribution to the musical life of the School throughout their time at the School.

Sports Scholarships

Sports scholarships are awarded to outstanding sportsmen/women who have achieved a high level of competence and who show exceptional potential in sport. Candidates will be assessed and interviewed by members of the sports department and will be expected to demonstrate qualities of leadership and teamwork of a very high order. Candidates will be required to provide a specialist reference from their current school and other evidence of involvement and success in sport. Award holders will be expected to make a major contribution to the sporting life of the School throughout their time at the School.

Art Scholarships

Pupils applying for an Art scholarship will be invited to bring a portfolio of work to the School. They will also be asked to complete a practical exercise on the day and will be interviewed by the Head of Art.

Holders of Art Scholarships will be expected to play an active role in the artistic life of the School, to maintain high standards in their own work and to take the subject to GCSE level at least. Successful 16+ candidates will be expected to take A level Art.

Design Technology Scholarships

Pupils applying for a Design Technology scholarship will be asked to complete a project set by the Head of DT prior to the assessments. They should bring this with them to be assessed by the Head of Design Technology. They will also be interviewed by the Head of DT.

Holders of the award will be expected to take the subject up to GCSE level at least. Successful 16+ candidates will be expected to take A level Design Technology.

Drama Scholarships

Pupils applying for a Drama scholarship will be asked to prepare a two-minute classical monologue of their own choosing. They will present their own personal interpretation of the piece and will then be asked to adjust their performance to show the range of their dramatic abilities.

All candidates will also take part in various structured drama activities, which will include an element of improvisation. They will be interviewed by the Head of Drama.

Holders of the award will be expected to contribute fully to co-curricular drama and to take drama as a subject to GCSE level at least. Successful 16+ candidates will be expected to take A level Drama.

Performing Arts Scholarships

Pupils applying for a Performing Arts Scholarship, will be required to provide a record of their achievements at a high level and also a reference from their current dance/drama/music teacher supporting their application. Candidates will take part in various structured activities, including a two-minute contemporary monologue and an *a cappella* song.

All candidates will also take part in various structured drama activities, which will include an element of improvisation. They will be interviewed by the Head of Drama.

Holders of the award will be expected to contribute fully to co-curricular performing arts and to take drama as a subject to GCSE level at least. Successful 16+ candidates will be expected to take A level Drama.

Music, Sports, Arts, Design Technology, Drama and Performing Arts scholarships will only be awarded to pupils who have satisfied the School's usual academic entrance requirements.

Review of Scholarships

All scholarships are held for the duration of the pupil's career at the School, subject to an annual review of performance and involvement. If, in the School's sole judgment, a scholar is not fulfilling expectations, a warning will be issued to the parents. If, after a reasonable period, the situation has not improved the scholarship may be withdrawn.

If the holder of a 13+ Music, Drama, Performing Arts, DT or Art scholarship does not take the relevant subject at A level, he or she will be expected to continue to contribute appropriately, failing which the scholarship will be withdrawn.

BURSARIES

King's Schools Taunton is committed to broadening access to the Schools by offering to eligible parents/guardians means-tested financial support for the payment of school fees. These bursary awards are important in helping to ensure children from families who would otherwise not be able to afford the fees can have access to the education offered by the School. All who meet our general entry requirements are eligible for bursary awards, which are made solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk, for example in the case of redundancy.

In assessing means we use the methodology promulgated by the Independent Schools' Bursars Association, which takes a number of factors into consideration, including family income, assets and family circumstances. The School does not have a substantial endowment and the funds available for hardship bursaries are limited. When considering such awards, we have to be mindful that we must ensure a balance between those parents paying full fees, many of whom make considerable personal sacrifices to fund their child's education, and those benefiting from the awards.

Bursaries are reviewed annually. Levels of support may vary.

The Schools' practice is to allocate the bulk of its available bursary funding on entry. The Schools' expectation is that parents who do not choose to apply for a bursary at the time that their child is being assessed will not require financial support throughout the time that their child attends the School, except in wholly unforeseen circumstances.

Further information on financial assistance may be obtained from the Director of Finance and Operations.

SIBLING POLICY

Most siblings join us at King's Schools. However, admission is not automatic, and there may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to be better served by a different school.

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

We welcome overseas pupils, who can study as boarders provided that they have a relative or legal guardian living in the UK with whom they can stay at various times as necessary.

EQUAL TREATMENT

Our aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. Please see our Equal Opportunities Policy for further details.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We do not discriminate in any way regarding entry, other than in terms of academic merit. We welcome pupils with special educational needs, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome applications from pupils with physical disabilities, provided that our site is suitable for their particular needs. We advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their children's requirements with us before they embark on any entry procedures.

We will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the School.

FLUENCY IN ENGLISH

In order to cope with the academic demands of the School, pupils must be competent English speakers. Normally, pupils should have been educated in the English medium before coming to the School. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) can be arranged at the parents' expense. All candidates for whom English is not a home language will be tested for fluency before entry, as outlined above. In certain cases the offer of a place to a pupil will be strictly on condition that he or she participates in an EAL programme, for which an extra fee is charged.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Although King's Schools is a Christian foundation, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and we offer the opportunity for pupils to practise their own faiths. However, parents should be aware that there are weekly and other Chapel services which all pupils are expected to attend.

HOUSE CHOICE

The Schools will allocate pupils to houses before entry, taking into account friendships and the need to maintain appropriate balances across the houses.

INDUCTION PROCEDURES

Prior to a child's attendance at the Schools the parents must complete and sign such forms as Medical and 'Starting School' Information forms. These provide the School with vital information such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Name, home address and date of birth of each child
- Starting date and number of sessions required, where necessary
- Arrangements for payment of fees
- Name, address and telephone numbers of parents or carers
- Emergency telephone numbers
- Special diets
- Arrangements for collection, where necessary
- Name, address and telephone number of the child's doctor
- Illness and inoculation details
- Details of any allergies
- Details of educational psychologist reports and known learning support needs
- Parental consents on emergency procedures

The Schools have comprehensive and well-rehearsed procedures for ensuring children feel prepared beforehand and welcome in the early stages of their time at the Schools. These procedures take into account the differing requirements due to age, day or boarding places and whether the child is based in the UK or overseas.

We aim to make the children's arrival at their new school as trouble free as possible, setting the tone for a happy, hardworking and fulfilling career through the School.

SCHOOLS' CONTRACTUAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

Copies are on the Schools' websites and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

COMPLAINTS

Please do not hesitate to raise any concerns with this policy or the Schools admissions procedures. The Schools' complaints procedure can be found on the Schools' websites.