



SHERBORNE

## Admissions Policy

Sherborne School 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, most of our boys will embark upon competitive university courses in the UK or overseas. We also seek 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 environment.

Prospective pupils are assessed for suitability for Third Form (Year 9) entry in the Lent Term of Year 7. The Assessment Day involves them spending a day at the School undertaking online cognitive tests; producing a piece of written English; and participating in an interview and group task. Due account is also taken of the reference provided by the prospective pupil's current school. Assessment Day dates are published well in advance on our website and may be obtained by contacting the Admissions Department.

Academic suitability for entrance to the Sixth Form is assessed via online cognitive tests; one or more interviews; a school reference; and predicted GCSE grades (where applicable). 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 grade or grade 7 in the subjects chosen for A level study and an overall GCSE average of at least a C grade/grade 4).

Admission at other times is dependent upon availability of places in the relevant year group and is assessed via online cognitive tests; interview; and school references appropriate to the age of the prospective pupil.

In order to encourage a strong academic ethos among all its pupils, Sherborne 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). The School may also make an All-Round award to a Third Form entrant at their discretion.

In order to reduce financial barriers to admission, the School provides a number of means-tested bursaries which typically support between 50 and 60 pupils in the School at any one time. The criteria for the award of bursaries are outlined in the [Bursary Policy](#).

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 School is at the Headmaster's discretion whose decision is final.

### **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 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](#).

V Hicks  
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