



Admissions and Exclusions Policy

St James' School

1. Introduction

Our policy reflects the DfE guidance, in particular 'School Admissions Code' (DfE 2021). This policy should be read in conjunction with the policies listed below:

- Non-discrimination and Inclusion
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour and Discipline
- Complaints

This policy aims to outline the admissions process of our school, as well as provide relevant information to families looking to join. It also outlines exclusions and the process that is followed for both fixed-term and permanent exclusions.

2. Admissions Arrangements

The School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school for pupils between the ages of 11 and 18. The School operates on a single form entry system from Year Seven to Year Thirteen. The main entry points for admission are into Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12.

Admissions will be made based on performance in entrance tests, the impression made during interview/taster day, references from the prospective pupil's current school and previous exam results where appropriate. This informs us as to the pupil's current level of achievement; and will help the School and family make a considered decision as to their registration.

The admissions of boarding pupils are brought to the school through the agent or direct parental enquiry. Admissions are based on academic reports and the impression made during an online interview. The Headmistress, Registrar, SENDCO, EAL teacher and parent/agent meet to assess and conclude the suitability of the candidate before a place is offered.

If spaces are unavailable, upon receipt of the application/registration form and payment of the registration fee, the pupil's name will be placed on the waiting list for entry into the correct year. The pupil's name may be removed from the list at any time at the request of the parents.

3. Leavers Arrangements

If a child leaves the school, this is recorded on the Admissions register.

Where children leave the school, the DSL will ensure safeguarding and child protection files are transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible: within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term to allow the new school or college to have support

in place for when the child arrive. If there are no safeguarding or child protection files for the child, the school will inform the new school of this.

Any other relevant information for the new school will be passed on, including assessment data. For children leaving at the standard exit points, there may be inductions or meetings held with the new school or further education setting.

For in-year transfers to new schools, the school will notify the Local Authority (01472 313131).

Elective Home Education

Many home-educated children have an overwhelmingly positive learning experience. We would expect the parents' decision to home educate to be made with their child's best education at the heart of the decision. However, this is not the case for all, and home education can mean some children are less visible to the services that are there to keep them safe and supported in line with their needs.

From September 2016 the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 were amended so that schools must inform their LA of all deletions from their admission register when a child is taken off roll.

Where a parent/carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from school with a view to educating at home, we will work together with other professionals to coordinate a meeting with parents/carers where possible. Ideally, this would be before a final decision has been made, to ensure the parents/carers have considered what is in the best interests of each child. This is particularly important where a child has special educational needs or a disability, and/or has a social worker, and/or is otherwise vulnerable. DfE guidance on Elective Home Education (which is primarily for Local Authorities) will also be read and understood by the SLT.

4. Fixed-Term and Permanent Exclusions

The School seeks to provide a disciplined and ordered family community in which education and learning can flourish. When accepting a place, parents agree that their son or daughter should be subject at all times to the School Rules and Regulations in force.

The School will make clear the standards of behaviour and commitment that it expects from pupils. It will encourage pupils to adopt positive attitudes and values such as consideration, honesty, and respect for others. It will acknowledge and praise pupils when they reach these standards.

Any breach of good manners or good sense whether at school, on journeys to and from school, at events organised by the School or when representing the School is a breach of School Rules. High standards of behaviour are expected at all times and bullying in any form is unacceptable.

The School's Terms and Conditions confer upon the Head the power to impose the sanction of suspension or expulsion on any pupil for any cause which they consider adequate.

Suspension may be ordered if a pupil persists in misdemeanours after warnings or is involved in bullying, anti-social behaviour, theft, lying, bringing prohibited articles or substances to School, repeated truancy from lessons or other serious wrongdoing. This gives the pupil a chance to consider, if possible, with the help of discussions at home, the possibility that expulsion may subsequently be ordered unless conduct improves.

Expulsion may be ordered in certain circumstances, normally following suspension except in cases of serious misconduct. If this sanction is being considered, both the pupil and parents will normally be invited to a meeting with the Headmistress. Parents may in some cases be offered the opportunity to withdraw the pupil. In other cases, the Headmistress may expel the pupil forthwith. The appropriate procedure to be adopted in any case is entirely at the discretion of the Headmistress.

Parents should be informed that it is now a criminal offence punishable by fixed penalty fine or prosecution of the parents if a pupil is seen in a public place during normal school hours without reasonable justification, during the first five days of exclusion from school. Pupils excluded from an independent school may be apprehended, as it would not be evident to a police officer that the pupil is not from a state school.

We do not wish to exclude any pupil from school, but sometimes this may be necessary. The School has therefore adopted the DFE's national standard list of reasons for exclusion and follows their standard guidance in any decision to exclude a pupil from school.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/641418/20170831_Exclusion_Stat_guidance_Web_version.pdf

Only the Headmistress (or the acting Head) has the power to exclude a pupil from school. The Head may exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any one school year. In extreme and exceptional circumstances, the Head may exclude a pupil permanently. It is also possible for the Head to convert a fixed-term exclusion into a permanent exclusion if the circumstances warrant this.

If the Head excludes a pupil, she will inform the parents immediately, giving reasons for the exclusion. At the same time, the Head makes it clear to the parents that they can, if they wish, appeal against the decision to the School's Directors. The School will inform the parents how to make any such appeal.

The Head informs the Governors about any permanent exclusion, and about any fixed-term exclusions beyond five days in any one term.

When the Directors meet to consider exclusion, they consider the circumstances in which the pupil was excluded, consider any representation by parents, and consider whether the pupil should be reinstated.

If the Directors decide that a pupil should be reinstated, the Head must comply with this ruling.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

As with all our policies, the School will strive to ensure this policy is effective, follows the relevant guidance, and adheres to the principles of the School. This will be achieved through regular monitoring and evaluation by the Head, who holds the responsibility of this policy. During this review, amendments will be made where necessary and agreed upon with the Proprietor.

Date of Review	Position	Name of Reviewer	Date of Next Review
August 2023	Headteacher	Miss T. Harris	August 2024
August 2023	Proprietor	Mr A. Khan	August 2024