



Frequently Asked Questions

Does my daughter need to be Catholic to attend?

No. Mayfield was founded as a Catholic school in 1872 and remains a Catholic school to this day. While many of the pupils on roll are Catholic, we welcome students of any faith or no faith. As part of a Catholic community, your daughter will benefit from the deep values and pastoral care of our Catholic ethos.

What financial help is available with the fees?

Families may apply to be means-tested for a bursary. A bursary represents a percentage reduction in fees, and its value is determined by the School Governors. Please note that applications for bursaries far exceed the number available. Some pupils are awarded Scholarships, which also carry a monetary value in the form of a fee reduction.

Can you explain the difference between scholarships and bursaries?

Scholarships are awarded in recognition of an individual pupil's academic prowess, or in recognition of her potential to excel in the creative arts, performing arts or sport. In other words, the award (which has a monetary value in the form of a percentage reduction in fees) is granted purely on the basis of merit. Bursaries, on the other hand, are granted on the basis of need. Families may request, on application, to be means-tested for a bursary. Please note that applications for bursaries far exceed the number available.

How can I arrange to visit the School?

Parents and their daughters are very welcome to visit the School. We host a series of open events throughout the year, at which you will have the opportunity to see the School in action. Alternatively, families are welcome to arrange a personal visit to the School by contacting the Admissions Office. The School is based in beautiful

Sussex countryside within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but is very easy to find.

How does the admissions process work?

Those families who wish to proceed with an application are invited to register their daughter for a place at the School. Thereafter, pupils follow either the main entrance procedures or the overseas entrance procedures. The School is academically selective so, in both cases, pupils are required to sit entrance examinations and parents are asked to submit copies of their daughter's two most recent school reports.

Is it harder to gain entrance to the School in Year 9 than in Year 7?

No. Mayfield has always welcomed girls into both Years 7 and 8. We have in place a dedicated Lower School for those who join us aged 11 and 12, but we are also pleased to have a healthy enrolment into Year 9 (and also the Sixth Form). Girls applying for entry into Year 9 may choose to sit either the 13+ Common Entrance Examinations or Mayfield's own Scholarship Examinations. We do, however, recommend that parents who wish to apply for their daughter to enter Year 9 register her no later than Year 6, to help the Admissions Office plan for future entry.

How many girls take the entrance assessments & how many places are available?

The number of girls sitting the entrance tests for Years 7, 9 and 12 varies enormously from year to year. The School does not have a set number of places available: it makes offers purely on the basis of merit rather than to fill classrooms.

If my daughter wants to ride at school, must she own her own horse?

No, not necessarily – the School operates a pony loan scheme for girls who do not have their own horse. However, there is a limit to the number of ponies which can be loaned, and it is dependent upon the Director of Riding being able to provide a suitable horse or pony for the girl in question, so we strongly encourage parents to enquire about the scheme as early as possible in the application process. Those girls who do own their own horse can choose to use the School's stables.