SHERBORNE BOYS

Admissions Policy

Approving body: Education Committee
Owner: Director of External Affairs SSG
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Executive Summary

This document is for staff and the parents of prospective pupils. It details the School's policy on the admission of pupils to Sherborne Boys. This document covers the admissions procedure, along with the guiding principles the School follows in its selection of pupils.

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Introduction

Sherborne Boys is a selective school educating boys aged from 13 to 18. It selects its pupils on the basis of their academic aptitude and their ability to benefit from and contribute to the co-curricular and pastoral opportunities offered by the School.

Our testing and selection processes are designed to indicate whether candidates possess the academic potential to enable them to proceed in due course to Higher Education. After leaving Sherborne Boys, most of our pupils will embark upon competitive university courses in the UK or overseas. We welcome pupils with wide-ranging interests and talents who are prepared to participate in the broader life of the School and who have the emotional maturity and positive values that will allow them to flourish within the Sherborne Boys environment.

Third Form (Year 9) Entry

Prospective pupils are assessed for suitability for Third Form (Year 9) in the Lent Term of either Year 6 or Year 7. They will sit the School's online Assessments which have been designed in partnership with Quest and covers English, Maths and cognitive ability. This test will be sat in the Michaelmas Term, usually at their current school, followed by our Assessment Day at the beginning of the Lent Term, which involves them spending half a day at the School. Our assessments include an academic interview, a classroom based task and participation in a group task. Due account is also taken of the reference provided by the prospective pupil's current school. Assessment Day dates are published in advance on our website and may also be obtained by contacting the Admissions Department.

While the majority of our places are likely to be awarded in Year 6 and 7, a few places will be held back for late entrants applying in Year 8.

Sherborne Pathway

Pupils enrolled at Sherborne Prep may be offered progression to Sherborne Boys through the Sherborne 3-18 Pathway without the need to complete the additional assessments required of external applicants. This recognises the School's confidence in the Prep schools' ongoing assessment of pupils' academic ability, character and readiness for senior school.

Sixth Form (Year 12) Entry

Academic suitability for entrance to the Sixth Form (Year 12) is assessed via an online cognitive test; a General Paper; one or two interviews; a school reference; and predicted GCSE grades (where applicable). The General Paper comprises several sections including a range of questions that reflect our broad subject provision. Applicants select which questions to answer according to their preferred A Level or BTEC subjects. Pupils already in the School normally continue into the Sixth Form, subject to them having performed well up to that point and satisfying the GCSE entry requirements as set out in the School Policy on Academic Progression and Sixth Form prospectus (typically an A or A* grade (grade 7, 8 or 9) in the subjects chosen for A level study and an overall GCSE average of at least a C grade (grade 4).

Entry for Applicants based Overseas

For applicants who are not resident in the UK, arrangements can be made to complete the relevant assessments and interviews remotely.

Applicants for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL) will be assessed for their ability to use English as the medium of instruction. All Third Form applicants will be assessed through our normal entrance procedures according to the year they are in at application and will also be asked to complete an English as Additional Language paper written by the School. UKiset papers are also accepted. Typically, the tests will be organised in the applicant's own country. If an applicant has taken the UKiset tests prior to registering with the School, the results he obtained should be provided to Sherborne Boys upon registration. Applicants for 16+ will be assessed via online cognitive tests; one or two interviews; a school reference and an English as Additional Language paper written by the School.

Other year groups

Admission to year groups other than Third Form (Year 9) or the Sixth Form (Year 12) is dependent upon availability of places in the relevant year group and is assessed via online cognitive tests appropriate to the age of the prospective pupil; interview; and school references.

The School asks parents and previous schools to disclose any relevant information in respect of a prospective pupil at the time of registration. In assessing any pupil or prospective pupil the school may take such advice and require such assessments as it regards as appropriate. Subject to this, the School will be sensitive to any requests for confidentiality.

Any offer of a place at Sherborne Boys is at the Headmaster's discretion whose decision is final.

Scholarships

In order to encourage a strong academic ethos among all its pupils, Sherborne Boys offers a number of academic Scholarships for entry at age 13 (Third Form) and 16 (Sixth Form), awarded solely on academic ability. Sports and Music awards are also available at age 13 (Third Form) and 16 (Sixth Form); and Art, Drama and Design-Technology awards at age 13 (Third Form).

Bursaries

In order to reduce financial barriers to admission, the School provides a number of means-tested bursaries. Parents are informed of the Bursary process when their son is offered a place at the School, and they are invited to complete an application for bursarial support via a secure portal, administered by BAA, in the Michaelmas term for the following academic year.

Bursaries are means-tested in accordance with the Bursary Award Policy 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. Awards are reviewed annually with the family being asked to provide fresh information about their current financial circumstances. Bursary awards will be adjusted to reflect any changes. The School's expectation is that parents who do not choose to apply for a bursary at the relevant time will not require financial support throughout the time that their son attends the School, except in wholly unforeseen circumstances.

Overseas Applicants

Sherborne Boys warmly welcome pupils from overseas and holds the appropriate UKVI sponsorship licence to support student and child student visa applications. The School works with an external visa advisory service, Sable Education Ltd, and will advise if your son requires a visa in plenty of time prior to entry to the School, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their son holds a valid visa before arrival.

All overseas pupils whose parents are resident abroad must have an appointed Education Guardian in the UK who is a British Citizen or has 'settled status' to remain in UK, be over 25 years old, not in secondary education, and living within reasonable travelling distance (no more than 2.5 hours away). The guardian is responsible for the pupil's welfare, including travel arrangements, accommodation during exeats and holidays, and representing parents when required. Where the guardian is not a close relative or family friend, the appointment must be made through a reputable guardianship organisation accredited by the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) or the Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students (AEGIS). The appointment of a guardian is the parents' responsibility, and the School is unable to make recommendations in this regard.

Principles of Selection

In applying criteria for selection, the School intends to maintain and, if possible, to improve the educational and general standards for all its pupils commensurate with the ethos to which the School aspires. The School must also feel reasonably sure that it will be able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his potential and in line with the general standards achieved by his peers, so that there is every chance that he will have a complete, happy and successful school career. These criteria must continue to be met throughout his time at the School.

Sherborne Boys is committed to providing equal opportunities to pupils. All applicants are treated equally regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and background.

Further details are available in our Equal Opportunities Policy for Pupils.

Special Educational Needs

Sherborne Boys welcomes applicants with special educational needs, provided their individual learning needs can be supported by the School's Learning Support Department to enable them to access the curriculum and flourish.

Parents are asked to provide a copy of an educational psychologist's report or relevant medical documentation, where appropriate, as part of the admissions process.

The School will work closely with parents – and, where necessary, medical or educational professionals – to discuss any reasonable adjustments that can be made to support the pupil's successful integration into school life.

Equal Treatment

Sherborne Boys is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of an applicant's race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or social background. The School's Equal Opportunities Policy for Pupils and the Group's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy are available on request from the Policies, Inspection and Strategy Coordinator: policies@sherborneschools.group or by contacting the Bursary via our website.

Supporting documents which inform this policy

This policy has been written with consideration of the following documents:

- SSG 3-18 Pathway Admissions Policy
- SSG Bursary Award Policy
- SSG Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy
- SSG Education Guardianship Policy
- SB Equal Opportunities Policy for Pupils

To request a copy of any of the documents listed above please contact the Policies, Inspection and Strategy Coordinator: policies@sherborneschools.group

Appendix 1: Summary of Changes in Issue 5.2

- Assessment procedures updated.
- External visa advisory service updated.

Changes in Issue 5.3.

- Section on 'Sherborne Pathway' included.
- Policy references updated.