



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

Marlborough College Admissions Policy

This Policy addresses ISI Regulatory Requirements (Effective Sept 2010) Part 6, para 24, sub-para 3(a).

The aim of our Admissions Procedure is to ensure that pupils who join the College are able to be happy, successful and secure within our academic, cultural and pastoral environment.

We are an academically selective school but we do not believe in selection upon academic criteria alone. Our co-educational boarding nature offers wonderful opportunities to young people but also makes certain demands: readiness to live as a boarder within a tight-knit community is key to prospects of success. We also recognise the central value of Art, Drama, Music, Service and Sport and look to encourage enthusiasm for these fields. We look for pupils who are prepared to make the most of the opportunities on offer at Marlborough.

We do not discriminate on grounds of race or creed: those looking to join Marlborough College must, however, be comfortable with the demands set by our Anglican foundation and character.

We seek to operate our Admissions procedures fairly and sensitively. We value historic and family connections with the College but are also keen to foster new associations and links.

Pupils and their parents must be prepared to work with us for the good of the school community. They should understand our rules and aspirations and be prepared to work with us in order to follow and achieve them.

Marlborough's longstanding liberal tradition has been reinforced by changes made in recent years to the admissions system.

Pupils are admitted to the College as a result of an Assessment that occurs in the Easter Term of Year 7. The prolonged doubt caused by long waiting lists and the acute disappointments caused by the reliance on Common Entrance as the determining factor for admittance necessitated the creation of another system. Full boarding is ideal for some children but it needs to be thought

about carefully, and sometimes parents do not consider this form of education until relatively late in the day.

It is important for the College that they should not be penalized for taking time to reach such an important decision, and so we do not accept any registrations earlier than four years before the intended date of entry. The current Admissions system was devised to encourage the diversity that is such a pronounced feature of a Marlborough education. We are looking for good all-rounders, and so extra-curricular contributions and character are considered as carefully as ability in the classroom.

The candidate's head's reference is very important in the decision making process. The academic part of this is confirmed by the online Independent Schools Examination Board Pre-Test, but this is worth only 10% of the Assessment and is generally of marginal significance. Two interviews take place at the College, and in these we are looking for potential and a willingness to engage in the life of a busy boarding school. Places are offered at the beginning of March and guarantee pupils a place in the College. We still ask pupils to undertake the Common Entrance exam in the following year in order to keep them on the boil and to help us with setting purposes. However, the exam does not decide whether a child gets into the school. We appreciate that some schools, particularly those overseas, may not prepare children for this exam and of course we make allowances for this.

The current Admissions system helps parents to plan ahead with greater certainty and it enables the College to cast a broader net in order to attract good pupils who will benefit from the great range of opportunities on offer and who will be willing to accept invitations to explore.

The College's Bursary policy has also helped to broaden access. Those who have a proven need for bursarial support will need to win an award, but an increased number of these have been made available in order to help those who would otherwise be unable to come. Details about Awards and the College's Bursary Policy can be seen elsewhere on the website.

For further information see:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Bursary Policy
- SENDA Policy

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Where found: College Website

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