

ADMISSIONS POLICY

As a Catholic foundation, with an ecumenical outlook, St Gerard's aims to serve a wide community within its catchment area.

The school aims to offer its pupils a learning environment which is based upon careful teaching in small groups, backed by close monitoring and ready support.

The school will normally admit

- up to 18 pupils at age 4, without reference to ability or aptitude
- up to 40 students at age 11+ per year group, subject to performance in the school's Entrance Assessment and/or in Key Stage 2 SATs.
- up to 25 students at age 16+ per year group, subject to their achievements at GCSE and their proposed courses of study.

The Entrance Assessment takes place in the year preceding entry and consists of papers in English and maths which mirror end of Key Stage 2 tests.

Account will also be taken of other factors when offering a place in Year 7. These include consideration of

- pupils from our own junior school
- siblings and children of serving members of staff
- children from a Christian background

Entry into years other than the reception class and Year 7 will depend upon the availability of places in those year groups.

In all cases, as far as possible, parents and entrant should be interviewed and the entrant assessed by our staff either by specific test or by observation on a day's visit by the entrant to the school prior to admission.

Parents are expected to provide full disclosure of pertinent information and documentation relevant to an entrant's academic and medical history [reports etc.].

Over-subscription

In any year in which the entry for Year 7 is particularly pressured, the school will first of all endeavour to respond to the demand for places by considering form entry. This will also preserve the school's small-class ethos. Such a remedy will also be considered in the junior school.

If such an option is unavailable, then the following criteria will apply in order:

- [for senior school] pupils already attending the junior school
- siblings
- children of serving members of staff
- children from a Christian background
- children from other backgrounds.

[Please note: if bursarial help is required, the offer of a place is contingent upon this being available.]

In the event of there being two or more prospective entrants for the last available place in a year, if there has been an entrance assessment, then the better performance will gain the place, assuming none of the above criteria apply.

In the event of the establishment of a waiting list, the above criteria will obtain.