DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

1. Dauntsey's is a co-educational independent school for pupils from ages 11 to 18. The school community is lively, creative and caring and has a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Prospective parents are informed about the ethos, aims and organisation of the school through the prospectus, the website: www.dauntseys.org and through a visit to Dauntsey's.

Visiting Dauntsey's

2. Prospective parents are most welcome to visit Dauntsey's and meet with the Head of Admissions, the Head Master and tour the school with pupils during a normal school day. Less formal visits are offered through Open Mornings, held twice yearly in May and October and smaller group tours which take place throughout the school year. Details of these can be found on the website: www.dauntseys.org.

3. Please contact the Admissions Team at: admissions@dauntseys.org or by phone on: +44 (0)1380 814506 to arrange a visit, or to book into a small group tour or an Open Morning.

Printed Information about Dauntsey's

4. A copy of our prospectus, 'Be', is available on request. Prospective parents may request a copy either via the website, by completing and submitting the on-line enquiry form, or by email: admissions@dauntseys.org or telephone, +44 (0)1380 814500.

Entry Procedure

5. The Head of Admissions supervises the admission procedure. If parents decide to place their child's name on the entry list, they must create an account in the Admissions portal, available via the website, and complete and return the Registration Form, accompanied by a non-refundable registration fee of £175. Receipt of the Registration Form and fee is acknowledged by email, and the child is placed on the entry lists. Parents are contacted at the appropriate time with details of the relevant entry procedure. We do request a copy of a child's passport (the ID page) upon registration.

6. Dauntsey's is selective on entry and the admissions process includes written and/or online assessments (depending on the entry point) and an interview. References and reports from current schools also form part of the selection process. We aim to identify pupils who will benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education, and who will in turn make a positive contribution to the life of our school community.

7. Points of entry are at First Form (Year 7), Third Form (Year 9), and Lower Sixth Form (Year 12). Entry to the Third Form (Year 9) is mainly restricted to boarding places, with a small number of day places available; day and boarding places are available at both 11+ entry and 16+ entry. Some boarding places may also be available at Second Form (Year 8) and Fourth Form (Year 10). Any queries concerning availability should be directed to the Head of Admissions.

8. Candidates for entry at 11+ need no specific preparation for the entrance tests. All candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude and extra-curricular skills. Candidates are invited to Dauntsey's in mid January of the year of entry to sit assessments in: English, Maths, and Verbal Reasoning. All candidates take part in interactive afternoon sessions and are interviewed by senior academic staff. All these activities contribute to holistic assessment of a child's suitability for entry.

9. Candidates for 13+ entry, who are at prep schools, are able to apply in either Year 6 or Year 7. They will take the Common Pre-Test either in the Autumn Term of their Year 6, or early in the Spring Term of their Year 7. These consist of on-line tests in: Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning, Maths and English. All applicants are interviewed at Dauntsey's during a "Taster Day", held in February (for those applying in Year 6) or early March (for those applying in Year 7). Places are offered at the end of the Spring Term of the pupil's Year 6 or Year 7 (depending on when they applied). Some children at prep schools take the Common Entrance at their current school in June of Year 8. Papers are marked and for those pupils who have accepted a place at Dauntsey's to start in Year 9, results are used for initial setting purposes.

10. Candidates not prepared for Common Entrance will take Dauntsey's own tests in English and Maths in the Spring Term of their Year 7 or, for "late place" applicants, during the late Autumn Term of their Year 8. Alternative dates for testing can be made by arrangement.

11. For entry at 16+, a report, references and predicted I/GCSE grades are requested from the applicant's current school. Following an interview, places are offered at the beginning of December in a pupil's Year 11. Entry requirements for the Sixth Form for external candidates are a minimum of six I/GCSE's, three at Level 7 and three at Level 6, with Level 7 or above expected for those subjects a candidate wishes to study at A Level (where appropriate). For those not taking I/GCSE's, candidates take two of a possible four of Dauntsey's own 16+ entry papers in; English, Maths, General Science or Humanities and have an interview, either in person, or via Teams with the Deputy Head, Academic.

12. Full details of all entry procedures are published on the school website together with specific applications dates for each school year.

13. The overall aim of the selection process is to identify potential. Dauntsey's has strong traditions in adventure, sport, music, drama, art, and community activities and our selection process seeks to identify well-rounded pupils with a genuine interest in all aspects of school life.

Equal Treatment

14. The School actively encourages applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible who will enrich our community and operates a bursary scheme to encourage those who would not normally be able to consider an independent education on financial grounds to apply to the School. Dauntsey's is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or social background.

Learning Support and Special Needs

15. Dauntsey's does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The school welcomes pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, providing that we can offer them the support that they require, 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 Head of Admissions before he/she sits the entrance exam so that we can advise on our learning support provision in the first instance and make adequate provision for the entrance examinations. Parents should provide to the Head of Admissions, a copy of an educational psychologist's report, as well as any additional information from a medical practitioner or specialist teacher. The School will

discuss thoroughly with parents (and their medical advisors if appropriate) the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the School.

Parents of children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or who are undergoing assessment for an EHCP, are asked to provide a copy of all relevant documentation, including the EHCP and the most recent professional reports, at the time of application. The School will review the documentation carefully to determine whether it is able to meet the pupil's educational, pastoral and welfare needs, with reasonable adjustments where appropriate.

As part of this process, the School may request further information, seek clarification from relevant professionals, and/or invite the pupil to attend an assessment visit.

Following this review, the School will advise parents whether it is able to provide suitable provision for the pupil's identified needs and therefore whether an offer of a place can be made.

Sibling Policy

17. Dauntsey's welcomes and encourages siblings. In most instances we will endeavour to offer a place to a sibling. However, admission is not automatic, and there may be occasions where the school judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

Scholarships and Awards

18. Scholarships are intended to reward excellence and to celebrate exceptional talent. In recognition of this achievement, the scholar is offered a non-means tested reduction in the fees of up to 10% for the duration of five years, provided that the conditions of the scholarship continue to be met satisfactorily. Scholarship terms and conditions are provided separately.

19. Dauntsey's offers scholarships at all main entry points and awards are only made to pupils who have been offered a place at Dauntsey's. Scholarships and awards have a maximum financial benefit of 10%. Music awards (exhibitions) may also offer free tuition in musical instrument(s). Details of the arrangements are available on the website. If required, additional funding may be available via a means-tested bursary. Full details of available awards are published on the School website and are summarised as follows:

- 11+ entry: Academic, Sport, Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Head Master's Award
- 13+ entry: Academic, Sport, Music, *Jolie Brise* All-Rounder Award, Head Master's Award for Art, Head Master's Award for Performing Arts (Drama and/or Dance)
- 16+ entry: Academic, Sport, Performing Arts, (Music, Drama, Dance), Boarding Awards

Boarding Awards for those who will contribute significantly to the boarding community may also be offered at all points of entry.

Bursaries

20. In addition to scholarships and other awards, Dauntsey's offers a range of means-tested bursaries for pupils at 11+ (First Form), 13+ (Third Form) and at 16+ (Lower Sixth). The Bursary Policy is available on the website, and the scheme is administered by the Bursar. These bursaries are offered to bright, deserving pupils who would benefit from a Dauntsey's education but whose parents or guardians cannot afford the full fees. All bursaries are means-tested and are subject to school funds being available. The award is reviewed annually for changes in parents' financial circumstances and may be adjusted as a result. Awards cover from 10% to 100% of the school fees, and the higher level of awards may also attract further support for essential educational costs.

    The application process differs depending on whether a family is applying for a 100% bursary, or whether they are in need of a partial bursary, however, all applications for a bursary must be made at the point of registering.

Overseas Applicants

21. We welcome overseas pupils to study at Dauntsey's as boarders. All applicants are required to take entrance assessments and have an interview. Arrangements for entry assessments and interviews to take place in convenient locations and/or online are made through the Admissions Team. Pupils with parents living overseas during term time must appoint a guardian and provide the school with details of the guardian as per the School's Terms and Conditions. For sponsored students, we strongly recommend using an AEGIS or BSA accredited guardian agency.

    Prior to making an offer to sponsored students, we will request copies of a candidate's birth certificate, passport and parents' passports.

Fluency in English

22. In order to cope with the high academic and social demands of Dauntsey's, pupils must be proficient English speakers. Ability in spoken and written English is judged through interview and an online assessment for those whose first language is not English. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) is provided and included in the international tuition fees.

Religious Beliefs

23. Dauntsey's School welcomes applications from prospective pupils of all faiths and of no faith. Although Dauntsey's has Christian roots, the school does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it offers the opportunity for all to practise their own faiths. However, parents should be aware that there is compulsory Saturday morning school and that all pupils are expected to attend services held at the School and conducted by our Chaplain.

Contractual Terms and Conditions

24. Copies of the detailed Terms and Conditions are available on request, and on the School website. Personal copies of the contractual Terms and Conditions are provided to all parents as part of the Admissions process and acceptance of a place at Dauntsey's requires parents or guardians to read, agree and sign the terms and conditions.

    Acceptance of a place at Dauntsey's requires all new pupils to complete a medical declaration form, prior to joining the School.

COMPLAINTS

The school hopes that parents and pupils do not have any complaints about our admissions process. However, any prospective parent who wishes to complain about any aspect of the admission process should in the first instance raise the matter with the Head of Admissions. Matters unresolved by the Head of Admissions may subsequently be raised with the Head Master whose decision in relation to a complaint about admissions will be final.

Helen Sullivan
Head of Admissions

Reviewed: September 2026
Next Review: September 2027