



Admissions Policy

This policy applies to all sections of RGS Prep, including EYFS. Please note that due to COVID-19, our admissions processes may need to be substantially adapted and prospective parents will be informed accordingly.

1. Aims

This document sets out the policy for admissions for pupils to RGS Prep in order to ensure that:

- all prospective parents and pupils are treated fairly, equally and consistently
- the policy for admissions is clear, transparent and accessible to all staff and prospective parents
- applicants are identified whose academic and other abilities appear to match the ethos and standards of the School and whose personal qualities suggest they have the potential to positively contribute to the school community and benefit from the many opportunities that are offered at RGS Prep.

2. Background

RGS Prep, Guildford is an independent school for boys aged from 3-11. We welcome pupils into every year, depending on availability of places and the assessment process. Our main points of entry are:

- Nursery (age 3+) – we accept an average of 16 pupils per year in Nursery
- Shell (age 4+) – we accept on average an additional 16 pupils in Shell
- Year 3 (age 7+) – we accept on average an additional 20 pupils in Year 3

3. Religious affiliation or designation

RGS Prep School's approach to worship respects the faiths of all members of the school community, whilst following the Christian calendar of events. As the Cathedral Choir School we have many close links with Guildford Cathedral.

4. Policy on equal treatment

RGS Prep encourages all its pupils to respect and serve other people regardless of ethnic origin, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, linguistic background, special educational need, religion or disability. The school condemns any form of prejudice or denial of equal opportunity in these areas. Those in a position of responsibility will seek to ensure that all pupils at RGS Prep benefit equally from its provision. To this end, the school is committed to:

- an admissions policy which makes no discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, disability or religion;
- the promotion of a culture within the school which actively discourages discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, gender and sexual orientation, disability or religion;
- providing a curriculum which emphasises positive aspects of, and contributions to, a healthy and tolerant lifestyle;
- within the constraints of existing buildings and location, ensuring that disabled members of the school community are not unreasonably disadvantaged;
- Addressing instances of discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, gender and sexual orientation, religion or disability and taking appropriate action.

5. Disabilities and Special Educational Needs

The School has regard for the guidelines as outlined in the revision to the SEND Code of Practice 2015, the Equality Act 2010 and the Childcare Act of 2006. It expects parents to inform the School, prior to the assessments, if their son has any Special Education Needs and give details of any assessments which may have been carried out, so appropriate arrangements may be made.

RGS Prep adopts an inclusive policy and students with Special Educational Needs are offered the opportunity to join the School if they satisfy the School's selection criteria. Parents may be asked to contribute to any special resources. Students with Special Educational Needs will have access to the whole school curriculum and be fully integrated into the school. Exceptional circumstances which may affect such access will be dealt with on an individual basis in consultation with the Head of Learning Support, Form Teacher, Deputy Head, parents and boy.

6. Fees

The fees are payable termly in advance, or monthly by direct debit, and include the cost of most stationery and textbooks, games and school societies, but exclude a small number of items, e.g. individual music tuition is provided at an extra charge.

The Governors reserve the right to review or alter fees at any time and at a term's notice.

Entry is competitive, but no parent who would like their son to come to RGS Prep should be deterred from applying for financial reasons as it is the policy of the School to make the education offered as widely available as possible.

Bursaries can be offered from Year 3.

Choral educational bursaries are available for Guildford Cathedral Choristers after they have successfully completed their probationary period. Voice trials for this take place in Year 2.

7. Admissions process

The aim of the Admissions Policy is to select pupils who will flourish in the particular academic environment the school provides and take full advantage of the opportunities available.

Any boy can apply provided he is living with his parents or legal guardian within reasonable daily travelling distance of the School.

The Admissions Policy is determined and administered by the Head on behalf of the Governors and the Head's decision on admissions matters is final. The School is not obliged to state its reasons for rejection of a candidate.

The admissions process is made up of three stages: registration, assessment and acceptance.

8. Registration

Before being considered for a place at the school, an applicant's parent or guardian must register him by completing the registration form and paying the non-refundable registration fee.

Parents can register their son at any time before the assessment date. All pupils who are registered by the assessment day will be considered in exactly the same way.

The School will hold and process information about candidates and their parents for the purpose of making decisions about the offer of a place for the pupil and for decisions about the award of bursaries and choral scholarships. See privacy notice for the management of this data.

9. Assessments

The School aims to provide a happy, purposeful environment for pupils and we try to demonstrate this on assessment days by putting candidates at their ease and making it as pleasant an experience as possible.

Assessment procedures for pupils joining the different year groups are detailed below, but there are a number of rules which are common to all:

- No entrance assessment may be taken more than once, but pupils who are not successful in one age category can apply again in future years provided the school has places available.
- Candidates who are living overseas or in other parts of the UK at the time of testing may choose to take the tests under normal examination conditions at their current school - provided the current school can provide the required invigilation conditions.
- Parents are asked for their son's most recent school report (if applicable) and their current school will be asked for an up-to-date summary of the pupil's achievements.
- Parents are asked to fill out a Parental Assessment Agreement form.
- The School does not look to provide assessment results to candidates' parents as these are not able to be contextualised, but the Head or Head of New Boy Assessment is able to discuss a candidate's performance.

Admissions into Nursery (age 3+)

Assessments for entry into the Nursery will take place in the January prior to starting. The pupils will be invited to attend a short session with Early Years staff. The pupils will be assessed in small groups of similarly-aged pupils. Places for the September will be offered by the end of February. Then entry into Shell will be conditional on successfully completing the year in the Nursery and being judged able to cope with the demands of the curriculum at Pre-Prep. These dates may be subject to change.

4+ (Shell)

Assessments for entry into Shell (Reception) will generally take place in the November prior to starting. The pupils and their parents will be invited to attend a short session with Pre-Prep Early Years staff. The pupils will be assessed in small groups of similarly aged pupils. Places will be offered by the end of December. These dates may be subject to change.

Admissions into Year 3 (age 7+)

The assessment for this age group is in two parts. In early November all pupils are invited to two assessment sessions. Attendance at both sessions is required. They will complete activities in sport, music and teamwork and assessments in English, maths and reasoning. Voice trials for Guildford Cathedral Choir are available on this day. These dates may be subject to change.

Places will be offered by the end of November of the calendar year prior to entry.

Admission into other year groups or at other times of the year

Candidates in appropriate age groups may be considered for places in other Year Groups at any time of the year if space allows.

Nursery to Year 2:

Pupils will be invited in to spend some time individually with a teacher who will assess their ability through age-appropriate tasks.

Year 3 and above:

Pupils will be given written tests in English, mathematics, non-verbal and verbal reasoning.

Food allergies

The school's caterers are very experienced at providing meals for children with food allergies and will be happy to discuss special requirements with parents in advance of the assessment day.

Candidates with disabilities

The school wishes to make itself as accessible as possible to pupils with disabilities within the constraints of access to buildings, etc, but it is important that the school is advised of the nature of any disability before the child comes to an assessment.

On the assessment day, a special assessment room can be set up if required.

Learning difficulties: Parents are asked to send in a copy of the most up-to date specialist's report before the day of the assessment. No extra time is available in the tests.

Physical disabilities of a temporary nature

If a candidate has an injury which temporarily prevents him writing (broken arm, etc), an amanuensis and/or computer can be provided or, if appropriate, the assessment day can be postponed.

Partially-sighted candidates

The School can provide appropriate adaptation if parent notify the school at registration.

10. Acceptance

Parents confirm acceptance of the place by returning a signed admission agreement and paying an admission deposit of £1275. The deposit is returned at the end of the boy's career at the School, but is not otherwise refundable.

11. Choral Educational Bursaries

These are available through Guildford Cathedral. Details are available from the Cathedral Music Secretary.

12. Bursaries

Means-tested bursaries, up to 100% remission of fees are available for pupils in Year 3 and above. These are administered by the Bursar and further information is available from the Bursar's Department at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. Bursary applications need to be completed before the assessment date.

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TFD/KR/KK