



ST BEES SCHOOL  
WHERE WEST MEETS EAST

# ADMISSIONS POLICY – INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES 2021 - 2022

Author: Head of Marketing and Admissions

Review by: Assistant Head

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## GENERAL

St Bees School is a co-educational independent day and boarding school for students 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 Head of Marketing and Admissions to arrange a visit.

## ENTRY PROCEDURE

St Bees School caters for those with potential – be it academic, creative, sporting, performance, etc. Applicants with a wide range of talents, interests and abilities are welcomed. Our selection process is designed to identify students who are able to benefit from our unique Fusion Curriculum and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

The usual points of entry are at Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 12. We also offer a Pre-A Level course for international students wishing to enhance their English prior to the commencement of the public examination courses. The School's Registration Form is available on the School website and from the Head of Marketing and Admissions.

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

We welcome international students, who can study at St Bees School as boarders. Students should be reasonably fluent English speakers, commensurate with their age. English proficiency will be assessed via reports, entrance assessments and an interview. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) can be easily arranged (additional costs 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 students for today's world. A small number of bursaries are available to UK students in order to allow as many as possible who meet the School's admission criteria to attend the School. The maximum bursary available will be 50%, based on a means tested evaluation. St Bees School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, or social background.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

St Bees School does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The School welcomes students with disabilities and/or special educational needs, provided we are able 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



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can make adequate provision for him/her. Alongside the Registration Form, Parents should provide a copy of an educational psychologist's report or a medical report if they have one for the child.

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 student at the School.

## ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

The aim of the process is to identify potential. St Bees School is looking for well-rounded students 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 a unique Fusion concept – merging the academic rigor of a British curriculum, alongside Western character traits such as teamwork and leadership with the hard work, depth and determination of the East. There are many co-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual and the expectation is that all students will participate fully with these.

Entrance assessments are given during the Admissions process – in English and Maths. All prospective students are also asked to attend an interview with the Headmaster and Head of Marketing and Admissions. The interview involves a series of informal questions to assess character.

Candidates applying for scholarships are required to present additional samples of their work in relevant subjects for discussion/review.

Our offer of places into Year 12 is conditional upon a candidate achieving a minimum of Grade 5 in 5 (I)GCSE subjects, including both English Language and Mathematics, as well as at least Grade 6 in the subjects proposed for study in the Sixth Form.

Applications to St Bees are rolling, but the bursary opportunities are limited and awarded on a first come, first serve basis. We ask successful applicants to return their acceptance forms within a set time frame, with a maximum of a two week decision period. If the offer is not accepted or replied to, we will offer the place to candidates from our waiting list.



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## 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. Siblings receive an additional 10% discount.

## 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. Parents are asked to indicate on the Registration Form or within a covering letter whether they wish to apply for a scholarship. Details of the arrangements will be sent to all who express an interest.

Students who apply for a scholarship will be invited to visit the school for 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.

A student can only be awarded one scholarship. There may be occasions when a student on a bursary has also been awarded a scholarship. The combined total will not exceed 50%.

The scholarship also applies to boarding costs if the student is a boarding student.

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Candidates who apply for academic scholarships may be invited to sit a separate exam or will be asked to submit academic reports from their previous or current school. Scholarships are held for the duration of a student's time at the School, provided his/her conduct is satisfactory.

Entry Requirements:

- Outstanding results or predicted results in current academic stage
- Submission of a 500-word essay answering the question, "Is it better to be smart, academic, or smart in regards to appearance?"
- Interview with the Headmaster or nominee



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## CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Creative Art scholarships are awarded to outstanding applicants who excel in Music, Art or the Performing Arts.

Entry Requirements:

- Applicants must obtain a specialist reference from their current Head of Department and a reference from their current Headmaster.
- 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.

## SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Sports scholarships are awarded to outstanding, all-round sportsmen/women who have achieved a high level of competence in sport.

Entry Requirements:

- An interview with the Headmaster or nominee whereby candidates 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 from their current Head of Sport and a reference from their current Headmaster.
- They will need to show evidence of participating in sport outside of school life; ideally at a high level.
- They will be expected to make a strong contribution to the sporting life of the School throughout their time at the School.

## ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

Engineering scholarships are awarded to outstanding, engineers – those with a passion for STEM, specifically with a focus on robotics, coding and forward-thinking engineering.

Entry Requirements:

- An interview with the Headmaster or nominee whereby candidates will be expected to demonstrate their current engineering passions, through any appropriate means.
- Candidates will be required to provide a specialist reference from their current Headmaster.
- They will need to show evidence of participating in outside events with a STEM focus.
- They will be expected to lead our Lego League Team and become an ambassador for STEM across St Bees as a whole.



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## THE FULL CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIP

St Bees School lies under the watchful eye of Full Circle Education Group, an educational consultancy that embodies the true spirit of St Bees – hard work, determination and ambition. This scholarship is awarded to only one student each year – and is the most coveted scholarship available. With an unprecedented value of 30%, it is available to UK and international students.

Entry Requirements:

- An interview with Danny Wang, director of Full Circle Education Group, assessing the key character traits of St Bees.
- An additional interview with the Headmaster or nominee.
- A reference from their current Headmaster.
- Proof of academic excellence as well as character (EQ) excellence.
- A 500-word essay answering the question of, "What is bravery?"

## BURSARIES

A Bursary is financial support given to students 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.

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 up to 50% 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 offered to families who are resident in the UK or abroad. 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. 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 students 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.



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## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Copies of the School's Terms and Conditions are available to parents upon request.

## COMPLAINTS

The School's Complaints Procedure is on the School's website and can be sent to prospective parents on request. The Complaints Procedure is not available for use by prospective parents.

## RECORDS AND REVIEW

Applicants' details will be held on file with due regard to data protection legislation and the School's Privacy Notice.

The School will not hold the personal data of you or your child for longer than is necessary for a lawful purpose. This will generally be no more than 6 months following an unsuccessful application, but reasons to retain for longer might include: if the parents express an interest in the candidate re-applying for any reason at a later date, or in the potential candidacy of another sibling; or to deal with any ongoing matters or queries arising from the application.