RYDE SCHOOL
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Admissions Policy
(Whole School)

Policy date:	September 2026	
Date of next review:	Summer Term 2026-27	
Owner(s):	BMC/WT	
Approval body:	Head Master & Governors	
Intended audience:	Pupils, parents and staff	
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Location (tick as appropriate):	Website	✓
	Parent Portal	✓
	Staff Portal	✓
	Inspection folder	✓

GENERAL

Ryde School is a co-educational independent School for pupils from ages 2 to 18. The School typically has over 600 pupils on roll, approximately 60 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 child will visit Ryde. We hold various open events, which give a general introduction to the School, but consider every day to be an Open Day and welcome visits at any point. Details of specific events are published on our website. Please contact the School's Admissions Department through the relevant section of the website or email admissions@rydeschool.net. If it is not possible to hold open events or arrange School visits because of circumstances beyond the School's control, then the School will put alternative arrangements in place which will be communicated to prospective families.

THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

Ryde School is a selective school. Selection is based upon academic merit which is assessed through entry assessments, meeting the prospective pupil, references and other relevant information from the candidate's previous School]. Our selection process 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. We also expect applicants and their parents/guardians to act in accordance with our ethos and values and – during the admissions process and beyond – conduct themselves in a respectful and reasonable manner.

In the Prep School we consider pupils for entry into any Year Group. In the Senior School our main entry points are at Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. We would not normally consider entry half way through GCSE or A Level/IB courses though we do offer a one-year GCSE programme for pupils joining in Year 11. Very occasionally, we may offer places to candidates one year ahead or behind their standard Year Group, if we consider, as a matter of professional judgement, that this would be in the best interests of the pupil and the School.

EQUAL TREATMENT

Ryde School's aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. We are mindful of our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 during the Admissions Process. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Generous 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.

Ryde School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex**,** race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or social background.

INFORMATION SHARING

We require parents to inform the School at the outset of the application process about any needs (including special educational needs) which their child may have or any other significant matters which the School should reasonably be aware of because, for example, it would necessitate tailored provision and/or would materially impact on their child's attendance at School and/or ability to engage in day-to-day School life. We also require applicant parents to be transparent about any circumstances which may materially impact their ability to comply with the School's Parent Contract, for example, in respect of fees.

The School may wish to discuss these matters with the parents and/or require some further information.

Parents must ensure that information provided is accurate, complete and not misleading and relevant details and information (or changes to them) are shared in a timely and transparent manner.

A failure to disclose relevant information and/or the provision of inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information may - in some cases - lead to the withdrawal of an offer or termination of the School's Parent Contract.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Ryde School does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, provided we can reasonably offer them any support that they require and cater for any additional needs and that our site can accommodate them. We aim to ensure that all our pupils, including those with disabilities and/or special educational needs, are provided with a safe and inclusive environment in which to learn.

Our policy is to apply our admission criteria to all potential pupils. We require parents of children with special educational needs, disabilities or allergies (suspected and diagnosed) to discuss their child's needs with the School at the outset of the admissions process so that we can consider and make – to the extent reasonable – appropriate provision for them.

Parents are required to provide with the Registration Form full details of all relevant information about their child, including any reports (including any educational psychologist reports, medical reports or assessments or other relevant expert third party reports), materials or information about their child's needs (educational, health or otherwise), and this may include any final or draft EHC needs assessments (or applications for a needs assessment) or final or draft EHC Plans (or applications for an EHC Plan) or equivalents. This is so that the School can assess their child's needs and consult with parents about any adjustments which can reasonably be made and so that the School can ensure, for example, that their child will be able to meaningfully access the education offered and that we are able to ensure their health and safety, and the health and safety of others. This information should be provided prior to the admissions assessment process.

Where parents of a prospective pupil feel their child requires adjustments (in respect of the admissions process and/or with regards to education at School and participation in School life in the event they are offered and take up a place at the School), parents should raise these with the School at the outset. The School may – depending on the circumstances – require some further information from parents or request further assessments in respect of the needs identified and will discuss with parents (and their child's medical advisers, if appropriate) the adjustments proposed and whether they can reasonably be made for the child if they were to become a pupil at the School.

There may be exceptional circumstances in which we are not able to offer a place for reasons relating to a child's special educational needs and/or disability. For example, if, despite reasonable adjustments (in the case of disability), we feel that a prospective pupil is not going to be able to meaningfully access the education offered, or that their health and safety or those of other pupils or staff may be put at risk, or where the School cannot reasonably accommodate the adjustments required or reasonably provide the nature or level of the support required.

Sometimes, the situation of pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs changes between an offer of a place being made and the pupil starting at the School. The School requires parents to be pro-active in updating the School as to any changes which mean that the information provided during the application process is out of date or incomplete. In the vast majority of cases, this will not affect a pupil's place at the School. However, the School may, in exceptional circumstances, need to reconsider the offer of a place if a pupil's circumstances change materially. It is in the pupil's interests that any such decision is made as early as possible to avoid any disruption to their education, so parents are urged to be forthcoming and transparent in their communications with the School about any material change to their child's circumstances.

In the event your child has an EHC needs assessment or EHCP (or equivalent) (whether at the application stage, draft or final form) it is important that these (and the applicable supporting documentation, e.g. educational psychologist reports or other expert assessments) are shared promptly with the School and that the School is kept up to date with respect to any relevant decisions of the Local Authority or changes in provision.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The aim of the process is to identify potential. Ryde 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 our entrance tests is needed; all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude.

Our admission procedure has four elements:

- Assessment of Attainment;
- Interviews or school visits;
- Character references - we place particular importance on good discipline and behaviour when considering applications for admission to the School;
- Disability assessments (if applicable).

We cater for a wide range of abilities and so our tests are designed to assess whether pupils can cope with our curriculum and to determine best fit for setting.

The nature of assessment is as follows:

- In the Pre-Prep, an informal assessment would be undertaken to include a phonics check, a maths and writing assessment and an assessment on the child's ability to communicate with both peers and adults.
- In Years 3-6 of the Prep School, pupils sit online age-standardised assessments in English, Mathematics, Non-Verbal and Verbal Reasoning.
- In the Senior School pupils sit online age-standardised assessments in English, Mathematics, Non-Verbal and Verbal Reasoning and complete a continuous writing paper. For entry into Year 11 and the Sixth Form papers may reflect subject preferences more closely.

In all cases there will be a general interview with a senior member of staff to explore the candidate's interests, attitude to school, personal qualities, ability to contribute to the school community and support available at home. In Pre-Prep an informal assessment through discussion with a pupil will take place. These may happen on-line should a visit to the School not be possible. In the Nursery, children will be given the opportunity to interact with staff and peers through guided activities such as a simple game or story sharing to assess their communication skills.

The Head of the candidate's current school will be asked to provide a written reference as to the candidate's academic ability, attitude and behaviour, involvement in the school community, talents and interest, 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 NFER or SATs) and predicted grades at GCSE (if appropriate).

References will be sought from the Head of a candidate's current School as part of the assessment process and any offer of a place will be conditional on receiving satisfactory references.

SIBLING POLICY

Most siblings join us at Ryde School. However, admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where the School judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment..

SCHOLARSHIPS

Ryde School is able to provide a number of scholarships into Years 7, 9 and Lower Sixth. These places are awarded to high quality candidates and are competitive following specific assessments. The aim is both to recognise excellence and widen access, hence scholarships open opportunities to bursaries

which provide fee assistance and are means-tested. Parents are required to submit a financial declaration before the examination date. Places will be offered on a basis of performance in the examinations and at interview, the amount and number of the awards made being at the discretion of the Head Master, operating within the guidelines set by the Board of Governors.

The number of these awards may vary from year to year, depending on the academic profile of the cohorts involved. Further information about these awards can be found on our website, together with deadlines and timelines for applications and assessments.

The School offers various scholarships each year for excellence in:

- Academics
- Sport
- Sailing
- Performing Arts
- Music
- Visual Arts
- McIsaac Awards (for scholars showing excellence in two or more of the above areas)

A scholarship may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or in accordance with the School's Parent Contract.

Academic Scholarships

Candidates who apply for academic scholarships sit standard entrance assessments as part of the scholarship process. In almost all cases, a pupil who has not succeeded in the academic scholarship will be exempted from sitting the normal entrance examination, provided that they have performed sufficiently well.

Scholarships are held for the duration of a pupil's time at the School, provided their conduct is satisfactory.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Any applicant for a place at the School, including those who apply for bursary support and overseas applicants, may at the discretion of the School be required to provide additional financial information and/or undergo checks to confirm that they are able to pay the School's fees (or any percentage of the fees still payable if a bursary or scholarship is granted). As noted above, we expect applicant parents to be transparent with the School in respect of any concerns they may have about their ability to meet their obligations under the Parent Contract, including in respect of fees.

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at Ryde School as boarders provided that they have the legal right to enter, live and study in the UK. Such pupils are legally required to have a designated UK Guardian. Further details can be found via the School's Guardianship Policy & Agreement and the International Admission and Student Route Visa Sponsorship Policy, both of which are available on the School's website.

FLUENCY IN ENGLISH

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Ryde School, pupils must be competent English speakers. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) is included in our academic programme.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

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

Although Ryde School is a Church of England School, the School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief.

However, parents should be aware that there are compulsory school events and services that all pupils are expected to attend, *e.g. the Remembrance Service and the annual Founders' Day Service*.

SCHOOL'S TERMS & CONDITIONS (PARENT CONTRACT)

The terms upon which the School educates each pupil are set out in the School's Parent Contract which 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. The 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. Please see the School's Privacy Notice for further information about how the School collects, uses and processes personal data.

The School will not hold the personal data of you or your child for longer than is necessary for a lawful purpose and in accordance with DfE guidance. This will generally be e.g. no more than 6 months following an unsuccessful application, but reasons to retain personal data for longer might include: e.g. if the parents express an interest in the candidate re-applying for any reason at a later date; or to deal with any ongoing matters or queries arising from the application.