



SENIOR SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY

AIM

To clarify the principles guiding the admission of pupils.

1.1 ADMISSIONS

- 1.2 OLA considers for admission any pupil for whom it is able to provide an appropriate education. Although a Roman Catholic School, pupils of other Christian denominations and religions are warmly welcomed, as are pupils of none.
- 1.3 Pupils from Roman Catholic families, who already attend a Roman Catholic School, are given special consideration.
- 1.4 The main intake is at the age of 11, although pupils may be accepted into any year group where there are vacancies. Admission part-way through GCSE/IGCSE and A level courses is only possible in very exceptional circumstances.
- 1.5 Pupils are selected on the basis of their performance in an Entrance Examination and the Report received from their previous school. The examination for 11+ entry is held in January each year for admission the following September, but supplementary examinations are held as needed for late applicants and for places in other year groups if there are vacancies. If it is not possible to offer a place immediately, a pupil's name may be placed on a waiting list. Pupils intending to enter the school in Year 9 are encouraged to apply for deferred entry, taking the Entrance Examination when they are in Year 6 or 7.
- 1.6 OLA recognises the range of previous educational experiences of its applicants and takes this into account when offering places.
- 1.7 Students are warmly welcomed into the Sixth Form and admission is conditional upon achieving satisfactory GCSE/IGCSE grades, normally at least five passes at grades 5 and above, including grades 6 and above in the subjects to be studied at A level. Equivalent qualifications are accepted.
- 1.8 Scholarships and Bursaries are available and details of these are published separately.
- 1.9 OLA recognises the wish of many families for siblings to be educated together and it will therefore always offer places to younger brothers and sisters so long as it is able to provide for their needs.

2.1 TRANSFER TO OLA

- 2.2 This is in line with the Admissions Policy.
- 2.3 Parents/guardians of pupils seeking transfer to OLA must keep the pupil's existing school properly informed so that necessary records can be transferred. The School cannot accept a pupil if monies are still owing to the previous school.

3.1 EQUAL TREATMENT

- 3.2 Our aim is to encourage applications from candidates from a diverse a range of backgrounds. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Our Lady's Abingdon is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background and this commitment is carried through in our curriculum provision, our planning and our pastoral care.

OLA is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

4.1 **SPECIAL NEEDS**

- 4.2 Subject to our entry requirements being met, we welcome pupils with special educational needs or physical disabilities, providing that our learning support department can offer them the support that they require and provided that our site can cope with their needs.
- 4.3 However, we advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with us before they enter into the admissions process. This will enable the School to determine if their needs fall within the scope of the provision provided and also determine whether the nature of the School site can accommodate the needs of those children with physical difficulties. Where necessary, parents should provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report to support their application.

Reviewed: Michaelmas 2020