



Policy

Admissions Policy

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1 General

Oakham School is a co-educational fee-paying independent boarding and day school of some 1050 pupils aged from 10 to 18, which offers the choice of boarding, flexi-boarding (up to 5 nights a week) or day education. Our Lower School caters for pupils aged from 10 to 12 and they may choose to be day pupils, or full or transitional (two to five nights a week) boarders. Over half of our pupils are boarders.

Oakham is an academically selective school. We seek pupils whose academic and other abilities will enable them to benefit from the opportunities that we offer, and to contribute fully to the life of the School.

For most entry levels, assessment is by entrance examination, interview, and references from the candidate's previous school. There are no formal exams for Sixth Form entry, although those pupils for whom English is not their first language will be required to sit an English test. The usual points of entry are at 10+ /Year 6, 11+ /Year 7, 13+ /Year 9 and 16+ /Year 12. We also admit pupils at 12+ /Year 8 and 14+ /Year 10 depending upon the availability of spaces.

2 Oakham School Parent Contract

Please read this admissions policy in conjunction with the Oakham School Parent Contract, a copy of which can be downloaded from the Admissions section of the School website, or you can ask us to e-mail a copy.

3 Visiting

Open Mornings are held throughout the year and families are asked to book a place in advance if they wish to attend. Prospective parents and their children are also welcome to have an individual family visit - these are offered six days a week (Monday to Saturday) during term time.

4 Registration, deposit and the offer of a place

Registration

Registration is understood to be an expression of interest in Oakham School. It does not commit a parent or parent(s) to accepting a place, nor does it commit the School to the offer of one. Registrations should be received by the date indicated on the Admissions section of the School website (the exact date will vary by year group but is generally in the Winter term prior to intended entry - the exception to this being for 13+ UK prep school candidates who should register by the Winter term of Year 7). Where possible early registration is recommended, especially for families who also wish to apply for a scholarship/bursary. The non-refundable registration fee is £150.

Registration is required prior to any entrance assessments taking place.

Deposit

We ask parents to pay a deposit as described below.

For 13+ applicants: the deposit is payable on acceptance of our offer of a place.

UK prep school applicants are expected to participate in a pre-interview during the first or second term of Year 7 and offers made at this stage are conditional on satisfactory performance at Common Entrance or in Oakham's own entrance assessments.

For 10+, 11+, 12+, 14+ and 16+ applicants: the deposit is payable on acceptance of our offer of a place.

The amount of the deposit is currently:

- UK applicants: £1000
- EU applicants: £4000
- Non UK/ EU applicants: the equivalent of one term's fees (at the current rate)

Further information on the deposit is contained in the Oakham School Parent Contract.

Offer of a place

The offer of a place is made following assessment and is subject to the availability of a place, the entry requirements of the School at the time of offer, and the School's Parent Contract. We deem a place to have been accepted once we have received the deposit and the signed Acceptance Form.

5 Entry Requirements: the assessment process

Examination dates and closing dates for application for the current year are published in the Admissions section of the School's website www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk.

The aim of our entry assessment process is to identify potential. We are looking for well-rounded boys and girls with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, and interests that stretch beyond the confines of the academic curriculum.

10+ and 11+ Applicants

The entrance assessment takes place at the School, usually in January for entry the following September. We recognise that children come from a variety of schools and display different rates of academic progress. Our assessment, which includes on-line testing in Mathematics, English and underlying ability, and an interview, seeks to establish each pupil's readiness to cope with the academic and social demands of the School and ensure that they will be happy with us and able to achieve to their potential. We look for a sound basic knowledge of the National Curriculum syllabi and, above all, a positive attitude for the varied and increased expectations of our IB Middle Years Programme. Copies of past papers or other preparation materials are not released. We request, and attach importance to, a detailed report from the Head of the pupil's present school.

Parents are notified of the assessment results within two weeks. 11+ candidates whose performance show scholarship potential are recalled for further examination (see Scholarships). A candidate who is offered a place but defers entry will normally have to re-sit the assessment.

13+ Applicants

Pre-Interview

Candidates will be asked to participate in a pre-interview in the first or second term of Year 7. Satisfactory performance at pre-interview when combined with a supportive reference from a pupil's current school usually leads to the conditional offer of a place.

Common Entrance

Candidates from preparatory schools take the Common Entrance Examination at their school in June of the year of entry. The required pass mark is an average of 55%.

Non Common Entrance

Those who have not followed the Common Entrance syllabus will sit Oakham School's 13+/Year 9 examination in January for entry the following September, or by arrangement with the Director of Admissions. Subjects examined are English, Mathematics and Science, plus an optional Language paper. An interview is also part of the entrance assessment. A detailed syllabus is available but past entrance papers are not released. Candidates are expected to perform at a level equivalent to an average of 55% at Common Entrance.

16+ Applicants

The minimum entry requirement is a good academic report from the candidate's school, indicating that the student is likely to gain at least seven GCSEs, including English Language and Mathematics. The minimum grade expectation is four sixes and three fives, though we would expect higher to ensure success on our range of Post-16 courses. For non-native speakers a 200 word handwritten personal statement will also be requested.

Once we have received the academic report we will invite candidates to visit Oakham for an interview, a skype/Teams interview can be offered if the family are unable to visit in the short term. After the interview visit, applicants may be offered a place conditional on the required GCSE/IGCSE results and a good reference from their present school. In line with HMC guidelines those attending other HMC schools will not be offered places before 1 December prior to the following September entry. If successful, those not sitting GCSE/IGCSE's will receive an unconditional offer.

Overseas applicants

Overseas Candidates – see paragraph 11 below.

6 Equal Treatment

We aim to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible and do not discriminate in any way regarding entry. We are committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background.

Oakham School is a Christian Foundation which welcomes pupils whatever their religious beliefs. All pupils are expected to attend Chapel with their House during the week. However, on Sundays, those committed and practising members of other faiths have the opportunity to practice their faith when the boarding community is in the Chapel.

7 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SENDA)

As an academically selective school, Oakham aims to attract applicants of high academic ability who are willing to be involved in the wider life of the school. We welcome pupils with special educational needs or with physical disabilities, but we are only able to admit those for whom the School's resources, reasonably adjusted where appropriate, would be able to secure academic success and educational fulfilment. Parents are encouraged to discuss the feasibility

of their child attending Oakham with our Director of Admissions. We will ask for an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report to assist our assessment and to support any request, for example for extra time, or other special arrangements.

8 **Siblings**

Whilst we make every effort to accommodate siblings, 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.

9 **Bursaries**

Parents who feel Oakham is beyond their means are invited to enquire about means-tested financial support available through the School's bursary funding scheme. Bursary funding is usually linked to a scholarship, however, occasionally we grant a bursary to a non-scholarship candidate. For further details, ask our Admissions team for our Scholarships and Bursaries booklet.

10 **Scholarships, exhibitions and specialist awards**

Our scholarship process aims to identify pupils with outstanding talent, to give them access to an Oakham education regardless of means, and to nurture that talent throughout each scholar's time here. Scholarships reward achievement and potential; each carries a nominal fee reduction of up to 10% of the day fee regardless of pupil status. Awards may be augmented by a bursary subject to means testing.

Details of expectations for each subject, and the application and examination process and timetable are contained in our Scholarships and Bursaries booklet, which may be obtained, together with individual subject guidelines, from our Admissions team.

Scholarships offered:

For 11+ entry into the Lower School

- Academic
- Music

Candidates must be under the age of 12 on 1 September of the proposed year of entry.

For 13+ entry into the Middle School

- Academic
- All-rounder
- Art
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Music
- Sport

Candidates must be under the age of 14 on 1 September of the proposed year of entry.

For 16+ entry into the Sixth Form

- Academic
- Art
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Music
- Sport

Candidates must be under the age of 17 on 1 September of the proposed year of entry.

11 Overseas Applicants

It is hoped that candidates will visit Oakham before we confirm the offer of a place. Wherever possible this should be before entrance examinations, but if this is not possible, candidates will need to visit once a conditional place has been offered.

Candidates will generally visit no later than March of the proposed year of entry in order to sit our entrance examinations, have their level of English assessed, and be interviewed. Interviews will include the Head of the Lower, Middle or Upper School (depending on proposed age at entry) or the Head of English as an Additional Language (EAL).

If a candidate is unable to visit the School for the entrance examination, we can usually arrange for them to sit the examinations in their own school, or we may occasionally ask an agent to act for us. Where possible, we can also interview the candidate via Skype/Teams. Candidates whose papers are acceptable may occasionally receive a provisional offer, which will be confirmed once the candidate has visited Oakham.

English and Modern Foreign Languages

Pupils must be fluent English speakers in order to cope with the academic and social demands of Oakham School. Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to take the Oakham English Language test as part of the assessment process. English language tuition (EAL) can be arranged at the parent's expense although, depending on the pupil's needs, it may be necessary to drop one or more subjects (usually another language) to accommodate this.

Parents should be aware that Modern Foreign Languages are generally taught by English-speakers.

Guardians

We require all pupils living overseas to have a guardian in this country who will act *in loco parentis* for them:

- in cases of illness or disciplinary matters
- to whom they may go for half-term exeats and holidays when the pupil is unable to go home
- who is able to deal with their arrival at or departure from airports as necessary

Guardians are always welcome at the School and are encouraged to take as much interest in their wards as they feel able.

Visas

Students who do not possess a British passport should consult the Home Office UK Border Agency website www.ukvisas.gov.uk to find out whether a student visa is required, and, if so, how to apply for one in your country of residence. It is the responsibility of parents to obtain, and to renew as necessary, the appropriate student visa before arriving at Oakham. Oakham School holds a licence to sponsor Child Student Visas. Assistance with this process is contained in the first Joining Pack of information which is distributed in March/April before September entry.

The School will assist those pupils who require a Child Student Visa to study in the United Kingdom. Oakham School will request information from parents to generate a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance of Study) which is required to submit a visa application. The charge for facilitating this process is £250 + VAT.

12 Trustees

The Chairman of Trustees is Professor Neil Gorman, who can be contacted at Oakham School, Chapel Close, Market Place, Oakham, Rutland LE165 6DT. E-mail ng@oakham.rutland.sch.uk. A list of members of the School's Trustee body can be found on the School's website www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk.

13 Charitable Status

Oakham School Registered Charity No 1131425. Company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No 6924216. Registered office Chapel Close Market Place Oakham Rutland LE15 6DT

ACS January 2022

Review Date January 2023