

Admissions policy

(Reviewer: Lloyd Dannatt, February 2022) (Reviewed by SMT February 2022)

Background

Prospective parents and pupils are encouraged to visit the College during an open morning and in addition we believe that a personal visit is invaluable, as we hope to work with each individual family to help them to decide whether Hurstpierpoint College is the right school for their child.

The Entry Procedure

Hurst is an academically selective school. The over-arching aim of the College is to provide a genuinely excellent, all-round education with a strong academic core for every child.

The usual points of entry are at Reception, Year 3, Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12. The school may also have occasional places at other ages. Parents should contact the Admissions Office directly for details.

Applications for admission should ideally be registered two years prior to the proposed entry date. Pupils hoping to join in Year 9 will usually need to register 3 years in advance.

Equal Treatment

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. Means tested bursaries are available in order to make it possible for as many as possible who meet the school's admission criteria to attend the school.

Hurst is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or social background. However, as a fully co-educational school we may from time to time prioritise the recruitment of pupils of a particular gender to ensure that we maintain an optimal balance of girls and boys in each year group.

Special Needs

Hurst does not discriminate in any way regarding entry. The school welcomes pupils with special educational needs providing that its learning support department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with disabilities provided that our site can accommodate them. Parents are required to inform the College of any disability or special educational needs, including behavioural or psychological matters and medical issues concerning the pupil, in writing at the time of registration. Failure to inform the School may jeopardise the pupil's admission to Hurst.

Parents should always provide a copy of an educational psychologist's report, any other learning assessment reports, details of any individual support their child has received through their school, or a medical report if they have one. The school 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.

Overseas Applicants

Hurst does not offer full boarding and therefore we do not have overseas pupils who live abroad. Pupils should live with at least one parent or legal guardian in the UK. It should be noted that Hurst does not run a short-term study programme and expects overseas pupils to finish a complete course of study such as A levels.

Fluency in English

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Hurst pupils should ideally be fluent English speakers, but additional tuition in English as an Additional Language (ESL) will be provided where necessary.

Religious Beliefs

Although Hurstpierpoint College as a Woodard school has strong Christian roots, the school does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it welcomes those of other faiths and none.

The Assessment Process

Entry to Hurst College is selective for all years as detailed below and 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.

In order for children to be able to thrive at Hurst, the College would expect them to be working at a level at least commensurate with national averages according to the National Curriculum and/or cognitive tests. Pupils for whom English is a second language will be tested and assessed by the Head of ESL. The dates for the assessment process for the current year are published on our website.

Reception:

Children attend an assessment session during the year before entry to determine their suitability for the Pre-Prep School. A satisfactory reference is required from the child's previous Nursery.

Year 3:

From Hurst Pre Prep: Entry is determined by our internal assessment procedures. Children are expected to pass smoothly from Year 2 to Year 3, but if there are concerns about a child's ability to access the Prep School (Years 3 to 8) curriculum these will be raised with the parents well in advance of the entry date.

From other schools: Entry is determined by our internal assessment procedure, usually in the Michaelmas (Autumn) Term preceding the year of entry. A satisfactory reference from the previous school's Head Teacher is required.

Year 7 (11+)

Entry is determined at our Assessment Day, usually in the Michaelmas Term of Year 6. Children will be assessed on their Verbal and Non Verbal Reasoning and English skills. The Assessment Day will incorporate a variety of group activities and a satisfactory reference from the previous school's Head Teacher is also required. Offers are made based on their academic test results, together with an overall evaluation of their performance, behaviour, attitude and engagement with the tasks and activities throughout the Assessment Day.

Year 9 (13+):

From Hurst Prep School: Entry is conditional upon a satisfactory behavioural record throughout Years 7 and 8, as well as their performance in the Year 8 exams, which usually take place in the June of the year of entry. If there are concerns about a pupil's ability to access the Senior School curriculum these will be raised with parents well in advance of the entry date.

From other schools: Entry is determined at a Hurst Assessment Day, usually in the Lent Term of Year 6. The Assessment Day will incorporate a variety of group activities and a writing task. A satisfactory reference from the previous school's Head Teacher is also required. Offers are made based on ISEB pre-test results together with an overall evaluation of their performance, behaviour attitude and engagement with the tasks and activities throughout the Assessment Day.

We recognise that children are young when we make our offers and will therefore request a reference from their school during the Summer Term of Year 7 to ensure that Hurst is still the best fit. In the unlikely event that there is a concern, we reserve the right to reassess their offer of a place. This applies to pupils joining from all schools, including Hurst Prep School.

Sixth Form (16+):

Pupils in British Secondary education:

Pupils require at least four Level 7 GCSEs. They should have a Level 7 or above in the subjects that they intend to study and, where a pupil wishes to start a new subject which they have not studied before, they need to have achieved a Level 7 in a GCSE subject closely related to it (i.e. for Economics, ideally a pupil should have a Level 7 in Math's GCSE). Students should also have a minimum of Level 5 GCSE in Mathematics and English Language.

A satisfactory reference is also required from the candidate's current school which should include a prediction of GCSE grades. In addition all pupils will be invited to attend an assessment day(s) to take Verbal and Non Verbal reasoning tests and attend interviews.

Pupils from schools overseas:

Entry is determined by our own internal assessment procedures, interviews and a satisfactory reference from the pupil's previous school's Head Teacher. Candidates for whom English is a Second Language will be assessed by the Head of ESL during interview. An internal assessment is used to ascertain the pupil's aural, oral and written proficiency in English. Candidates unable to attend for interview are required to arrange an online interview. International Students who have applied through an Agent take the College's ESL assessment in exam conditions at their current school. Other Years: Pupils can be admitted into other years, subject to space, and entry is determined by our own internal assessment procedures, interviews and receipt of a satisfactory reference from the pupil's previous school's Head Teacher.

Sibling Policy

Ideally siblings join us at Hurst. However, admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where the school judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

Selection Criteria

Pupils will generally be selected on the basis of:

- attitude and behaviour
- academic ability
- engagement and ability in co-curricular subjects such as sport, music, drama or art
- boarding status (i.e. weekly boarders will be given preference over flexi-boarders and flexi-boarders preference over day pupils)
- the date the pupil was registered with the College (Reception class only)
- specifically for Y7 entry, in the case of two prospective pupils performing at a similar levels on the assessment day(s), priority is likely to be given to the pupil who cannot continue in their current school because their current school does not have a Y7 or Y8 year group.
- the need to maintain the optimum boy/girl ratio within the co-educational school.

Reserve Pool

If a pupil meets the selection criteria and there is not a place available, they will be placed into a reserve pool (rather than onto a waiting list) from which places will be allocated as they become available and based upon the above criteria.

The Head of College reserves the right to vary these criteria in special circumstances.

Scholarships

Hurst offers a number of scholarships in Year 7 (11+) and above for excellence in academic subjects and Music. From Year 9 (13+) art, music, drama, dance and sport Scholarships are also awarded. Scholarships are designed to reward exceptional ability, attitude and behaviour. In recognition of this achievement, the scholar is offered a reduction in the fees, usually for the duration of his/her time at Hurst. Full details are given in the Awards Policy.

Parents are asked to indicate on the registration form whether they wish to apply for a scholarship. Details of the arrangements will be sent to all who express an interest.

Bursaries

Hurst's bursary programme is designed to make it possible for as many as possible of those who reach our scholarship standard to take up a place here. The school offers a number of means-tested awards annually to scholarship winners entering the College into years 7, 9 and 12. Bursaries are means-tested and the assessments are carried out by an external company, Bursary Administration Limited. Both parents are required to complete an application and provide proof of their income and assets. Desktop reviews will be supplemented by an on-line or face-to-face meeting with parents. The level of support varies according to parental need; but can extend to full fee remission in cases of proven need. Bursaries are always subject to an annual review and any material change in parental circumstance may impact the level of bursary offered. Full details, including information on the application process, are given in the Awards Policy which is available on the College website.

School's Contractual Terms & Conditions

Copies are on the College's website and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.