STONYHURST

AMDG

Academic Year 2021-22

CROSS CAMPUS ADMISSIONS POLICY	
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If you would like to request a printed copy of a policy, please contact the Compliance Manager j.mchugh@stonyhurst.ac.uk, the Headmaster's P.A. r.taylor@stonyhurst.ac.uk or the SMH Headmaster's P.A. t.ashton@stonyhurst.ac.uk

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1. General Introduction

1.1. Stonyhurst is a co-educational day and boarding school in the Jesuit tradition. We are a Roman Catholic school and the Jesuit values upon which the College was founded in 1593 continue to underpin everything we do today. As a community we seek to do everything Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (for the greater glory of God). Whilst we are a Catholic school, we welcome children who belong to other Christian traditions and other faiths or none and we encourage them to play a full part in the spiritual life of the school. We expect all our pupils to attend church services and school assemblies, which are fundamental to our mission and identity.

1.2. Stonyhurst provides a seamless education for children from age 3 to 18. We aim to form "men and women for others": people who value community, who know what they stand for, and will speak up for what they believe in. One of our principal aims is for every child to feel that their contribution to school life is valued and that their special gifts are celebrated, and their needs recognised.

2. Introduction and pre-application Visits

2.1. The school prospectus and accompanying materials provide an overview of life at Stonyhurst. In our prospectus we have tried to convey something of the very special nature of a Stonyhurst education. However, it is not always possible to reflect adequately the vibrancy and warmth of the school community through the pages of a prospectus or indeed via our website. We would therefore invite you to visit the school. You are assured of the warmest of welcomes.

2.2. To request a prospectus and/or arrange a visit to the school, please contact the Admissions Office on 01254 827 073 or e-mail admissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk

2.3. We would also encourage you to visit our website which is regularly updated to include all our latest news and events. Our website address is www.stonyhurst.ac.uk

3. Arrangements in response to Covid-19

3.1. Stonyhurst is committed to keeping all pupils and staff safe during the COVID pandemic. Where necessary visits and interviews will be substituted using a virtual platform to ensure smooth running of the Admissions process. It therefore may not be possible for children to have a taster day as part of the 11+ Admissions process.

4. Structure of the school

4.1. Education at Stonyhurst is a 3 –18 continuum and comprises:

- Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall – pupils aged 3-13
- Stonyhurst College – pupils aged 13-18

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5.1. Applications are welcomed for entry at all stages from age 3 to18. An enquiry form can be found on our website and is the first part of the Admissions process. Our application procedures are age appropriate and include:

- Entry assessments
- Interviews
- Character references / references from current school
- Submission of school reports for the previous 2 years for age appropriate year groups
- Disability assessments (if applicable)
- 500 handwritten personal statement for the College or completion of a personal information sheet for children entering Year 5 to Year 8 at St Mary's Hall

5.2. The following information provides a general guide to the entry requirements and procedures, but Stonyhurst looks at each application on its individual merit. For any enquiries in relation to entry requirements / procedures please contact the Admissions team.

5.3. Children will be considered for entry into any year group at both Stonyhurst College and Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall.

Entry at 3+

5.4. Pupils can join our Pre-Prep unit in the term that their third birthday falls. A completed application form should be submitted on line and where relevant, two recent school/nursery reports and a reference from the child's current school/nursery. The school offers a limited number of EAL supported places for pupils with little or no English language skills. We are no longer a registered provider of the free early education scheme (nursery vouchers). This follows the very careful consideration of a number and range of factors, the most significant being our desire to offer greater flexibility in the education of the children with regard to the sessions and timings, which best fit our timetable and our approach to teaching and learning.

Entry at 7+

5.5. Entry into any year in KS2 is based upon the submission of the child's school reports from the previous two years, a school reference from their current school and completion of an on-line assessment. For those starting in Year 5 and above children may also be required to attend an interview (via video or telephonic conference, if international) with the Headmaster or Head of KS2 and complete a personal information sheet along with completion of a full taster day.

The school has an expert EAL support department and therefore we offer places for children with little or no English language skills.

Entry at 11+

5.6. Applicants for admission at the age of 11 are asked to sit an on-line entrance assessment. (This can be done remotely for international pupils) We also require submission of the child's school reports from the previous two years, a school reference from their current school, completion of a personal information sheet and to attend an interview (via video or telephonic call, if international) with the Headmaster.

5.7. Entry into Year 8 is based upon the submission of the child's school reports from the previous two years, a school reference from their current school, completion of an online assessment and personal information sheet and required to attend an interview (via video or telephonic call, if international) with the Headmaster.

5.8. The school has an expert EAL support department and therefore we offer places for children with little or no English language skills.

Entry at 13+

5.9. Pupils already members of the Stonyhurst community based at St. Mary's Hall will normally transfer to the College as a matter of course, but they will sit an internal assessment designed to help in placing the pupil in the correct class setting. Entry into Stonyhurst College at 13+ (Lower Grammar) from other schools is based upon interview (via video or telephonic call, if international), school reports, completion of a handwritten 500 word personal statement and a satisfactory performance in the on-line entrance assessment. Some international pupils may be required to sit the Cambridge English Test (CEPT).

Entry at 14+

5.10. Entry into Stonyhurst College at 14+ (Grammar) from other schools is based upon interview (via video or telephonic call, if international), school reports, completion of a handwritten 500 word personal statement and a satisfactory performance in the on-line entrance assessment. Some international pupils may be required to sit the Cambridge English Test (CEPT).

Entry at 15+

5.11. Entry into Stonyhurst College at 15+ (Syntax) from other schools is based upon interview (via video or telephonic call, if international), school reports, completion of a handwritten 500-word personal statement and a satisfactory performance in the on-line entrance assessment. Some international pupils may be required to sit the Cambridge English Test (CEPT)

5.12. Applications are welcomed at this stage for entry onto a structured pre-IB programme. This course may be of particular interest to overseas students looking to join the Sixth form and follow the International Baccalaureate Programme.

Sixth Form Entry

5.13. Entry to the Sixth Form is based upon interview (via video or telephonic call, if international), a satisfactory performance in the entrance examination, completion of a 500-word handwritten personal statement and submission of satisfactory school reports. We would also expect good performance at GCSE (or equivalent). Applicants would normally be required to have obtained a minimum of 5 Grade 6 passes at GCSE (or equivalent). Applicants for the IBCP would be expected to achieve Grade 4 passes at GCSE including Maths and English Language, together with 3 other Grade 4s at GCSE. Some international pupils may be required to sit the Oxford Placement test.

6. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

6.1. We recognise that there may be specific circumstances which affect a child's performance in an assessment test and/or interview. These may include:

- If a child is unwell when taking the test or attending for interview
- If there are particular family circumstances such as a bereavement at the time of the assessment / interview
- If there is a relevant educational history, for example an education outside the British system
- If English is not the child's first language
- If the child has a disability or specific learning difficulty

6.2. In any such special circumstance, we may ask for additional information in order to make a fair assessment.

7. OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

7.1. Stonyhurst welcomes overseas pupils and has always accepted overseas applications from a wide range of countries.

All overseas applicants, if they are not able to visit in person, will have a video or telephonic interview to assess their ability to access the curriculum. Where required and appropriate, additional English as a second language support is made available to pupils accepted from overseas.

8. EQUAL TREATMENT

8.1. Stonyhurst is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background. We receive and accept applications from pupils from a diverse range of backgrounds. We believe that diversity enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world.

8.2. We encourage applications from anyone who feels they will benefit from a Stonyhurst education and who will be willing to contribute to, and benefit from the academic life of the school, its mission and identity and tradition. Fee support is available to make it possible for as many as possible, who meet the school's admission criteria, to attend the school. Further details in respect of the awards for fee support can be found later in this policy.

9. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

9.1. Stonyhurst welcomes children with special educational needs. Parents/carers of children with special educational needs should discuss their child's learning needs with the school at the time of application and before he / she sits any assessment to enable the school to ensure appropriate provision is in place. We are happy to discuss thoroughly with parents/carers any adjustments that can be reasonably made for their child once they have been offered and accepted the offer of a place and before he / she becomes a pupil at the school. Parents/carers should provide, where possible, any relevant medical/psycho- educational documents that may support their child's needs. An example of this would be an Educational, Health and Care (EHC) Plan, or educational psychologist's report outlining the need for examination access arrangements. Further details of SEND provision at Stonyhurst can be found in the SEND Policy, which is available on the school website or from the school on request.

10. DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

10.1. The school Accessibility and Disability Policy and the Accessibility Plan provide an outline of Stonyhurst's current position in respect of provision for children with disabilities and also the school's plans for future provision. The documents are available on the school website and from the school on request. At present Stonyhurst has limited provision for children with disabilities but will do all that is reasonable and practicable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities to children with disabilities who apply to the school. Stonyhurst is able to provide information about the school in other formats such as Braille and other languages, upon request.

11. Sibling Policy

11.1. Stonyhurst welcomes the opportunity to educate the brothers and sisters of current and past pupils. However, admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different educational environment. Many siblings do join us and in recognition of the incremental financial cost to families who wish to educate more than one of their children at Stonyhurst, the Governors have agreed a sliding scale of support as shown below. This reduction of fees applies whilst the children are in attendance at the same time and will be adjusted appropriately as each sibling leaves.

Children in attendance	Percentage reduction
1st child in attendance	0% reduction
2nd child in attendance	10% reduction
3rd child in attendance	20% reduction
4th child in attendance	30% reduction

12. Application decisions

12.1. Stonyhurst assesses each application on its own merits taking account of the relevant entry requirements and all aspects of the admissions process. If, however, the school is over-subscribed and Stonyhurst has to decide between two or more candidates who meet our admission requirements after all appropriate allowances and special consideration have been given, we may give preference to:

- A child who has a brother or sister in the school or whose parent(s) attended Stonyhurst
- A child who is a practising Catholic (or whose parents are practising Catholics)
- A child applying to join as a boarder (rather than a day pupil)
- A child with a particular skill, talent or aptitude

13. Fee support

13.1. Bursaries form the major part of the fee support offered by Stonyhurst. Fee support is intended to help pupils who are likely to benefit from a Stonyhurst education and who will contribute well to the life of the school, but whose parents cannot afford full fees.

13.2. Bursaries are means tested. Bursaries may be made available to parents/guardians of children entering any year of Stonyhurst (see the School's Admissions Policy). They are awarded at the discretion of the Headmasters and the Bursar and Clerk to the Governors is responsible for the management and co- ordination of the process.

14. THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION

14.1. In 2019 a new independent charity was established, named The Stonyhurst Foundation (the "Foundation").

14.2. The goal of the Foundation is to remove financial barriers, making a Stonyhurst education available to as many young people as possible. The Stonyhurst Foundation aims to be the largest ring-fenced independent bursary and fee assistance charity of its kind in Catholic independent education in the UK.

14.3. The Foundation grants bursary and other award funding to Stonyhurst on both a 'means blind' and a 'means tested' basis. The grant request and grant making relationship between these two independent entities is regulated by an Operating Agreement so as to ensure best practice. This Operating Agreement outlines the manner in which Stonyhurst may apply to the Trustees of the Foundation for grant funding, and the process for reviewing and voting on such requests.

15. SCHOLARSHIPS

15.1. External applicants for scholarships should have, as a minimum, registered for a place at Stonyhurst before applying for a scholarship. External applicants for scholarships are invited to attend examinations and other assessments on the strength of school and other reports. Stonyhurst reserves the right not to call all applicants to sit for a scholarship.

15.2. At Stonyhurst College and Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall, members of Upper Elements playroom (year 6) Rudiments playroom (Year 8) and Syntax playroom (Year 11) may be invited to sit the academic scholarship examination on recommendation of academic teachers only. This is also the case for Sport, Drama, Art and Music. Not all who are asked to sit for a scholarship want to, and decline. There is no compulsion; indeed, for some pupils it might be a stressful experience they are happy to do without.

15.3. Academic, Music and Sports Scholarships are awarded on merit, at the Headmaster's discretion at ages 11+, 13+ and 16+. Drama & Theatre and Art Scholarships are awarded on merit, at the Headmaster's discretion at ages 13+ and 16+. Scholarships are the highest awards offered by Stonyhurst, and the amount of scholarship awarded is decided by the Headmaster.

15.4. St Francis Xavier Awards have traditionally been focused on pupils aged 11+ and 13+. These awards can also be offered to qualifying pupils at other entry points. They are for pupils who, in the opinion of the selection panel, are most likely to benefit from, and contribute to, life at Stonyhurst. Successful candidates receive a 20% fee remission. In appropriate circumstances, this can be combined with a Bursary up to a remission maximum of 100%. Assessments for the St Francis Xavier awards take place in January and comprise a written examination and one or more interviews.

15.5. The bestowal of any scholarship carries with it privilege and responsibility. Every scholar is expected to set an example to other pupils in their conduct and approach to study, and to participate fully in the life of Stonyhurst.

15.6. The tenure of a scholarship is intended to be for the duration of the pupil's education at Stonyhurst, provided the scholarship holder's academic progress and general conduct remain satisfactory and provided the scholarship holder continues to fulfil the obligations associated with the scholarship. The monitoring of progress of scholars, and oversight of the scholars' programme of study is the responsibility of the Master of Scholars.

16. COMPLAINTS

16.1. We hope that you and your child will not have any complaints about our Admissions process. Our Admissions team will always welcome any feedback on your experience of our procedures. However, should you wish to raise an issue, the School's Complaints Policy is available on our website or a copy can be sent out to you on request.

17. FURTHER INFORMATION

17.1. Our Admissions Team are always happy to speak to prospective parents and pupils about the admissions process. Please contact them on 01254 827073 or at admissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk

17.2. For the most up-to-date information on what is happening at Stonyhurst please visit our website at www.stonyhurst.ac.uk

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