

Bedales Schools’ Admissions Policy

INCLUDING EYFS

Implementation date: April 2008

Date/term of last review: Spring 2023

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 2025

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

1. General

Bedales School ("the School") is an independent, co-educational boarding and day school for ages 3 to 18 years. The School has approximately 800 pupils.

Bedales Nursery & Pre-prep, Dunannie, ages 3 - 8 (Nursery - Year 3)

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

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

Deciding on the right school for your child is very important. We very much hope that you and your child will make an in-person visit in order to truly experience the uniqueness of Bedales. We hold a number of Open Day events, which give a general introduction to the School. Details of Open Days and Taster Days are published on our website: <https://www.bedales.org.uk/admissions>.

2. The Entry Procedure

Bedales is committed to a policy of equal opportunity, offering an academically rigorous, holistic and progressive co-educational programme for 3-18 year olds. Building relationships is key at Bedales, and we work together to ensure that every pupil leaves us having discovered their own talents, passions and identities, with a powerful sense of responsibility to others.

Bedales is a selective school, and our approach encourages inquiry, creative thinking and independent learning. We select pupils who will take initiative and responsibility for themselves, who can work collaboratively with other pupils and staff, and who can take advantage of the variety of activities and possibilities provided by the Bedales Schools. Religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity have no bearing on how we select pupils, and we will comply with all legislation prohibiting discrimination.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities may be granted 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 (see section 9 for further information). Where it is practical to do so given the constraints of our facilities, Bedales will do all that it can to support applicants with physical difficulties.

3. Initial Entry

Initial admission to Bedales Schools is primarily based on interview with key staff and assessment at the School, as well as references from the candidate's previous school and any specialist reports. From Year 3 upwards, applicants also take our own written assessment, to establish that they meet the expected academic requirements:

- Candidates at 13+ or 14+ must be judged capable of attaining a minimum average grade 6 in GCSE subjects/Bedales Assessed Courses, with higher projections in potential A level subjects
- 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 6 at GCSE, including a grade 6 in Maths or English Language.

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.

3.1. Bedales Pre-prep

Nursery

One of the main aims of the Nursery is to prepare children for their later learning at Bedales. This means we give priority for places and sessions to children who are intending to complete their education through the school. We will give priority in allocating sessions within the Nursery, for instance, to those whom we know are going on to our Reception, and who have indicated this on their Acceptance Form. For those children who are not going on to our Reception, spaces will be limited to the sessions we have left available once session allocations have been made, according to our priority list.

Places in the Nursery are limited, and Bedales Pre-Prep will allocate sessions in descending order of priority as follows:

- Those who are going through the School's Pre-Prep (into and beyond Reception)
- Those who have older siblings in the Prep or Pre-Prep
- Those who book for 5 full days at the Nursery
- Those who book full days at the Nursery
- Those who book just a morning session

Reception – Year 3

The suitability of children joining from Reception to Year 3 is determined by a day spent at the school and an online cognitive assessment (Year 2 & 3 only).

3.2. Bedales Prep

Younger applicants for Bedales Prep (8+, 9+ and 10+) will 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.

The assessment for entry at 11+ to Bedales Prep is residential, over two days, in January of the year of entry. Alternatively, 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. Applicants also have the chance to show their skills in co-curricular activities such as Art, Drama, Sport and Outdoor Work.

3.3. Bedales Senior

The residential three-day assessment for 13+ entry to Bedales takes place in the January preceding the year of entry (e.g. in January 2024 for entry in September 2025). The three-day assessment includes Maths, English and an online ability test together with interviews. Candidates also have the chance to show their skills in co-curricular activities such as Art, Drama, Sport and Outdoor Work. Alternatively, we also undertake individual assessment days.

Admission to the A level Programme is dependent upon the demonstration of an ability to cope with the demands of a challenging course. The normal expectation of potential A level students is a proven academic record and the demonstration of commitment to make a positive contribution to the Bedales community. Sixth Form applicants attend a day of interviews at the School in October of the year before entry to assess their suitability for Sixth Form study.

4. 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:

- Progression from Bedales Pre-prep to Bedales Prep is assumed subject to satisfactory behaviour and children will take an online assessment. We will monitor their development to ensure that their needs can still be met adequately when they make the transition.
- Progression from Bedales Prep to Bedales Senior is assumed but is subject to satisfactory behaviour and performance in our own written tests as well as in interview. This assessment takes place in the January of Block 1 (Year 7).
- 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 6 at GCSE/Bedales Assessed Courses, with higher grades in A level subjects.

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. 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 of the possibility and agree with them a plan of action to help the pupil maximise their potential. Parents will be informed in term 1 of the transition year of any concerns. If, despite the plan of action, the pupil's behaviour or academic progress remains a concern, 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 students, we may stipulate a points score in GCSE/BAC as a condition for remaining in the School.

5. 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:

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

There are more details on bursaries on the school website at <https://www.bedales.org.uk/home/admissions/scholarships-bursaries> and a copy of the Bursary Policy is available via the Policies section at <https://www.bedales.org.uk/about-us/policies/bedales-senior-school-policies>.

6. Scholarships

We may award scholarships to acknowledge candidates of exceptional merit on entry to Bedales Block 3 (Year 9) in Academic, Music, Art, and on progression from Block 5 (Year 11) to the Sixth Form in Academic, Music, Art, Drama, Dance and Sport.

Scholarships take the form of a 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 together with more information on the awards (at <https://www.bedales.org.uk/home/admissions/scholarships-bursaries>). There is also a Design award for a 6.1 (Year 12) student as they transition into 6.2 (Year 13) involving external mentoring.

At Bedales Prep, Music scholarships and exhibitions can be awarded from 10+ years involving free tuition on the principal study (instrument or voice). Honorary Academic scholarships may also be awarded from Block 1 (Year 7).

The School's Bursary Policy enables additional support for exceptional pupils on a means-tested basis.

7. Preferences and limitations

In all Bedales Schools, we may give preference to applicants who have a sibling at the School.

In Bedales Prep and Bedales Senior, we may reserve places for applicants who:

- come from families who cannot afford any or all of the fees with funding from the School's bursary programme and/or an educational trust
- have a skill that is valuable to the School, such as academic, sport, musical or artistic ability
- wish to board.

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 section 2. 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.

8. Further information; Terms & Conditions

Further details of the admissions process, assessment, financial aid, Terms & Conditions and Attendance are available on the website: www.bedales.org.uk, or on request from the Admissions Office.

The Bursar will be pleased to advise on eligibility for financial aid. Overseas applicants will need to comply with our Educational and Legal Guardianship Policy. Once you accept a place at the Bedales Schools, you accept our standard Terms & Conditions.

9. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Bedales Schools has limited resources to cater for pupils whose learning needs can only be met with significant support outside the mainstream classroom, or additional adult support within the class. It is in the interests of all concerned, but particularly those of the pupils, that once they are admitted to the School, they are able to thrive within our environment. If, in exceptional circumstances, the School agrees to accept a pupil requiring significant support, parents may be asked to pay for additional costs incurred.

Parents of children who have a history of requiring educational support that falls outside of the mainstream classroom are required to declare detailed information regarding their child's specific learning needs.

We ask for transparency from prospective parents in terms of their child's mental health and learning needs. This information should include previous school reports, SENCO reports, and copies of previous Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and/or reports from Educational Psychologists and other professionals, prior to visiting the School. Failure to declare accurately and fully the extent of a child's individual learning needs at the point of application may result subsequently in parents being asked to withdraw their child because the School is unable to meet their learning needs. This is a situation that we are keen to avoid, particularly as it may impact adversely on the child's self-esteem and future learning. If in any doubt, please arrange to speak in confidence to the appropriate Head of School.

10. 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 issue is not resolved satisfactorily, it will be subject to the School's Complaints Procedure, a copy of which is available on request.

11. Contact Us

Bedales Prep and Bedales Pre-prep - Admission

Registrar, Bedales Prep and Bedales Pre-prep, Alton Road, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 2DR
Tel: 01730 711558; Email: Admissions@bedales.org.uk

Bedales Senior - Admission

Head of Admissions, Bedales School, Church Road, Steep, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 2DG
Tel: 01730 711733; Email: Admissions@bedales.org.uk

<https://www.bedales.org.uk/admissions>