



# ST BEES SCHOOL

## ADMISSIONS POLICY

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## **General**

St Bees School is a co-educational independent day and boarding school for pupils from ages 11 to 18. Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable.

We very much hope that you and your child will visit St Bees School. We hold a number of open events in the autumn term, which give a general introduction to the School. Details are published on our website. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times. Please contact the School's Admissions Officer to arrange a visit.

## **Entry Procedure**

St Bees School is a selective school but applicants with a wide range of talents and interests and abilities are welcomed. Our selection process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

The usual points of entry are at Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12. We admit up to 60 pupils in each year group.

Applicants for admission should normally register by December 1st of the year preceding the desired year of admission. The School's Registration Form is available on the School's website and from the Admissions Officer.

## **Overseas Applicants**

We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at St Bees School as a boarder. In order to cope with the academic and social demands of mainstream provision at St Bees School, pupils should be reasonably fluent English speakers, commensurate with their age. English proficiency will be assessed via entry test and interview. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) can be easily arranged (additional cost may apply).

## **Equal Treatment**

St Bees School's aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. A small number of bursaries are available to UK pupils in order to allow as many as possible who meet the School's admission criteria to attend the School.

St Bees School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or social background.

## **Special Educational Needs**

St Bees School does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, on the condition that we are able to offer them the necessary level of 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 School before he/she sits the entrance exam 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 if available.

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

### **Assessment Procedures**

The aim of the process is to identify potential. St Bees School is looking for well-rounded pupils with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, with interests that stretch beyond the confines of the academic curriculum. The School has strong traditions in music, drama, art, debating, community activities and sport. There are many co-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual and the expectation is that all pupils will participate fully with these.

No specific preparation for the entrance tests is needed. All candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude and extra-curricular skills.

Candidates for entry sit papers in English, Maths and Reasoning, designed for their age group, and will also undergo an interview with the Headmaster or nominee. In addition, candidates for entry at 16+ are required to present samples of their work in current subjects for discussion/review. Our offer of places into Year 12 is conditional upon a candidate achieving a minimum of number GCSE points, including acceptable grades in the subjects proposed for study in the Sixth Form.

The dates for the assessment process for the current year are published on our website, together with the dates that results are posted to families and the closing date for acceptances. We will offer places to candidates from our waiting list after the closing date for acceptances.

### **Sibling Policy**

St Bees School has a sibling preference policy and most siblings join us at St Bees School. However, admission is not guaranteed and there may be occasions where the School judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

### **Scholarships**

Scholarships are designed to reward excellence and to celebrate exceptional talent. Scholarships are awarded by the Headmaster on merit and are accompanied by specific obligations of the scholarship holder.

In recognition of this achievement, the scholar is offered a reduction in the fees throughout his/her time at St Bees School. In addition, music scholars are offered discounted tuition in musical instrument[s]. Parents are asked to indicate on the Registration Form whether they wish to apply for a scholarship. Details of the arrangements will be sent to all who express an interest.

We encourage parents of scholars who anticipate that they will experience difficulty in meeting the balance of the tuition fees to apply (at the same on registration of their child) for one of the School's means-tested bursaries described below.

Pupils who apply for a scholarship will be invited to visit the school for assessment and interview. Due to their highly prestigious nature, only a small number of scholarship awards will be made each year. Scholarships are contingent on high standards of behaviour, fulsome support for the aims and ethos of the school and the capacity of the award holder to act as an ambassador for the school in all that they do.

A scholarship may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions.

At the School's discretion, a boarding scholarship may also be offered to enable a pupil to fully develop their talents as a resident of the school community.

A pupil may hold more than one scholarship up to a maximum value of 25% of fees.

### **Academic Scholarships**

Candidates who apply for academic scholarships may be invited to sit a separate entrance exam or will be selected from the most outstanding performers in the entrance examinations.

Scholarships are held for the duration of a pupil's time at the School, provided his/her conduct is satisfactory. A small number of further scholarships may be offered to entrants to Year 12.

### **Creative Arts Scholarships**

Creative Art scholarships are awarded to outstanding applicants who excel in music, art or the performing arts. Applicants must obtain a specialist reference from their current Head of Department and a reference from their current Headteacher. Applicants will be required to demonstrate their aptitude through performance or portfolio. All scholars will be expected to demonstrate enthusiasm for and commitment to their specialism(s) and will be expected to make a strong contribution to the artistic life of the School throughout their time at the School.

Scholarships will only be awarded to pupils who have performed to a satisfactory standard in the School's entrance examinations and interview process.

### **Sports Scholarships**

Sports scholarships are awarded to outstanding, all-round sportsmen/women who have achieved a high level of competence in sport. Candidates will be assessed and interviewed and will be expected to demonstrate qualities of leadership and team play of a very high order. Candidates will be required to provide a specialist reference. They will be expected to make a strong contribution to the sporting life of the School throughout their time at the School.

Sports scholarships will only be awarded to pupils who have performed to a satisfactory standard in the School's entrance examinations and interview process.

### **Bursaries**

A Bursary is financial support given to pupils who would not otherwise be able to attend the school. The School offers a small number of means-tested awards to entrants at the usual points

of entry, where the parents have indicated on the Registration Form that they require financial support.

Bursaries are awarded on a first come, first served basis. Financial arrangements between parents and school MUST be kept confidential. Where an award is made, it is expressly agreed that the value will not be disclosed by parents to any third party. Failure to abide by this strict expectation forfeits eligibility for financial support with immediate effect.

Bursaries are means-tested in accordance with the criteria published on the School's website. Both parents are required to provide proof of their income and assets. The level of support varies according to parental need; but can extend to full fee remission in cases of proven need.

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. Levels of support may vary with fluctuations in income or wealth.

Bursaries are only offered to families who are resident in the UK.

The School's practice is to allocate its entire available bursary funding on entry. The School's expectation is that parents who do not choose to apply for a bursary at the time that their child is being assessed will not require financial support throughout the time that their child attends the School, except in wholly unforeseen circumstances.

Our Bursary Policy can be viewed on our website or can be obtained from the Admissions Officer.

A bursary may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions.

## **Religious Beliefs**

St Bees School welcomes applications from prospective pupils of all faiths and of no faith.

Although St Bees School has Christian roots, the School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it offers the opportunity for the practice of all faiths.

Chapel services will be held weekly and all pupils are expected to attend.

## **Terms & Conditions**

Copies of the School's Terms and Conditions are on the School's website and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

## **Complaints**

The School hopes that parents and pupils do not have any complaints about the School's admissions process; but copies of the School's Complaints Procedure are available upon request.