



THE ORATORY

THE ORATORY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Policy Owner:	Admissions Department
Type of Policy:	Regulatory
Regulatory Body* (if a regulatory policy)	Independent Schools Inspectorate
Relevant Legislation* (if a regulatory policy)	The Independent School Standards Regulations – from April 2021 Part 6 – Provision of Information para 32(3)
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Introduction

The Oratory is a HMC Catholic Co-educational Independent Day and Boarding school for pupils aged 11 to 18. The Oratory became coeducational in September 2020, welcoming 48 girls alongside boys in all year groups except Years 11 and 13. The school currently has 375 pupils, 37% 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 hold several open events throughout the year, which give a general introduction to the school and details of these are published on our website. We are also keen to welcome prospective parents and their children in throughout the year. Please contact the school's Admissions Managers, on 01491 683522 or email admissions@oratory.co.uk to arrange a personal tour of the school and meeting with the Head and other key members of staff.

The admissions process at The Oratory is designed to ensure that all pupils joining the school can be happy, successful and secure within The Oratory's unique academic, pastoral and spiritual community.

Entry Procedure

The Oratory School is a selective School. Selection is assessed through an entry examination an interview at 13+ and 16+ and references from the applicant's previous school.

The usual points of entry are 11+ (Year 7), 13+ (Year 9) and 16+ (Year 12, Sixth Form). We admit up to 40 pupils into Year 7, another 40 pupils into Year 9 and a limited number into Year 12. The school may also have places available in other year groups. Please contact Admissions Department for details.

Applicants for admission should aim to register by the deadlines detailed in the Annual Information Booklet for their specific entry point. This is available on the school's website and on request from the Admissions Department. Registration should be via the online form on the school's website and from September 2023 there is a £150 UK registration fee and a £250 Overseas registration fee.

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. Financial support, in the form of bursaries, may be offered to facilitate as many as possible who meet our admission criteria to attend the school. The school's provision for bursaries is described below and full details are available from our Bursar.

The Oratory is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of an applicant's gender, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, social background.

Special Needs

The Oratory does not discriminate in any way regarding entry. The school welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, providing we can offer them the support they require, cater for any additional needs, and our site can accommodate them. We require parents of children with special educational needs to discuss their child's requirements with The Oratory before registration to ascertain whether the school may be able to provide appropriate support for a pupil's needs.

Parents should provide a copy of any educational, psychological or medical report relevant to the candidate. The school will discuss with parents and their advisors any adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the school. This includes the potential supply of auxiliary aids and services.

Specific needs should be advised to the school before a candidate attends an assessment so that the school can make adequate provision for him/her.

The allocation of a Special Educational Needs place will be determined by our Head of Curriculum Support in consultation with the Head, who reviews all candidates' written tests and any accompanying paperwork detailing the applicant's needs. An additional charge is made for those requiring 1:1 specialist teaching.

Entry Criteria

The Oratory is a selective school, and we do not offer every applicant a place. We use assessments as part of the admissions process to identify pupils who will benefit from our academic and holistic, all-round education, and who will make a positive contribution towards the life of the school as well as thrive academically. The Oratory does not select on academic ability alone, but satisfactory performance is required in the assessment papers to demonstrate a pupil's ability to access the curriculum offered at The Oratory.

The Assessment Process

The aim of the process is to identify potential. The Oratory 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 whilst a healthy focus on academic results is maintained. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

Pupils join the school at 11+ through internal entrance assessments in English, Mathematics and Verbal and Non-Verbal, Spatial and Quantitative Reasoning. They will also have a group interview as part of the selection process.

Pupils join the school at 13+ through the ISEB Scholarship or the ISEB Common Entrance Examinations. Pupils that are registered to join the school at 13+ are required to complete the ISEB Common Pre-Test in Year 6 and an interview with the Head, prior to them taking the ISEB Common Entrance in Year 8 if their Prep School uses CE. Both the ISEB Pre-test and Common Entrance exams are organised by prep schools in consultation with The Oratory. If an applicant has not taken their ISEB in Year 6 then they can take it in Year 7. If the application is made after that, or is not at a Prep School, they can be assessed through an individual

online assessment at the point of application, followed by an interview with the Head, and be offered a place dependent on successful completion of Year 8.

Admissions for pupils who join the school at 16+ is dependent on predicted GCSE results, school reports and an Assessment Day which will include an interview with a member of the Senior Management Team, and completion of entrance papers set by the school. It is expected that a grade 6 will be achieved at GCSE in a subject that is to be continued at A Level. In addition, a minimum of five GCSE passes are required, including pass grades in English and Maths.

Overseas applicants will be required to complete Entrance Examinations in English (EAL) as well as the usual entrance assessments.

The dates for the forthcoming assessment process are published on our website in our Annual Information Booklet.

Waiting lists

We encourage early registration and acceptance of a place once offered. If an applicant wishes to apply to The Oratory after the Assessment Day for their point of entry, they may still take the assessment but may be placed on a waiting list until a place becomes available. Applicants will be taken off the waiting list in strictly chronological order.

Sibling Policy

Most siblings join us at The Oratory and as a family school we encourage sibling applications. However, siblings are subject to the standard school application procedures and must register for a place within the appropriate time frame. Admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment. We do like to keep family groups together where possible and offer a 15% fee remission on the fees of third siblings, for the duration that all three siblings are in the school.

Scholarships and Bursaries

We offer some means-tested bursaries on a discretionary basis. The Oratory's bursary programme is designed to enable as many as possible of those who meet The Oratory's entry criteria to take up a place here. We are a small school and the guideline maximum discount offered is 40% of fees, inclusive of any bursaries and scholarships. Bursaries are reviewed annually. Please view the Bursaries Policy for more information.

Where possible we like to offer a small number of means-tested transformational bursaries where exceptional talent is recognised.

Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Head to recognise excellence, ability and potential in one or more academic or extra-curricular areas. Scholarships are available for pupils applying for all three of the main entry points (Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12). For entry into Year 9, scholarships can only be applied for following receipt of the deposit to join the school.

- Academic (Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12)
- Music (Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12)
- Sport (Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12)
- Art (Year 9 and Year 12)
- Drama (Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12)
- Design and Technology (Year 9 and Year 12)
- All-Round (Year 7 and Year 9)
- Thomas Scholarship (Year 7, Primary School Pupils)

We also offer a limited number of exhibitions for those applicants who may not quite reach the standard of a scholarship but show talent in their chosen field.

Full details of the scholarships and exhibitions can be found in the Annual Information Booklet, available on our website and by contacting the Admissions Department who can arrange to send it to you via email or by post.

Overseas Applicants

We welcome overseas pupils provided they have a relative or legal guardian living in the UK with whom they can stay with when necessary and who is able to comply with the school's requests *in loco parentis*.

Overseas pupils are offered places based on recent school reports, online assessments of Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning, an English language test and interview (where appropriate). English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes are provided at an additional charge. One to one tuition in English as an Additional Language is also offered, for an additional charge, to all international pupils. However, before entry, pupils will be expected to demonstrate a sufficient and appropriate level of English Language skill to allow them to advance their studies.

The Oratory has a Sponsor License with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) for Child Student & Student Visas. Once we have received a deposit to confirm a place and all necessary documentation as stipulated by the UKVI, we will issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). More details on Overseas Pupils and Immigration can be found in our Terms and Conditions and on our website.

Religious Beliefs

Although The Oratory is a Roman Catholic school, we do not select for entry based on religious belief, and we seek to offer the opportunity for those of other faiths to practise their own beliefs. However, it is a requirement that all pupils study Religious Studies up to and including Year 11, whilst in Years 12 and 13 every pupil receives one lesson per week of non-examined Religious Education. We do expect all pupils to attend whole school acts of worship, even if they choose not to participate.

School's contractual terms & conditions

Copies of the school's Terms and Conditions are sent to all parents as part of the admissions process. Additional and subsequent copies are available on request. They are also available on the school's website.

Complaints

We hope that you and your child do not have any complaints about our admissions process; however, if you are unsatisfied with any aspect of the process you should contact the Admissions Department to share your views. The School's Complaints Procedure is not available for use by prospective parents.

Records and Review

Applicants' details will be held on file with due regard to data protection legislation and the School's Privacy Notice – Prospective Pupils and Parents which is on the school's website.