

# Bedales Schools’ Admissions Policy

## INCLUDING EYFS

Implementation date: April 2008

Date/term of last review: Spring 2022

Author	Head of Admissions
Review body (individual or group)	Director of External Relations
Approval Body	3SST
ISI Regulatory Paragraph Number	389 Part 3, 15
Next Review Period	Spring 2024

*Tick relevant box(es) how this Policy should appear:*

Inspector Folder		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Website	Upload	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Signpost	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal only		<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent Portal		<input type="checkbox"/>
For Pupils/Students		<input type="checkbox"/>

# Bedales Schools' Admissions Policy

Bedales School ("the School") is a co-educational boarding and day school for ages 2'9 months to 18. It is constituted as a registered charity and as a company limited by guarantee. The School comprises three sections, each of which is responsible for its own admissions according to the common policy set out below:

Bedales Nursery & Pre-prep, Dunannie, ages 2'9 months - 8 (Nursery - Year 3)

Bedales Prep, Dunhurst, ages 8 - 13 (Years 4 - 8)

Bedales Senior School, ages 13 - 18 (Years 9 - 13)

The Admissions Policy should be read in conjunction with the School's contractual Terms & Conditions, which are available on the website and from the Admissions Office.

## 1 Entry criteria

We seek to admit pupils who are, in our professional judgement:

- (a) able and willing to contribute to the life of the School, who will take initiative and take responsibility for themselves, who are likely to get on well with other pupils and with staff, and who will make the most of the range of activities and opportunities offered by the Bedales Schools;
- (b) able to access the curriculum, willing to cooperate with teachers and work hard, and capable of making satisfactory academic progress.

Religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity have no bearing on how we select pupils, and we will comply with all legislation prohibiting discrimination. Disability or special educational need is no bar to admission, provided that we can make reasonable adjustments that enable us to deliver a Bedales education and that enable the pupil to benefit fully from that education.

We are committed to widening access to as broad a range of pupils as may comply with the School's admissions requirements as set out from time to time.

## 2 Assessment

### (i) Initial entry

Initial admission to the three Schools is primarily by interview and assessment at the School.

From Year 3 upwards, applicants also take our own written assessment, to establish that they meet the expected academic requirements.

- (a) Candidates at 13+ or 14+ must be judged capable of attaining a minimum average grade 5 in GCSE subjects/Bedales Assessed Courses, with higher projections in potential A level subjects
- (b) Sixth Form applicants at 16+ must be judged capable of attaining at least three A level passes at grade C or above. They should also be predicted a minimum average grade 5 at GCSE

However, the main focus of all our assessments is on understanding the whole person, and on determining how well they are likely to adapt to the educational experience at Bedales, to contribute to it and to benefit from it.

- (a) At Dunannie, children are admitted to the Nursery (at age 2'9 months) without formal assessment. The suitability of children joining from Reception to Year 3 is determined by a day spent at the School and informal assessment.
- (b) Younger applicants for Dunhurst (8+, 9+ and 10+) normally spend a day in class with their appropriate year group. This gives the child a chance to become accustomed to life in the School. There are assessments in Maths, English and an online ability test plus a 1:1 meeting to assess how the child learns.

- (c) The assessment for entry at 11+ to Dunhurst is residential, over one to three days, in January of the year of entry. We also undertake individual assessment days. This gives the child a chance to become accustomed to life in the School. There are assessments in Maths, English and an online ability test plus a 1:1 meeting to understand how the child learns.
- (d) The residential three-day assessment for 13+ entry to Bedales takes place in the January preceding the year of entry (e.g. in January 2023 for entry in September 2024). The three-day assessment includes Maths, English and an online ability test together with interviews. Students also have the chance to show their skills in co-curricular activities such as Art, Drama, Sport and Outdoor Work. We also undertake individual assessment days.
- (e) Sixth Form applicants normally attend a day of interviews at the School in October of the year before entry to assess their suitability for Sixth Form study.
- (f) We also assess applicants throughout the year, and at other ages, if a place becomes available.

## (ii) Moving up the Schools

Progression from one year to the next, and from one school to the next, is assumed but is subject to satisfactory behaviour and academic progress. In particular:

- (a) Progression from Dunannie to Dunhurst is assumed and is not subject to any formal assessment. The School will informally assess pupils and will monitor their development to ensure that their needs can still be met adequately if they make the transition.
- (b) Progression from Dunhurst to Bedales is assumed, but is subject to satisfactory behaviour and performance in our own written tests as well in interview. This assessment takes place in the January of Block 1 (Year 7).
- (c) Progression from Block 5 to 6.1 (Year 11 to the Sixth Form) is assumed and is normally subject to attaining a minimum average grade 5 at GCSE/Bedales Assessed Courses, with higher grades in A level subjects.
- (d) A pupil's disciplinary record, willingness to cooperate in developing satisfactory habits of learning, participation in extra-curricular activities and relations with other members of the community will be taken into account.
- (e) Where it appears that a pupil's behaviour and/or academic progress may jeopardise their move from one school to the next, or from Block 5 to 6.1, we will inform parents and the pupil of the possibility and agree with them a plan of action to help the pupil maximise their potential.

If, despite the plan of action, the pupil's behaviour or academic progress remains unsatisfactory, we will give notice by the end of the spring term, in the year when they are due to progress, that they should leave the School. In the case of Block 5 pupils, we may stipulate a points score in GCSE as a condition for remaining in the School.

- (f) The above provisions do not take account of particular disciplinary circumstances or unexpected decline in academic performance which may lead to a pupil needing to leave the School.

## 3 Means-tested bursaries

We aim to commit at least 5% of our income per year to financial aid, mostly in the form of means-tested bursaries, awarded according to need and subject to annual review. They may be awarded:

- (a) at the time of entry to Bedales (normally at 13+ or 16+) or Dunhurst at 11+;
- (b) at other times, to help families in any of the three Schools through temporary and exceptional financial difficulties.

Full details of the Bursary Policy are available on the School's website.

#### 4 Recognising exceptional merit

We may award scholarships to acknowledge candidates of exceptional merit, mainly on entry to Bedales Block 3 (Year 9), and on progression from Block 5 to 6.1 (Year 11 to the Sixth Form). Scholarships take the form of a research grant for which applicants apply in consultation with the relevant Head of Department/Director – the maximum financial value of the annual grant is outlined on the School's website. The School's Bursary Policy enables additional support for exceptionally talented pupils on a means-tested basis.

#### 5 Preferences and limitations

- (a) In all three Schools, we may give preference to applicants who have a sibling at the School.
- (b) In Dunhurst and Bedales, we may reserve places for applicants who:
  - come from families who cannot afford any or all of the fees;
  - have a talent that is valuable to the School, such as academic, musical or artistic ability;
  - wish to board.
- (c) The three Bedales Schools have limited facilities for the disabled, but in line with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 we make reasonable adjustments as described in 'Entry criteria' above. Parents should provide us with full written details of their child's disabilities or special educational needs – the sooner the better, and (for pupils who are not yet enrolled) no later than registration, so that we can assess the needs and consult parents about possible adjustments.

#### 6 Special circumstances

We recognise that an applicant's performance may be affected by particular circumstances, for example:

- Illness when taking the tests or a lengthy absence from school;
- Particular family circumstances such as a recent bereavement;
- A relevant education history such as education outside the British system;
- A disability or specific learning difficulties;
- English not being the applicant's first language.

We ask for total transparency from prospective parents in terms of their child's mental health and learning needs. Any applicant who has previously undertaken a psychiatrist's/psychologist's assessment must provide the report to the Admissions team. In any of the above cases, we may request further information, such as medical assessment and any associated correspondence from the pupil's current school or any history of learning difficulties as we consider necessary to make a fair assessment.

#### 7 Further information; Terms & Conditions

Further details of the admissions process, assessment, financial aid, Terms & Conditions and Attendance Policies are available on the website, [www.bedales.org.uk](http://www.bedales.org.uk), or on request from the Admissions Office. Overseas applicants will need to comply with our Educational and Legal Guardianship Policy. The Bursar will be pleased to advise on eligibility for financial aid.

When you accept a place at the Bedales Schools, you accept our standard Terms & Conditions.

#### 8 Complaints

Complaints about our handling of any aspect of the admissions process should be addressed in the first instance to the Head of the relevant School. If the dispute is not resolved, it will be subject to the School's Complaints Procedure, a copy of which is available on request.

## 9 Contact us

Bedales School, Church Road, Steep, Petersfield,  
Hampshire, GU32 2DG

Tel: 01730 711733

Email; [admissions@bedales.org.uk](mailto:admissions@bedales.org.uk)

On request, we will supply all publicity material and official documents relating to the admissions process in a format suitable to the applicants (e.g. large print).