

Admissions Policy Statement

Admission to the School depends upon a prospective pupil meeting the criteria required 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 the pupil's peers so that there is every chance that the pupil will have a complete, happy and successful school career and emerge a confident, well-educated and well-rounded adult with a good prospect of a satisfying life. These criteria must continue to be met throughout the pupil's time at the School.

Pupils who apply to the school must fulfil the school's academic entrance requirements. This is usually done through entrance assessment (or by public examination results). This allows us to ensure that Merchiston is the right school academically for each pupil, and to tailor our academic programmes to the needs of our students. Assessment for each point of entry is different, and details of the assessments can be found on the website

The school requires parents to complete the appropriate section of the Registration Form (available on the website) at the time of application, and to declare any specific learning support need, medical condition or disability, which could require specialist support, treatment or equipment. This information is essential to assist with any interview or other pre-assessment screening. All pupils are screened for specific learning difficulties at the time of initial assessment and undertake a medical examination on entry. The School's policy is to apply the same criteria to all current and potential pupils regardless of any disability of which it is aware, subject to its obligation to make reasonable adjustments so as not to put any disabled pupil or potential pupil at a substantial disadvantage compared to any pupil who is not disadvantaged because of his disability.

In addition to the assessments, we will normally take up a (confidential) report from a pupil's current school, which will provide information on his academic progress to date, and his general behaviour at school.

Merchiston Castle School is committed to providing equal opportunities for pupils irrespective of race, religion, socio-economic background or disability, and we strive to maintain and apply admissions policies which do not discriminate against candidates on these grounds.

If you have questions regarding this Policy Statement, or any other aspects of our Admissions process please contact the Director of Admissions, Anne Rickard.