

ADMISSIONS TO GREENWICH STEINER SCHOOL

We are committed to ensuring that admission decisions will be made by a process that is free from any discrimination on the grounds of disability; race; ethnic or national origin; gender; religion or belief (assuming that, in the case of the latter, the prospective pupil and parents agree to support the ethos of the School as described in the prospectus, website and other literature). The school must also feel reasonably sure that we are able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his or her potential and in line with general standards achieved by the pupil's peers, so that there is every chance that the pupil will have a happy, fulfilling and successful school career. These aims must continue to be met throughout the pupil's time at the school.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Open Day

As our approach to education is unique, it is important that parents understand our methods and some of our educational philosophy. Experience has shown that if there is a mutual understanding of child development and our curriculum between parents and the school, the pupils will benefit. It is therefore important that parents attend an Open Day or make an alternative arrangement under certain circumstances.

Application

Following the Open Morning parents can apply for a place in the school for their children by completing the application forms and sending appropriate documentation and application fee. Although admission to the school at the beginning of term is preferable, this is not a fixed policy. In some cases it is fine to start partway through a term. Please provide us with as much information about your child as possible so that we can be sure that we can meet their needs responsibly. It is of great importance that a parent informs the School on the application form should a prospective pupil be disabled under the definition of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Interview

Once the application forms have been received the prospective pupil will be interviewed by the appropriate teacher(s).

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Although we would hope that pupils can enjoy both early years and lower school education here, progression from the Kindergarten to the Lower School (class 1) is not automatic and a new admissions process takes place at age 5 with a review at age 6.

We look at the impression made during interview and/or a trial visit, and on reports from the prospective pupil's current school. Specifically we consider:

- 1. Greenwich Steiner School's suitability for her/his age, ability or special educational needs.**
- 2. Whether we can make reasonable adjustment to accommodate a particular pupil's needs.**
- 3. Whether the acceptance of the applicant is compatible with the efficient education of the children already placed in our school.**
- 4. Whether we have the resources to meet his/her needs within our own Learning Support Department.**

Special Needs

We only cater for children who fall within an academic ability range which enables them to benefit from our rigorous and broad curriculum and would enable them to progress to further education which will lead up to GCSE and A levels.

Where resources and the curriculum allow, adjustments will be made to accommodate children with medical or Special Educational Needs. In the case of pupils with medical needs, as part of the admissions process a risk assessment will take place as well as consultation with relevant specialists to ensure that an informed decision is made.

We aim to have a 'healthy constellation' of pupils in each class and not to over-burden the class and teachers with more than a few children needing extra help. In some cases children may be accepted on a trial basis.

Decisions

The school may refuse entry to a pupil whose educational special needs are considered by the school to be beyond those which we can provide through our own learning support provision or where that provision is over subscribed.

Appeal

If parents or carers are convinced that we have made the wrong decision about their child's application to the school, then they have the right of appeal.

Appeals about an Admissions decision must be made to the Chair of the Trustees in writing within 5 working days of the receipt of the admissions decision. A response to an appeal will normally be provided within 10 working school days of receipt unless external specialist advice is required in which case a response will be provided as soon as practicable.

**GREENWICH STEINER SCHOOL CLASSES AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS
IN THE STATE AND INDEPENDENT SECTORS**

The chart below is designed to show the order of the classes at GSS, the ages of the children in each class and how these correspond with schools in the state and independent sectors.

The cut off birth date, which determines into what class a child is to be placed, is 31st May at GSS, while in the state sector it is the 1st September. We regard the month of May as a borderline month and will look especially carefully at pupils with May birthdays.

Children enter Class 1 in the September after their sixth birthday: those who have their birthday in August will already be seven years old.

MICHAEL HALL	AGE	STATE	INDEPENDENT
Kindergarten Yr. 1 & 2	Rising 3 – 5	Primary (Reception)	Pre-preparatory
Yr. 3	5 – 6	(Infants) Yr. 1	
Lower School Cl. 1	6 – 7	Yr. 2	
Class 2	7 – 8	(Juniors) 3	Preparatory
Class 3	8 – 9	4	
Class 4	9 – 10	5	
Class 5	10 – 11	6	Girls: Common Entrance exam
Class 6	11 – 12	(Secondary) 7	
Class 7	12 – 13	8	Boys & co-ed Common Entrance exam

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