



Admissions Policy for day places from September 2024 onwards

St George's School, Harpenden Academy Trust (St George's School), founded in 1907, was one of the first co-educational day and boarding schools in the country. The aims of the School's Admissions Policy and Criteria reflect the Governors' intention to respect its original foundation and the wishes of its founder, the Reverend Cecil Grant, an Anglican Priest. When St George's School became a Voluntary Aided School in 1967, an essential part of the agreement with Hertfordshire County Council and the then Department of Education was to maintain the aims, the ethos of the School and its Christian character. St George's School changed its status to an Academy Trust in July 2012.

St George's School is a multi-denominational Christian foundation. It is not a church school and it is not supported financially by any Christian body, such as the Anglican or Catholic Dioceses or the Free Churches. All staff appointed to the school are required to support the Christian Foundation and many with their families are active members of both the School Chapel and local churches. Pupils and children of staff of the school can be baptised and confirmed in the school Chapel. Members of staff and former pupils who have maintained an active contact with the Chapel can also be married under Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Marriage Licence.

St George's School is the only multi-denominational maintained school with a Christian foundation in the Harpenden area. The school's priority areas are the civil parish of Ayot St Lawrence, Flamstead, Harpenden, Harpenden Rural, Kimpton, Kings Walden, Markyate, Redbourn, St Paul's Walden and Wheathampstead. The school welcomes children from a wide church membership and has strong links with local churches (for example, the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, United Reform, Baptist, Salvation Army, Free and Evangelical congregations) in the civil parishes listed. The Governors are responsible for the RE syllabus, which for all years is largely based on the study of Christianity. All pupils are entered for the GCSE in Religious Studies at the end of KS4.

Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 requires the governing bodies of all maintained schools to admit a child an EHC (Education, Health and Care) Plan that names the school. Furthermore, children looked after or previously looked after have the highest priority in the admissions criteria and need not complete a supplementary information form.

St George's School has some day pupils from other faiths and non-Christian families and a number of boarders who come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

St George's School does not have 'feeder primary schools'. Traditionally the school takes the majority of its day students from the surrounding area and this includes maintained and independent schools, denominational and multi-denominational schools.

There is a separate admission document for entry to the sixth form.

The aims of the school's Admission Criteria reflect the Governors' intention to respect its traditions and the aims of the Reverend Cecil Grant, the school's Founder. Briefly, these can be summarised as follows:

- To provide a rich educational experience to allow each pupil to make progress and work to realise his/her full potential.
- To protect and develop the Christian character of St George's School.
- To provide boarding to support and enrich the experiences of pupils who live at St George's School.
- To remain, as Cecil Grant intended, a family school where brothers and sisters and children of staff can be educated together.
- To admit children, regardless of aptitude or ability, whose parents declare their intention to support and uphold the traditions and ethos of St George's School. These traditions include loyalty to the House system and the school's strong belief in competition. Competition in the school's curricular and extra-curricular life is deeply embedded in its sport, drama and music and involves children of all abilities and aptitudes. The tradition of regular and Sunday Chapel worship is central to the life and work of St George's School.

The ethos of the school is described in the following statement:

The school was established by the Reverend Cecil Grant as a Christian Foundation accepting children of different Christian denominations. Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its Christian character centered on the School Chapel, in accordance with Christian principles and in partnership with the School Chaplain. The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through its worship, teaching and the experience it offers to all its pupils.

- To allow children, regardless of their ability, access to specific curricular and extra-curricular opportunities or facilities that are particular strengths of the school. These include, for example, the compulsory study of RE to GCSE level; involvement with choral and church music; the chance to contribute to, and participate in, regular Christian worship in the Chapel; the availability of particular sports and games (such as lacrosse and rugby) which are played on a competitive basis with regular fixture lists; Inter-House drama and music competitions; art exhibitions and particular extra-curricular activities, such as the school Sailing Club. Children who may not be able to participate in games can benefit from many other activities offered at the school, such as music, art, chess club etc.

Parents and Guardians of children who gain admission will be expected to co-operate with the school in maintaining high standards of behaviour and achievement. A full copy of the school's Discipline Policy and attendance Policy is available to all parents. Parents and Guardians are strongly advised to read the School Prospectus in detail to appreciate the special kind of education offered at St George's School. Firm guidance on behaviour and manners (both within and after school hours) and on uniform is also provided and should be reinforced by the home. St George's School is a Christian Foundation where pupils in Years 7 to 11 attend at least three designated Sunday sessions per term.

Admission to St. George's School is not dependent on any voluntary contribution.

The admission of pupils is the responsibility of the Governors. All communication regarding Admissions should be clearly addressed to The Admissions Officer, St George's School, Sun Lane, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 4TD.

Pupils will be admitted to St George's School in Year 7 at the age of 11 irrespective of physical or academic ability, or age 12 if they are summer born children where a family chose to delay their entry to Reception by an Academic Year. It is St George's policy for children to be educated within their correct chronological year group as far as possible. This is in line with DfE guidance which states that "in general, children should be educated in the normal age group". For children other than summer born delay entry, if parents/carers believe their child(ren) should be educated in a different year group they must, at the time of application, submit supporting evidence from relevant professionals working with the child and family stating why the child must be placed outside their normal age appropriate cohort. The advice of the Headteacher of the current school that the child attends and another relevant professional, such as an Educational Psychologist, will be considered. There is no right of appeal to be placed in a year group in the school different to that indicated by the child's chronological age. The internal management and organization of a school, including the placement of pupils in classes, is a matter for the Headteacher and senior leadership of the school.

Where a pupil on current roll is looking to "repeat a year", this can only be done by applying formally to be admitted to the year group concerned "outside normal age group". This is done in a process consistent with the relevant section of the School Admissions Code, with the application considered by the Governors as admitting authority but with regard to views of the Headteacher.

Boarders will be required to complete a suitability for boarding interview satisfactorily. A full report from the pupil's current school will be requested. In addition, parents must also be able to meet the financial requirements of boarding as long as the child is a registered pupil at the school. In exceptional circumstances, pupils younger than 11 years of age at the time of transfer to a secondary school may be considered, such as in the case of a family returning from overseas whose child is close in educational terms to secondary transfer. **There is no transfer of boarding pupils or boarding places to day places.**

The Governors wish to make it clear that in the application of their Admissions Criteria in Day, Boarding, and 6th form Admissions, they will act in compliance with the requirements of the Equalities Act, 2010

The school accepts In Year applications direct (providing relevant information) and maintains continuing interest lists for all year groups for the In Year application process.

Fair Access

The school participates in the county council's Fair Access protocol and may admit children under this protocol before children on continuing interest. The school will also accept pupils under Fair Access above its Published Admission Number.

Application for Year 7 Day Places 2024

St George's School is an Academy School. In order to provide additional information for the application, you can fill in the St George's School Supplementary Information Form (SIF), available on the school website www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk, in addition to your online application. If a SIF has not been returned, the governors will only be able to consider the information contained on the online application, which may result in the child being considered under a lower priority.

- Please apply online to Hertfordshire County Council on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions (Hertfordshire children) or to the LA in which you live (children living outside Hertfordshire) by **31st October 2023**. The St George's Supplementary Information Form should be forwarded to The Admissions Officer, St George's School by **18th October 2023**.

The number of day places for Year 7 in September 2024 will be 170.

The number of boarding places for Year 7 in September 2024 will be 10

Arrangements for visiting the School

Open evening information is available on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions listed in the School Directory.

Right Of Appeal

All unsuccessful applicants have the right to appeal to an independent panel for a place to be made available for their child. Hertfordshire parents wishing to appeal, who applied online, should log onto their online school application and click on the link "register an appeal". Out of county residents and paper applicants should call the Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4043 to request their registration details and log into www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals and click on the link "log into the appeals system".

For In Year applications parents should follow instructions on the appeals website at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals. If your application is unsuccessful, the county council will write to you with registration details to enable you to login and appeal.

Applications for 2023

For admission to the current Year 7, St George's received 308 Supplementary Information Forms for the 636 LEA STF applications. A large number of applications were received from children with brothers and sisters at the School of which 95 were offered places and 1 from those with siblings previously at the school. Traditionally, as a School with many local families, over half our intake each year is made up of pupils who already have a sibling at the School, but the exact figure changes from year to year.

The remaining places were allocated using the other criteria laid down in the Admissions Policy.

For the academic year 2023-2024 (2023 entry) the Governors of St George's School Harpenden agreed to increase the number of pupils admitted to the school into year 7 by an additional 18 day places bringing the total day places to 188. This was and could be for one year only and assist Hertfordshire County Council in securing more local school places.

A total of 17 places became available as people withdrew, and these places were offered under continuing interest using the school's published criteria.

Late Application for Day Places and Continued Interest List

1. Late applications are considered according to the published Admissions Criteria. Once the initial decisions regarding offering 170 day places are made, a Continued Interest List of the names and applicants who have not been allocated a place at the school is kept, regardless of whether they wish to appeal. This list ranks in descending order the names of applicants according to the published criteria. The placing of a child's name on a Continued Interest List does not remove the right of appeal. Late applications before the new school year begins can continually change the order of the list. Recent experience shows that only a very few disappointed applicants achieve a place through withdrawals.
2. When parents who have been offered a place at the school decide not to accept it, that place is offered to the parents at the top of the Continued Interest List. The Continued Interest List is in operation from the day the original places are allocated and any reallocated places will be made in accordance with the country wide timetable for secondary transfer.
3. Early application (eg before the general LA deadline in October) is not used as a criterion for giving priority in allocating day places. This applies also to applications for entry to day places in all other years, including the Sixth Form.
4. Once a new school year starts, a composite Continued Interest List for year group 7 to 9 is used to allocate all places which become available during the school year. Fresh applicants are considered according to the published criteria. The length of time a child's name may have been on a Continued Interest List is not a criterion for admission: a late applicant is given whatever order of priority on the list is justified by the application of the Admissions Criteria. The Continued Interest List will expire at the end of Year 9 and all names removed. In order to be placed on the Continued Interest List for Year 10 and 11, a new application will need to be submitted.
5. The school works closely with Hertfordshire LA and their Coordinated System of Admissions for Secondary Transfer and for In Year Admissions. It will not be possible to join the Continued Interest List of St. George's School if you did not initially rank the school on the secondary transfer application form **unless** you make a new application to Hertfordshire LA or your home authority if you do not live in Hertfordshire
6. A student who has been assessed by an LEA Panel as children placed under the "Fair Access Protocol" may be admitted ahead of other students on the list on application from the LEA, but only with the agreement of the Governors and where the school is applying the agreed procedures of the children placed under the "Fair Access Protocol".
7. If a school place becomes available, parents (of pupils in Years 7 - 11) will be contacted in strict order of priority, according to the Continued Interest List and the application of the Admissions Criteria. Any such place must be accepted as soon as possible to allow the school's day places to be filled.

All correspondence regarding Secondary School Transfer and admissions for each year group (7 - 11) should be addressed directly to the Admissions Officer and clearly marked Admissions.