



THE ORATORY

THE ORATORY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

The Oratory is a HMC Catholic Independent Day and Boarding school for boys aged 11 to 18. The Oratory will become coeducational from September 2020, welcoming girls alongside boys in all year groups. The school has around 250 pupils, approximately 54% of whom are boarders. Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We hold a number of open events throughout the year, which give a general introduction to the school and details of these are published on our website. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times. Please contact the school's Registrar, Janet Martin, on 01491 683522 or email registrar@oratory.co.uk to arrange a visit.

The admissions process at The Oratory is designed to ensure that all the boys and girls, whether boarders or day pupils, who join the school are able to be happy, successful and secure within The Oratory's unique academic, pastoral and spiritual community.

Entry Procedure

The usual points of entry are 11+ (Year 7), 13+ (Year 9) and 16+ (Year 12, Sixth Form). We admit up to 40 pupils into Year 7, another 40 pupils into Year 9 and 30 pupils into Year 12. The school may also have places available in other year groups. Please contact the Admissions Department for details.

Applicants for admission should aim to register by the deadlines detailed in the Annual Information Booklet for their specific year group, available on the school's website and on request from the Registrar. Registration should be via the online form on the school's website, although hard copies are available on request from the Registrar.

Equal Treatment

Our aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Financial support, in the form of bursaries, may be offered to facilitate as many as possible who meet our admission criteria to attend the school. The school's provision for bursaries is described below and full details are available from our Registrar.

The Oratory is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of an applicant's gender, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, social background, pregnancy or maternity.

Special Needs

The Oratory does not discriminate in any way regarding entry. The school welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, providing that we can offer them the support that they require and cater for any additional needs and that our site can accommodate them. We strongly advise parents of children with special

educational needs or physical or mental disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with The Oratory before registration to ascertain whether the school may be able to provide appropriate support for a pupil's needs.

Parents should provide a copy of any educational, psychological or medical report relevant to the candidate. The school will discuss with parents and their advisors any adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the school. This includes the potential supply of auxiliary aids and services.

Specific needs should be advised to the school before a candidate attends an assessment so that the school can make adequate provision for him/her.

The allocation of a Special Educational Needs place will be determined by our Head of Curriculum Support in consultation with the Head Master, who reviews all candidates' written tests and any accompanying paperwork detailing the applicant's needs. An additional charge is made for those requiring 1:1 specialist teaching.

Entry Criteria

The Oratory is a broadly non-selective school, although we do not offer every applicant a place at the school. We use assessments as part of the admissions process to identify pupils who will benefit from our holistic, all-round education, and who will make a positive contribution towards the life of the school. The Oratory does not select on academic ability alone, but satisfactory performance is required in the written papers to demonstrate a pupil's ability to access the curriculum offered at The Oratory.

The Assessment Process

The aim of the process is to identify potential. The Oratory is 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. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

Pupils join the school at 11+ through internal entrance assessments in English, Mathematics and Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

Pupils join the school at 13+ through the ISEB Scholarship or the ISEB Common Entrance Examinations. Pupils that are registered to join the school at 13+ are required to complete the ISEB Common Pre-Test in Year 7 and an interview with the Head Master, prior to them taking the ISEB Common Entrance in Year 8; both the ISEB Pre-test and Common Entrance exams are organised by prep schools in consultation with The Oratory.

Admissions for pupils who join the school at 16+ is dependent on predicted GCSE results and an Assessment Day which will include an interview with the Head Master

and Head of 6th Form, and completion of entrance papers set by the school. It is expected that a grade 6 will be achieved at GCSE in a subject that is to be continued at A Level. In addition, a minimum of five GCSE passes are required, including pass grades in English and Maths.

Overseas applicants will be required to complete Entrance Examinations in English (EAL) and Maths.

The dates for the assessment process are published on our website in our Annual Information Booklet.

Sibling Policy

Most siblings join us at The Oratory. However, siblings are subject to the standard school application procedures and must register for a place within the appropriate time frame. Admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

Scholarships and Bursaries

We offer some means-tested bursaries on a discretionary basis. The Oratory's bursary programme is designed to enable as many as possible of those who meet The Oratory's entry criteria to take up a place here. Please view the Bursaries Policy for more information.

Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Head Master to recognise excellence, ability and potential in one or more academic or extra-curricular areas. Scholarships are available for pupils applying for all three of the main entry points (Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12). For entry into Year 9, scholarships can only be applied for following receipt of the deposit to join the school.

- Academic (Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12)
- Music (Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12)
- Sport (Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12)
- Art (Year 9 and Year 12)
- Drama (Year 9 and Year 12)
- Design and Technology (Year 9 and Year 12)
- All-Round (Year 7 and Year 9)
- Thomas Scholarship (Year 7, Primary School Pupils)

Full details of the scholarships can be found in the Annual Information Booklet, available on our website and by contacting the Registrar who can arrange to send it to you via email or by post. A copy is also available at the school for you to view.

Overseas Applicants

We welcome overseas pupils provided that they have a relative or legal guardian living in the UK with whom they can stay when necessary and who is able to comply with school's requests *in loco parentis*.

Overseas pupils are offered places on the basis of recent school reports, written tests in English and Mathematics and interview (where appropriate). English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes form part of the curriculum up to Year 11, whilst in the 6th Form group EAL lessons are provided for an additional charge. One to one tuition in English as an Additional Language is also offered, for an additional charge, to all international pupils. However, before entry, pupils will be expected to demonstrate a sufficient and appropriate level of English Language skill so as to allow them to advance their studies.

The Oratory has a Sponsor License with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) for Tier 4 Visas. Once we have received a deposit to confirm a place and all of the necessary documentation as stipulated by the UKVI, we will issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). More details on Overseas Pupils and Immigration can be found in our Terms and Conditions and on our website.

Religious Beliefs

Although The Oratory is a Roman Catholic school, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and we seek to offer the opportunity for those of other faiths to practice their own beliefs. However, parents should be aware that there is compulsory Saturday morning school and that it is a requirement that all pupils study Religious Studies up to and including Year 11, whilst in Years 12 and 13 every pupil receives one lesson per week of non-examined Religious Education.

School's contractual terms & conditions

Copies of the school's Terms and Conditions are sent to all parents as part of the admissions process. Additional and subsequent copies are available on request. They are also available on the school's website.

Complaints

We hope that you and your child do not have any complaints about our admissions process; however if you are unsatisfied with any aspect of the process you should contact the Registrar to share your views. The School's Complaints Procedure is not available for use by prospective parents.

Records and Review

Applicants' details will be held on file with due regard to data protection legislation and the School's Privacy Notice.