

Admissions Policy and Entrance Procedures

This Policy applies to the whole school and is published to staff, pupils and parents

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GENERAL

Longridge Towers School is a co-educational independent school on the outskirts of Berwick upon Tweed, for pupils from ages 3 to 18. The School has 305 pupils, 15 of whom are boarders. Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your family will visit Longridge. We hold two open events each year, which give a general introduction to the School. Details are published on our website. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times. Please contact the School's Registrar, Mrs Burns on 01289 307584 or email mburns@lts.org.uk to arrange a visit.

The aims of this policy are to ensure compliance with the School's charitable purpose, to provide education of the highest possible quality to pupils from a wide spectrum of abilities, to identify and admit children who will benefit from the broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum and who will contribute to and benefit from the ethos and activities of our school community.

THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

Longridge Towers School is not a selective school. Our entry procedure 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. Academic ability is assessed to ensure the School can make a proper provision for children and is based upon an entry examination, an interview at the School and references from the candidate's previous school.

Applicants for admission should normally register by 30th June of the year proceeding the desired year of admission. The School's Registration Form is available on the School's website and from the Registrar.

There are six main steps in the entry process to Longridge Towers School:

1. Come and visit us.
The best way to get a feel for Longridge life is to see the School in action. Contact the Registrar to request a visit to the Junior Department or the Senior School - either on an individual basis or an Open Day.
2. Register.
After visiting, you can make your interest in the School clear by registering with us and by sending us a recent school report. Please complete our Registration Form and return it to the Registrar with a copy of your child's full birth certificate and a Registration Fee of £100 per pupil. If there is a waiting list, and no place becomes available, the Registration Fee will be refunded. It is non-refundable in all other cases.

3. Arrange a Taster Day.

Pupils can arrange to spend a day, or two, in School to experience life in School for themselves. These visits are arranged with the Registrar in conjunction with the Head and the Head of the Junior Department.

4. Sit the entrance assessments (and scholarship exams if applicable) and attend an interview.

- Assessment for Junior Department is based upon informal observation in School and reports from previous schools. All other candidates for entry sit papers in English and Mathematics which are designed for their age group.
- Candidates for entry at 16+ sit papers in the subjects they propose to study at AS or A2. Our offer of places into Year 12 is conditional upon attaining a minimum of six GCSE passes at Level 4 (or four National 5 passes at grade C or above), and an expectation that children will achieve Grade B or Level 5 in the subjects proposed for study at AS and A2.
- We interview all candidates as part of our assessment process for each age group (apart from Reception). Your child will also be invited to attend an interview with the Head, the Head of the Junior Department or a senior member of staff. In all cases this interview will explore the applicant's interests, attitude to school, personal qualities, and ability to contribute to the school community.
- **Scholarship Examinations:**
Longridge Towers School offers a limited number of scholarships for excellence in academic subjects, Music and Sport. These are available for entry in September for pupils entering each year from J5 (Year 5) upwards, with the exception of examination years (Years 11 and 13). Examinations are held at the end of November. Closing date for applications is two weeks before the examinations. Application forms are available from the start of October.

5. Receipt of Character Reference.

The Head of the applicant's current school will be asked to provide a written reference as to the applicant's academic ability, attitude and behaviour, involvement in the school community, talents and interests, and any other special circumstances such as special education needs, or a disability. The reference may also include the results of tests taken at the school (such as SATs) and predicted grades at GCSE. We make offers once entry requirements have been met and character references have been received from a candidate's current or previous School.

6. Accept your offer.

If you fulfil the entry requirements, we will make you an offer of a place. To confirm that Longridge is your first choice of school, you will be asked to complete an Acceptance Form and to pay a deposit. The acceptance deposits are as follows: £350 (Day) £500 (UK and EU Boarding) Full Terms Fees (Non-EU Boarding). This is payable within three weeks of a firm offer of a place. Where the acceptance deposit is not paid by the due date, the School reserves the right to allocate the place to another candidate.

Once you have accepted your offer, we will send you information on everything you need to know, from school uniform to induction dates.

The School holds their main scholarships and assessments for pupils entering Year 5 and above in November each year but also offer individual assessments throughout the year, subject to availability.

EQUAL TREATMENT

Longridge Towers School's 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. Bursaries are offered in order to make it possible for as many as possible who meet the School's admission criteria to attend the School. The School's provision for bursaries is described below.

Longridge Towers School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or social background. Human rights and freedoms are respected and are balanced with the lawful needs and rules of the School community and the rights and freedoms of others.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Longridge Towers School does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, provided we can offer them the level of support that they require and cater for any additional needs and that our site can accommodate them.

We strongly advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical or mental disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with the School before he/she sits the entrance exam so that we can make adequate provision for him/her. Parents should provide with the Registration Form a copy of a most recent educational psychologist's report or a medical report if they have one.

The School will discuss thoroughly with parents (and their child's medical advisers, if appropriate) the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the School.

Similarly, if special educational needs or a disability become apparent after admission, the School will consult with parents about reasonable adjustments that may allow the child to continue at the School. Further details of our provision for pupils with disabilities and those with Special Educational Needs are provided in our policies relating specifically to these areas.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The aim of the process is to identify potential. Longridge Towers School is looking for well-rounded pupils with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, with interests that stretch beyond the confines of the academic curriculum. The School has strong traditions in music, drama, art, debating, community activities and sport. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

No specific preparation for the entrance tests is needed, all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude.

We will offer places to candidates throughout the year. For year groups in which all places have been allocated waiting lists will be introduced, and prospective pupils will be informed at the point of acceptance of a Registration that there is a waiting list.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

1. Candidate's Age:

Very occasionally, we may offer places to pupils one year ahead or behind their standard year group, if we consider, as a matter of professional judgement at the School's discretion that this would be in the best interests of the pupil and the School.

2. **Unforeseen circumstances:**

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

- If he/she is unwell when taking tests or has had a lengthy absence from his/her school;
- If there are particular family circumstances;
- If there is a relevant educational history, for example education outside the British system;
- If the applicant has a disability or specific learning difficulties;
- If English is not the candidate's first language;

In any of these cases, we may request further information such as a medical certificate or educational psychologist's report and any associated correspondence or details from the pupil's current school (including samples of work) as we consider necessary to make a fair assessment.

SIBLING POLICY

Longridge Towers School has no sibling preference policy.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Longridge Towers School offers a limited number of scholarships for excellence in:

- Academic subjects
- Music
- Sport

A scholarship may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions. All scholarships are made on the basis that a pupil's conduct and academic progress remains satisfactory.

Purpose of Scholarships

Scholarships are designed to reward excellence and to celebrate exceptional talent. In recognition of this achievement, the scholar is offered an annual reduction in the fees at Longridge Towers School. Music scholars are offered free tuition in musical instrument(s). 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.

We encourage parents of scholars who anticipate that they will experience difficulty in meeting the balance of the tuition fees to apply (at the same time as registration of their child) for one of the School's means-tested bursaries described below.

Academic Scholarships:

Candidates who apply for academic scholarships sit a separate entrance examination. A pupil who has not succeeded in the academic scholarship may be exempted from sitting the normal entrance examination, providing that he/she has performed sufficiently well.

Scholarships are held for the duration of a pupil's time at the School, provided his/her academic attainment and effort remains significantly advanced in comparison to their peers. Four further scholarships are offered to entrants to Year 12.

All candidates will be interviewed and take a non-verbal reasoning test in addition to sitting papers in English and Mathematics. For Year 12 entrants, candidates will sit a further three papers in chosen subjects.

Music Scholarships

Music scholarships are awarded to outstanding musicians who play any instrument or sing with exceptional ability. Candidates must obtain a specialist reference from their current Head of Music in addition to a reference from their current Head. They will be required to perform two short pieces and to complete a written paper, together with aural and practical tests. They will also be interviewed.

with the Director of Music, or a member of the Music Department. He/she will be expected to demonstrate enthusiasm for and commitment to music and will be expected to contribute to, and promote, the musical life of the School throughout their time at the School. Music Scholarships will be made for either two or three years. Awards can be re-applied for and it is hoped that they will be held consecutively.

Music scholarships will only be awarded to pupils who have passed the School's entrance examination.

Sports Scholarships

Sports scholarships are awarded to outstanding, all-round sports women/ men who have achieved a high level of competence in two or more sports. Candidates will be assessed and interviewed by the Head of Games and will be expected to demonstrate qualities of leadership and team play of a very high order. Candidates will be required to provide a specialist reference from their current Director of Sport. They will be expected to make a contribution to the sporting life of the School throughout their time at the School. Sports Scholarships will also be made for either two or three years. Awards can be re-applied for and it is hoped that they will be held consecutively.

Sports scholarships will only be awarded to pupils who have passed the School's entrance examination.

BURSARIES

Longridge Towers School's bursary programme is designed to make it possible for pupils whose parents cannot afford a full fee to take up a place at the School. The School offers annually a number of means-tested awards, called bursaries, to new entrants. Bursaries are means-tested in accordance with the criteria established by the Governor's Awards Committee. Parents are required to provide full details of their financial circumstances and the school reserves the right to use an independent company, where appropriate, to assess the applications. The level of support varies according to parental need and can extend to full fee remission.

Bursaries are usually offered for a full academic year and the parents of those in receipt of bursaries are asked to complete a renewal application annually. The level of support may vary if there is a material financial change in the family circumstances.

A bursary may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions.

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at Longridge Towers School as a boarder provided that they have a relative living in the UK or appoint a guardian. This is covered in more detail in the School's Terms and Conditions. However, parents of overseas pupils should appreciate that we do not run a short-term study programme and the expectation is that overseas pupils will a complete course of study such as Years 9-11, or Years 12 -13.

Fluency in English

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Longridge Towers School, pupils must be fluent English speakers. Normally pupils should have been educated in the English medium for at least two years before coming to the School. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) can be arranged at the parent's expense.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Longridge Towers School welcomes applications from prospective pupils of all faiths and of no faith.

Although Longridge Towers School has Christian roots, the School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it offers the opportunity for all to practise their own faiths.

However, parents should be aware that there are occasional compulsory Saturday morning events and that all pupils are expected to attend the annual end of term Founders' Day service. School assemblies take place several times a week and are conducted within a broadly Christian framework.

SCHOOL'S TERMS & CONDITIONS

Copies of the School's Terms and Conditions are on the School's website and within the Parent Contract and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

COMPLAINTS

The School's Complaints Procedure is on the School's website and can be sent to prospective parents on request.

RECORDS AND REVIEW

Applicants' details will be held on file with due regard to data protection legislation and the School's Privacy Notice and Retention Schedule for Documents.

The School will not hold the personal data of you or your child for longer than is necessary for a lawful purpose. This will generally be no more than six months following an unsuccessful application, but reasons to retain for longer might include: if parents express an interest in the candidate re-applying for any reason at a later date, or in the potential candidacy of another sibling; or to deal with any on-going matters or queries arising from the application.