

THE KING'S SCHOOL IN MACCLESFIELD



ADMISSIONS POLICY (WHOLE FOUNDATION)

King's is an academically selective school that seeks to provide a challenging and stimulating academic education for all its pupils, the vast majority of whom proceed to Higher Education. We provide for the needs of the academically most able while, at the same time, recognising that one of our greatest strengths is the value we add to all our pupils. Learning and personal development are at the heart of all that we do.

King's believes strongly in the philosophy of a broad and balanced education and offers its pupils as wide a range of academic and extra-curricular opportunities as possible, in which pupils can achieve high standards.

Admissions Procedures

In selecting pupils, the School is looking for pupils with above average ability, as well as academic potential and wide-ranging interests and talents, who are keen to participate in school activities.

Our main entry points to the School are in the September for the following year groups:

- Pre-School (3+) - 40 places available
- Year 3 (7+) - 22 new places become available
- Year 7 (11+) - approx. 72 new places become available
- Year 12 (Sixth Form) - typically 20 places available

Entry at other times and in to other year groups is possible where places are available. Applicants and their parents/carers are encouraged to visit the School on one of the many open events or to arrange a tour. Applicants for admissions undergo thorough assessment in order to ensure that we can be confident that the pupils we admit will cope with, and benefit from, the rapid learning pace and academic nature of our school. Admission is always subject to the availability of places.

Upon receipt of an application, we seek copies of recent school reports and/or a reference from the Headteacher of the applicant's school. The reference seeks information on academic attainment, results of recent tests, attitude to learning, behaviour, special talents and interests, extra-curricular activities, special circumstances and any special educational needs. King's will also seek to establish that any fees at previous schools have been settled by parents. Competition for places is strong and places are offered based on performance in entrance assessments, school reference and reports, as well as interviews (for Senior and Sixth Form applicants).

King's is a family-oriented school and encourages applications from families with multiple children. Whilst we encourage applications from siblings, in order to be offered a place they must still meet the same academic requirements of the entrance assessment and places must also be available.

All applicants must have the legal right to live and study in the UK. Details of arrangements for admission to King's as well as how to apply for bursaries and scholarships are on our website (www.kingsmac.co.uk) and in our Admissions literature.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The King's School is designated as a School of religious character and welcomes pupils from many different ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds. The School is non-discriminatory, and all applicants are treated equally irrespective of race, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, or orientation.

King's is inclusive in its approach to prospective pupils with Special Education Needs and disabilities. It is important to recognise the School is academically selective and our policy is to apply our admission criteria to all potential pupils. At the point of entry to the School, pupils must be able to access the full, age appropriate curriculum. The school supports children with Special Education Needs whilst accepting the limitations that exist regarding our specific capacity and expertise available to offer support to such pupils.

When registering for admission, parents should provide a full, confidential disclosure of all the needs of their child in respect of any Special Educational Needs, emotional needs and disabilities. Parents must provide a copy of the most recent Educational Psychologist's report or medical report if they have one. The School will do all that is reasonable to ensure that it is accessible to children who have disabilities and to comply with our legal and moral responsibilities under equality legislation. The School will accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities for which, after reasonable adjustments, we can cater adequately.

Admission to our Infant Department (Pre-School to Year 2)

King's accepts pupils into its Pre-School in the September following a child's third birthday by 31 August the same year. Admission into Pre-School is non-selective and applications are dealt with in order of application, although consideration is given to siblings. Automatic transfer at 4+ (to Reception) is not guaranteed and children are assessed for their readiness to transfer the Reception class.

Admissions to other years in the Infant Department (Reception to Year 2) is subject to availability of places and is selective. Prospective pupils are invited to spend time with the appropriate class and places are offered following observation and standardised assessment of readiness to join the appropriate cohort. Automatic admission at 7+ (in to the Juniors) is not guaranteed and children are assessed for transfer to Year 3.

Admission to our Junior Department (Years 3-6)

King's Year 2 pupils take an advisory assessment towards the end of the Autumn Term in preparation for transition to the Junior Department. They are tested in Mathematics, English and Non-Verbal Reasoning. Year 2 teachers also meet with Year 3 teachers, the Vice-Principal and the Principal of the Infant & Junior Division to discuss transition for individual pupils in order to prepare for their needs. In rare circumstances where a child's specific needs cannot be met, parents will be supported in finding a suitable alternative school.

Entry at the start of Year 3 is a key entry point for external candidates who are required to undertake an entrance assessment comprising papers in English, Mathematics, and Non-Verbal Reasoning. To gain entry, a pupil must perform well in these tests, showing above average ability, the capacity to cope with the pace and academic rigour of the Junior curriculum and a strong indication of subsequent ability to meet the entrance requirements for the Senior Division. A reference from the pupil's current school will be sought and offers are subject to a

strong school reference. All Junior pupils must meet the requirements for entry into the Senior Division as transfer to Year 7 is not automatic.

Admission to our Senior Division

King's Junior pupils are assessed for entry to the Senior Division during Year 5 and the Autumn Term of Year 6. Scores achieved in the moderated teacher assessments are collated and combined in order to offer our Juniors 'assessed places' for Year 7. All Year 6 pupils will undertake the 11+ examinations in Mathematics, English, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning in order to establish baseline data for the cohort. Any pupil joining King's Juniors later than the October half-term of Year 5 is normally required to sit the 11+ Entrance Examinations to gain entry to Year 7.

Admission to the Senior Division for external candidates is by Entrance Examinations, strong school reference and interview. The main Entrance Examinations take place in the January prior to the September of entry to Year 7. Entrance papers are set in Mathematics, English, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning. School references and interviews with the pupils and parents are also considered prior to any offers of places being made. We are part of the Greater Manchester Consortium of Schools and adhere to common offer and response dates (see website for details).

Academic scholarships are awarded following an outstanding performance in the 11+ Entrance Examination (as well as the internal assessments for King's Juniors). Music scholarships are offered following a music audition with the Director of Music. A limited number of places on the 'King's Elite Athlete Pathway' (KEAP) are offered following an appropriate sporting assessment with the Director of Sport and PE staff immediately following the 11+ Entrance Exam. Further places on the KEAP may be awarded following ongoing assessment during Year 7. All Scholarship Awards and places on KEAP come with clear expectations in terms of effort, attitude and participation.

Entry to King's Senior Division is normally at 11+, although we do accept pupils at other times, subject to availability of places. Entry at these age groups is by Entrance Examination (age appropriate papers), strong school reference and pupil interview. Academic ability is determined through performance in the Entrance Exam. For 13+ and 14+ applicants, entrance examinations include additional test papers in Science and a Foreign Language (from a choice of French, German or Spanish). The purpose of the interview is to determine whether the family share the school's ethos and aims and to determine that the child is well placed to play a full part in the life of the school. It is also an opportunity for prospective families to ask questions about the school.

More information on the examination papers, the syllabus covered and deadlines for applications can be found on the school's website. Assessment guidelines including sample past papers are sent out to families following receipt of a Registration Form.

Admission to our Sixth Form

Pupils wishing to join King's Sixth Form are required to meet an academic standard which is assessed by results at GCSE. Our current Year 11 pupils are offered places in Year 12 based on predicted grades and discussions between the pupil and Head of Year. Both internal and external pupils are required to achieve an average of grade 6 or higher across eight GCSE subjects, with a minimum of a grade 5 in both Maths and English Language. Most subjects to be studied at A Level recommend a grade 7 or above in that subject, and this is compulsory for Maths and Science subjects. In addition, subjects with a large mathematical content, such as Economics, require a minimum of grade 7 in Maths.

For external Sixth Form candidates, provisional offers are made subject to attainment of the grades specified, receipt of a strong school reference (indicating predicted grades) and interview with the Principal of the Sixth Form or other member of the Senior Management Team. For applicants wishing to study Art A Level, candidates will be asked to share a portfolio of their work with the Head of our Art Department.

Means-Tested Bursaries

King's offers Bursaries for applicants at 11+ entry (joining Year 7) and 16+ entry (joining Sixth Form). Bursary applications are means-tested and considered based on parental need, a pupil's academic ability and availability of funds. Families applying for bursaries are advised that applicants will need a strong academic performance in the entrance examination (for 11+ entry) or GCSEs (for Sixth Form entry) and be able to demonstrate a strong potential to make a positive contribution to the academic life of the School. Parental financial need will be assessed by an independent company, which undertakes a home visit on behalf of the School. All bursary awards are reviewed on an annual basis and levels of support may fluctuate in line with any significant changes in a family's financial circumstances.

The School's practice is only to allocate bursary funding on entry to the School. Our expectation is that parents who do not choose to apply for a bursary before their child joins the School will not require financial support during the pupil's career at the School. Temporary hardship assistance may be available only when there are wholly unforeseen changes in financial circumstances.

The Integrity of the Admissions Procedure

King's relies on the honesty of the information provided regarding the applicant by their parents/carers and their current school in the course of the application process. Where any such information proves to contain significant omissions, be false, or deliberately misleading, the School reserves the right to deny the applicant admission or, where a pupil has already entered School, to require that the parents/carers remove them immediately.

Regarding transfer of pupils from other independent schools, we aim to establish that parents have met all their obligations, including financial, to the child's current school prior to the completion of the transfer to King's.

The Offer of a Place

Offers of places to join King's will be made in writing to parents/carers. The School does not return candidate scripts or release scores gained on exam papers. School is not obliged to state its reasons for rejection of an applicant. Appeals against admissions decisions are not accepted. Any parent who wishes to complain about the admissions process should write to the Head of Foundation, stating the grounds of their complaint, within seven days of receipt of the admissions decision.

For year groups that are oversubscribed, candidates who meet our admissions requirements will be placed on a waiting list. Places will typically be offered to those with the highest academic profile and potential, but consideration will also be given to siblings in the School; to applicants with a particular skill, talent or aptitude; or to those whose parent is a member of staff.

Re-applying for entry

An applicant who fails to gain an offer of a place at the School is able to re-apply for admission no sooner than 12 months later. For example, an applicant who fails to gain a place to enter Year 3 could reapply for a place in Year 4, subject to the availability of places.

Author: Director of External Relations

Approved: Governing Body

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