

# ADMISSIONS POLICY



Blundell's

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FOUNDED 1604

## BLUNDELL'S ADMISSIONS POLICY (11-18 YEARS)

Blundell's is a co-educational independent HMC school for pupils from ages 11 to 18. The school has approaching 600 pupils, about 35% of whom are Full/Weekly Boarders and about 30% Flexi-Boarders, with the remainder being Day students. We believe that a personal visit is invaluable and so we hope our website will encourage you to contact our Registrar to receive a prospectus and to arrange for a personalised tour. There really is only one way to fully appreciate the lovely grounds and excellent facilities, but also to understand the very happy and fulfilling all-round education being enjoyed by so many Blundellians today. We hold an Open Morning on a Saturday morning in early September each year, details of which can be found on our website under Admissions. Parents of registered pupils may also be invited to attend special Guest Mornings during the year.

### ENTRY PROCEDURE

Blundell's is an academically selective school. Selection is based upon academic merit, which is assessed through the relevant entry examinations, an interview at the school if it is possible and by references/reports from the candidate's previous school. Our selection process is designed to identify pupils who would benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education and who would make a positive contribution towards the life of the School. Entry to the school is subject to the subsequent Equal Treatment, Special Needs and Sibling policies.

#### Registration:

A Registration Form accompanies the prospectus or is available via our website [www.blundells.org](http://www.blundells.org); this requires a non-refundable fee of £100 (no fee for Blundell's Prep School transfers or Foundation Bursary applicants). All pupils taking entrance examinations, at any level, must be registered prior to the examination. This reserves a provisional place for your child, conditional on satisfying the entrance criteria, and enters their details on our database. Parents will then receive termly updates on events such as concerts, open days, plays, school matches and curriculum developments. This will obviously enable us to keep communication channels very much open and help to keep our records up to date with your intentions and changes of circumstances/address etc.

#### Acceptance:

Once a place has been formally offered, you will be asked to complete an Acceptance Form, Parent Contract, Medical Questionnaire and to forward a £500 deposit - £1,000 for pupils outside of the EU – Foundation Scholars are the only exemptions to the deposit. This deposit is refunded on completion of a child's education at Blundell's. The earlier this is received the more confident we can be of offering the first choice House and of avoiding any disappointment of places being unavailable.

The New Pupil Documents, Bursarial information and Parental Handbook will all be sent out in early July prior to a child's arrival.

**11+ Entry** • By the Blundell's Entry Tests in English, Mathematics and a New Group Reading Test NGRT. These are taken in January at Blundell's unless individual circumstances dictate otherwise. Late entrants can be tested separately by arrangement, dependent on places still being available.

**13+ Entry** • By the 13+ Common Entrance, which is taken in June at Preparatory Schools, or via the Scholarship programme in late January. Those not at Preparatory Schools take the Blundell's Entry Tests in English and Mathematics by arrangement.

**16+ Entry** • The minimum requirement for entry to the Sixth Form is 5 GCSE passes at grade 4 or above. We also prefer at least a 7-9 GCSE grade in any subject to be taken on to the full A Level. A report and references will be requested from the present school and, where possible, candidates will be interviewed at Blundell's. There are various scholarship options available.

## EQUAL TREATMENT

Our aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as is possible. This enriches the Blundell's community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. A generous system of bursaries is offered to make it possible for as many pupils as possible, who satisfy the school's admission criteria, to attend the school. Blundell's is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background. See **Scholarships, Exhibitions and Bursaries** for more information.

## SPECIAL NEEDS

Blundell's welcomes pupils with special educational requirements, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with physical disabilities provided that our site can cope with them. However, we advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their individual child's requirements with the school's Registrar before he or she takes an entrance examination, so that we can make adequate provision for him/her. Parents should provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report to support their request, for example for extra time or other special arrangements. We will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisors the adjustments that can reasonably be made for their child if he/she becomes a pupil at the school.

## SIBLING POLICY

Most siblings join us at Blundell's. However, 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. There is an automatic sibling discount of 7% remission of fees off the elder of two, 10% off the eldest and 7% off the second of three, however, the sibling discount does not apply to pupils on the local fee tariff (Years 9-13).

## SCHOLARSHIPS, EXHIBITIONS & BURSARIES

### The Ethos of Scholarship at Blundell's

Any great school should nurture academic performance through the encouragement of scholarship and scholarly example. At Blundell's there is a wide cross-section of discretionary awards aimed at encouraging balance, breadth of experience and a will to lead from the front through attaining the highest standards. Blundell's has generous **Foundation Bursary** arrangements (see questions below), which follow the precepts of Peter Blundell himself. Four hundred years after his passing, local students still go out from this school strengthened by the learning, which was an important part of our founder's vision. Whilst acknowledging that academic performance is of the greatest importance and all pupils must work towards high levels of achievement, Blundell's also offers a range of awards, which support sporting, artistic or musical achievement. Whilst at Blundell's the holders should be shining examples within their individual field. Finally, awards at 13+ and 16+ may be awarded to those who show excellence in several areas, including evidence of reasonable academic potential. Scholars and Award holders at Blundell's are expected to give a lead to their year group and their performance is reviewed regularly, with appropriate goals being set. There are specially

designed programmes to stimulate them and to encourage a wide vision, and scholars should demonstrate a lively interest in the events designed to stretch them. Energy and an enquiring mind are vital to the fulfilment of potential.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### In what areas are Awards offered?

We offer the following awards:

16+	13+	11+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Drama</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Sport</li> <li>• Foundation Bursaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Drama</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Sport</li> <li>• Foundation Bursaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Foundation Bursaries</li> </ul>

### At what age can a boy or girl sit for an Award?

Awards are made at the following stages in a child's education:

- **at 11+** for entry into School House (Junior Department); pupils are in Year 6 when they take the exam and must be under 12 on the 1st September
- **at 13+** for entry into the Senior School; pupils are in Year 8 when they take the exam and must be under 14 on the 1st September
- **at 16+** for entry into the Sixth Form; pupils are in Year 11 when they take the exam and must be under 17 on the 1st September

### Are there special terms for children whose parents are serving in H.M. Forces and Diplomatic Corps?

A Services Boarding Package is available; please contact the Registrar's Office for further details.

### Do Awards made at 11+ continue into the Senior School?

All awards continue into the Senior School, but pupils are subject to regular performance reviews throughout.

### Can a pupil who holds an Award try for one again at a later stage?

Candidates who win an award at 11+ can sit for one at 13+ to see if he or she can improve. If a higher standard is achieved, relative to their age, then a higher award can be made. However, the original award will not be lost if the reverse is true. This is also the case at 16+.

### Can internal candidates apply for a scholarship?

Pupils in Year 8 or Year 11 may apply to sit the scholarship examinations even if they failed to receive an award at an earlier stage. Current pupils are not automatically entered and must apply by the appropriate closing date.

### **What is the value of Awards?**

As an HMC School the maximum value of any award is 50% of fees, the exception being the means-tested Foundation Bursaries. There are three levels of awards:

- Major Scholarship – usually up to 30% (not at 11+)
- Scholarship up to 20% (not at 11+)
- Exhibition up to 10%

Music Scholars and Exhibitioners will also receive free tuition for up to two named instruments.

### **What is a Foundation Bursary?**

We are fortunate to be able to offer means tested Foundation Bursaries to successful Award applicants, whose parents need financial assistance to send their son or daughter to Blundell's. With these bursaries, the Governors wish to reflect the spirit of Peter Blundell's vision. Applications for any of the award categories must be accompanied by a notarised Statement of Financial Means Form (available from the Registrar's Office). If the candidate is successful and the Means Tested form endorses a level of support, funding from the Peter Blundell Foundation can top up any award to a maximum of 100% of the annual school fees. Bursaries are always offered for 12 months at a time. The family is required to provide fresh information about its circumstances for every year that their child attends the school.

### **Will Blundell's request a school report?**

On receipt of the scholarship application form, Blundell's will request a confidential report from the candidate's current school and this will form an important part of the assessment process.

### **Where do the exams or tests take place?**

All exams and tests are taken at Blundell's. When candidates live abroad it may be possible, given enough notice, to arrange for papers to be sat at the candidate's school.

### **Will my child be able to stay at Blundell's during the scholarship examinations?**

Candidates may stay in a boarding house overnight during the examination period.

### **Are sample papers available?**

Sample papers are available for 11+ and 13+ Scholarships from the Registrar's Office upon request.

### **How do candidates apply for an award?**

Please contact the Registrar's Office for the appropriate entry forms.

## **OVERSEAS STUDENTS**

Throughout its 400-year history Blundell's has provided for pupils from overseas. Improvements in travel and communication over the last two decades, has produced a wider range of International students than in the past and they usually make up about 14% of the total number of 600. Overseas students are fully integrated into the school and the boarding houses are always open at weekends, even on Leave Weekends. All overseas students require a UK based Guardian. Prospective students can expect to be tested in English and Mathematics before their entry and by interview if it is possible. Blundell's does not generally run a short-term study programme and expects overseas pupils to finish a complete course of study. However, some termly arrangements can sometimes be made, particularly in School House (11-13) when beds are available.

One of our greatest Old Blundellian benefactors, Sir Christopher Ondaatje OC, CBE, when opening the magnificently appointed Ondaatje Theatre, declared his wish that the building should symbolise international understanding and accord. We feel we are offering a truly international education whilst restricting numbers of students from each country so that the ethos of an English boarding school is enriched rather than diluted. Friendships quickly spring up between the English and International students at Blundell's, leading to greater understanding for all.

### **Fluency in English:**

To cope with the academic and social demands of Blundell's, pupils must have a good grounding in English. They will be required to take a Mathematics paper and an English paper before entry; these can be taken here or arrangements can be made for them to be taken at either their present school, or under supervision at the offices of their Educational Agency.

### **English as an Additional Language (EAL) Provision:**

Overseas students must be able to attend the most of a normal timetable with support from the EAL teachers. Blundell's has an experienced and full-time EAL Department, which can provide pupils with additional English tuition on an individual basis or in small groups. These lessons are an extra cost to parents.

### **Religious Beliefs:**

Although Blundell's has Christian roots, we do not select for entry based on religious belief, and we offer the opportunity for all to practise their own faiths. However, parents should be aware that there is compulsory morning Chapel (Monday – Friday).

## **SCHOOL HOURS**

During term time, pupils in Years 9-13 will have formal schooling on six days of the week (Monday to Saturday inclusive). Pupils are expected to fulfil all school obligations and commitments, including lessons on Saturday mornings and sports/activities on Saturday afternoons. Pupils in Years 7-8 will have formal schooling on five days of the week (Monday to Friday inclusive) with sports fixtures on a Saturday.

## **COMPLAINTS**

We sincerely hope that no just cause for complaints arise about our admissions process; however, a copy of the School's complaints procedure can be found on the website or can be sent to you on request.

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