



Ackworth School

Admissions Policy

This policy applies to all sections of Ackworth School including the Senior School, the Junior School Coram House, and the Early Years Foundation stage.

Introduction

1. This Policy has been authorised by the School Committee (Governing Body), of Ackworth School. It is addressed to prospective parents and students and to all members of the teaching and administration staff

Policy Statement

2. Ackworth is a Quaker co-educational, independent boarding and day school for pupils from ages 2½ to 18. The school has approximately 530 pupils, 120 of whom are boarders. 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 Ackworth School. We hold two Open Mornings, one in the Autumn term and one in the Spring term, which give a general introduction to the school. Details are published on our web site. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times for a personal visit. Please contact, our Admissions Secretary, Rebecca Stephenson, on 01977 611401 or email on Admissions@ackworthschool.com to arrange a visit.

The Policy:

3. The **aims** of this policy are:
- To ensure compliance with the School's charitable purposes, Ackworth is a school with the ethos of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and is a selective school for pupils aged 2½-18.
 - To identify and admit children who will benefit from an academic education and who will contribute to and benefit from the ethos and activities of our school community. We will only admit a child who has met the relevant criteria.

4. We welcome children from many different ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds. Human rights and freedoms are respected, but must be balanced by the lawful needs and rules of our school community and the rights and freedoms of others. All prospective pupils for admission will be treated equally, irrespective of their, or their parents' race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, orientation, property, birth, gender re-assignment, pregnancy, maternity or other status.

5. We expect all of our pupils to attend daily Meeting for Worship which is fundamental to our ethos.

6. We welcome those with disabilities and will do all we can that is reasonable to ensure that all aspects of our Schools' educational experience are made accessible to children with disabilities. The nature of our buildings, which are historic and on several floors, currently places limitations on access. When a disability or special educational need is made known to us, we will consult with parents and make reasonable adjustments to our admissions procedure and arrangements to enable a child, if she/he is able, to satisfy our admission requirements.

The Entry Procedure

7. Ackworth School is an academically selective school for pupils of average ability or above. Selection is based upon academic merit which is assessed through entry assessment tests or entrance examination, and references from the pupil's previous school will be required. 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.

8. Coram House Nursery admits children between the age of 2½ and 4 subject to availability. The usual points of entry into the Junior School, Coram House, are at 4+ years of age/Reception and at 7 years of age /Year 3. Coram House Nursery admits children between the ages of 2½ and 4 subject to availability. The usual points of entry into the Senior School are at 11+/Year 7, and 16+/Year 12. However, we do admit pupils into all year groups depending upon availability of places, throughout the year. Please contact the Admissions Secretary for further details.

Summary of the Entry Procedure

9. Our aim for all pupils admitted is summarised thus:

‘Ackworth School's purpose is to create a happy and secure environment in which all pupils realise and develop their own special abilities in constant awareness of the needs and claims of others’

10. Ackworth School admits pupils of average ability and above.

11. a. Children in Nursery and Reception are offered places subject to a ‘taster session’ which usually lasts over an hour during which the children’s social skills and readiness for learning is informally assessed.

b. Prospective pupils below the age of 7 are offered places following a taster day during which informal assessments are carried out.

c. Prospective pupils aged 7 and over are required to sit the school's entrance test and to reach the required standard.

d. The standard required for studying A levels is a significant step up from that of GCSE. For this reason, the normal entry requirement for the Sixth Form is 3 ‘B’ grades and 2 ‘C’ grades or the international equivalent. ‘B’ grades would be expected in the subjects a pupil wishes to study to A2 level. Each student is considered on an individual basis taking account of their abilities and their career aspirations. Progression from the Lower to the Upper Sixth is dependent on a minimum of three pass grades at AS level in the subjects to be taken to A2 level.

12. A confidential reference will be requested from the pupil's current school or nursery setting and possibly from previous schools. Pupils may be interviewed by the Head or other senior staff.

13. Parents are required to inform us of any special needs which may require consideration during the entrance procedure or in educational provision should their son/daughter be offered a place.

14. Places will be offered on the basis of the information produced during this entrance procedure, taking into account the child's past performance and current potential and Ackworth School's ability to realise that potential.

15. As a Quaker School with a strong commitment to the family, wherever possible and in keeping with the school's academic standards, preference may be given to siblings of pupils already in the school and those transferring from one part of the school to the next.

16. When entry into a given year is oversubscribed the School will take into account performance in entry tests, references and suitability to the School. If we have to decide between two or more prospective pupils who meet our admission requirements after all appropriate allowances and special consideration has been given, we will give preference to children of Members and/or Attenders of the Religious Society of Friends.

17. When entry into the Nursery or Reception years is oversubscribed and all the entrance criteria have been met, preference will be given to pupils with older siblings already in the School and to the date when registration took place.

Equal Opportunities

18. Equality is one of the Quaker testimonies. Therefore our 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. Bursaries are offered in order to make it possible for as many as possible who meet the school's admission criteria to attend the School.

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

Special Educational Needs

20. We do not discriminate in any way regarding entry. We welcome pupils with special educational needs, 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 the specific need. However, we advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with Ackworth

School before he or she sits the entrance exam so that we can assess the specific needs and evaluate whether we are able to provide 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 advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the School.

The Assessment Process

21. The aim of the process is to identify potential. We are 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, sport and community service. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

22. No specific preparation for the entrance tests is needed, all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude.

23. Assessment for Reception and Nursery is based on observing informal play in small groups.

24. Our admission procedure for the Junior School involves an assessment/taster day, a report from the pupil's current school or Nursery setting and any other relevant reports, including disability assessments if applicable

25. All candidates for entry into the Senior School, (below 16+) sit papers in English, Maths and Non Verbal Reasoning, which are designed for their age group.

26. Candidates for entry at 16+ sit papers in the subjects that they propose to study at AS and A2 Our offer of places into Year 12 is conditional upon a candidate achieving a minimum of 3 'B' grades and 2 'C' grades at GCSE or the international equivalent. 'B' grades would be expected in the subjects a pupil wishes to study to AS and A2 level.

27. We may interview candidates as part of our assessment process for each age group (apart from Reception).

28. The dates for the assessment process for the current year are published on our web site, 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, and throughout the year, subject to availability, should a need arise.

Sibling Policy

29. Most siblings join us at Ackworth School. 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.

International Students

30. We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at Ackworth as a boarder provided that he/she has a relative or legal guardian living in the UK. However, parents of overseas pupils should appreciate that Ackworth School runs a number of different study programmes for international students.

31. The International Centre offers a range of exams from Cambridge ESOL qualification exams (KET, PET, BEC, FCE) to Cambridge IELTS. It provides an education that prepares international students for entry into the Sixth Form, including a pre-A Level IGCSE in Maths, an introduction to academic subjects which include Business Studies, Science, Information Technology (IT), History, Home Economics and Design Technology as well as academic support for these subjects.

32. The International Centre also offers a one year GCSE programme. All International Students wishing to enter this programme must have an IELTS score of 4.5 or above.

33. Students wishing to enter Ackworth School's International Centre will be required to sit a test in English and Maths. The test must be conducted under strict examination conditions either at their current school or at an agent's office. We appreciate that it is not always possible to visit the school for an interview. In these circumstances we may use SKYPE or other such means to interview the student.

International Students Entering the Sixth Form

34. All International Students wishing to enter the Sixth Form in Year 12 to study AS/A2 must have an IELTS score of 5.5 or above. All International Students wishing to enter the Sixth Form must be able to speak and understand the English language. They will be required to sit a test in English and Maths. The test must be conducted under strict examination conditions either at their current school or at an agent's office. We appreciate that it is not always possible to visit the school for an interview. In these circumstances we may use SKYPE or other such means to interview the student.

35. All International Students who reside outside the EU will require a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance) from Ackworth to be able to apply for their visa to study on the UK for the given period of their course.

Fluency in English

36. In order to cope with the high academic and social demands of Ackworth, pupils entering into GCSE and AS/A2 programmes of study must be proficient English speakers. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) can be arranged at the parent's expense.

Religious Beliefs

37. Ackworth School is a Quaker School, founded by the Society of Friends. Although Ackworth has very strong Christian roots, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and we encourage applications from those of different faiths and those of no faith.

Taster Days

38. Prospective students can take advantage of a Taster Day in the Junior School, Coram House, or Senior School, or a 'Play Session' in the Nursery and Reception. These are specially designed to help students make an informed decision about the school. A Taster Day allows individuals to 'experience' Ackworth, participate in lessons and get a real feel for the school community. If the student is planning to become a boarder, an overnight stay in the boarding house appropriate to their gender may be possible.

Prospective Student's Age

39. Very occasionally, we may offer a place to a student that means they will be one year ahead or behind their standard year group, if we consider that, as a matter of professional judgement, this would be in the best interest of the student and the School.

Special Circumstances

40. We recognise that a prospective pupil's performance may be affected by particular circumstances, for example

- If he/she is unwell when taking tests or has had a lengthy absence from his/her school;
- If there are particular family circumstances such as a recent bereavement;
- If there is a relevant educational history, for example education outside the British system;
- If the prospective pupil has a disability or specific learning difficulties;
- If English is not the prospective pupil's first language.

In any of these cases, we may request further information such as a medical certificate or educational psychologist's report and any associated correspondence or details from the pupil's current school (including samples of work) or any family history of dyslexia, as we consider necessary to make a fair assessment. In the case of ESOL pupils, a test will be sent to the applicant in advance and this will be marked in School by the ESOL staff, who will be able to assess the correct level of ESOL support required.

Disclosures

41. Parents must as soon as possible disclose any particular known or suspected circumstances relating to their child's health, allergies, disabilities or learning difficulties.

School's Contractual Terms and Conditions

42. Copies are on the School's web site and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

Complaints

43. We hope that you and your child do not have any complaints about our admissions process; but a copy of the School's complaint procedure can be found on the School website or a copy can be sent to you upon request.