



RMS
FOR GIRLS

ADMISSIONS POLICY

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| School update | |
| Responsible for review of policy | Deputy Head Academic |
| Last school update | <i>March 2023</i> |
| Governor Sub-Committee review | |
| Sub Committee to review | Academic/Board |
| Review Period | 3 years |
| Last Sub- Committee review date | <i>(not in last 3 years)</i> |
| Scheduled review | March 2026 |
| Reviewed and referred to Board by Sub Committee – <i>meeting date</i> | 8 th March 2023 Board approval December 2023 |
| Board Approval | |
| Approved by Board of Governors (Meeting date) | Board approval December 2023 |
| Next Sub-Committee/Board Review | <i>March 2026</i> |
| Related policies | |

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| Uploaded to Staff Shared | January 2024 |
| Uploaded to Website | January 2024 |

ADMISSIONS POLICY

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

1.1 RMS is an Independent Day and Boarding School for girls aged 2-18. Boys are accepted into the pre-school class in the Nursery School at 2+ and leave at 3+. There is no assessment for entry into Ruspini House at 2+. At all other points of entry, from 3+ to Sixth Form there is an assessment process to select pupils. The School considers applications for all year groups, subject to availability of places.

1.2 The School is committed to encouraging applications from candidates with a diverse range of backgrounds, diversity enriches the community and is vital in preparing pupils for today's world. The bursary policy is outlined below.

1.3 The School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background. All candidates for admission will be treated equally, irrespective of their, or their parents' race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, orientation, property, birth or other status.

2.0 DISABILITY AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

2.1 The School endeavours to make entry as accessible as reasonably possible. Pupils with learning difficulties are welcomed, providing that our Assisted Learning Support Department can offer the support they require and that the school can continue to meet the pupil's needs throughout the period they are enrolled at the school.

2.2 Pupils with physical disabilities are welcome provided that the site is negotiable. The School will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001, in order to accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the School can cater adequately.

2.3 Parents of children with learning difficulties or physical difficulties are invited to discuss their child's requirements with the School well before the entrance examination so that the School is able to make adequate provision for her. Parents should provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report to support their request, for example for extra time or other special arrangements.

2.4 The School will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisors the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if she becomes a pupil at the School.

3.0 THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

3.1 The aim of the process is to identify potential. The 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.

3.2 Although the School conducts assessment tests at all points of entry other than at 2+ -, academic ability is not the only criterion for selection, although ~~girls~~ candidates must meet a standard that will enable them to cope happily at the School. Family links, enthusiasm, a request or recommendation from the Headteacher of a previous school are all important factors in the selection process for a school where strong pastoral care is a traditional feature and from which the Head of Senior School may consider that certain pupils will benefit because of individual circumstances.

3.3 Children of the family are given priority at all levels but their place is not automatic. It is most important that the School suits the individual child and the Head of School will advise if the School is not an appropriate choice.

3.4 No specific preparation for entrance testing is needed, all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude (and extra-curricular skills).

3.5 The dates for the assessment days for the current year are published on the website, together with the dates that results are posted to families and the closing date for acceptances. Places are offered to candidates from the waiting list after the closing date for acceptances.

4.0 ADMISSION TO NURSERY SCHOOL - Ruspini House

4.1 Pupils may be admitted into the Nursery School in the half term in which they turn two.

4.2 All candidates are assessed at 3+ for a place in the Nursery class. Transfer from the Ruspini House pre school class is not guaranteed.

5.0 ADMISSION TO PREP SCHOOL - Cadogan House

5.1 Pupils are admitted to Reception in September of the year in which they attain their fifth birthday. Transfer from Nursery is guaranteed in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

5.2 All candidates for entry into the Reception year of Cadogan House, including children in Nursery, are assessed during a visit to the candidate's Early Years provider or in a group or class situation. Certain levels of numeracy and literacy are required, but attitude, potential and special talent and ability are also recognised.

6.0 ADMISSION TO SENIOR SCHOOL

6.1 The School is academically selective. Selection is based upon academic merit, which is assessed for entry in to the Senior Department through the entry examination, an interview at the School and references from the candidate's previous school.

6.2 Cadogan House pupils are guaranteed a place in Senior School in all but the most exceptional circumstances but, in Year 6 they take the same assessment tests as external candidates to provide a benchmark.

6.3 The selection process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from a balanced and well-rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the wider life of the School.

6.4 The major point of entry is 11+, but pupils are accepted into all year groups where there are spaces, with an entry from Prep Schools at 13+ and transfer from other senior schools into Year 10 for GCSE.

7.0 FOR ENTRY TO YEAR 7

Candidates spend a full day at school and sit an online test provided by the CEM service, which assesses literacy and numeracy skills. Pupils also complete a piece of creative writing. In addition all pupils take part in a small group discussion with the Head of Senior School and choose a larger group activity that may include Art, PE or Drama. The purpose of these activities is: -

- to make the day a positive interactive experience
- to put candidates at ease
- to enable ~~girls~~ candidates to display their strengths at interview
- to ascertain individual interests
- to observe ~~girls~~ candidates in group activities
- to observe behaviour

8.0 FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 8-10

Candidates complete written tests in English and Maths and are interviewed by the Head of Senior School. Year 10 candidates additionally sit a Science paper.

Some Scholarships are reserved to recognise outstanding achievement at these points of entry.

9.0 OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

9.1 Overseas boarders are welcome, provided that the candidate has a relative or legal guardian living in the UK with whom they can stay for some weekends.

9.2 Pupils with English as a second language will take an online Password test in Maths and English to be sure that they will be able to cope with the high academic and social demands of the School. Additional Language (EAL tuition) can be arranged at the parents' expense should it be determined that these will be needed in order for the pupil to access the curriculum.

10.0 ADMISSION TO THE SIXTH FORM

10.1 Transition to Sixth Form for current RMS pupils

All RMS pupils are welcomed into the Sixth Form if appropriate courses of study can be devised for them. In very exceptional circumstances it may not be considered to be in a pupil's best interests to undertake A Level study and there will be timely consultation with parents if this is the case. In equally exceptional circumstances pupils may be warned in Year 11 that their behaviour record is such that it would be inappropriate for them to join the Sixth Form where pupils are expected to be role models for the rest of the School.

10.2 Admission to Sixth Form

There is no examination for entry, but a pupil's course will be based on their GCSE performance.

10.3 Most academic courses require a pupil to have achieved at least a grade 6 in that or a related subject and more demanding courses require 8-9 grades. Vocational courses require at least a grade 4 in Maths and/or English Language, and practical subjects require pupils to demonstrate by portfolio or audition their suitability for and commitment to study at this level.

10.4 After interview and a reference from the previous school, a place will be offered on the basis that the pupil follows the guidance of the Head of Sixth Form about an appropriate choice of courses.

10.5 Candidates who have English as a second language will be required to demonstrate a sufficient level of English Language proficiency in order to access the curriculum. If it is felt that they will require some support to develop their English language proficiency, they may be asked to attend EAL support sessions at an additional cost to the student.

10.6 Where students do not hold GCSE qualifications, they will be required to take a written test in the subjects they want to study in the Sixth Form. They will only be permitted on the course of study if the HoD feels their basic knowledge and level of English is such that they will manage the demands of the course.

11. PUPILS IN THE CARE OF THE ROYAL MASONIC TRUST FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

11.1 A pupil who, because of family or personal circumstances, is under the protection of RMTGB has automatic right of a place in the School, if the Trust recommends that they should come to the School. Where possible an extended visit is made to gauge whether or not they will be likely to settle happily.

11.2 After such a visit, the Head of School advises the Trust whether or not they will be able to take advantage of the opportunities available in school. They may then be admitted at any time during the school year. Their previous school provides reports but an entrance test is not required other than for benchmarking purposes.

12.0 SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL

12.1 The School offers scholarships for excellence in:

- academic ability
- music

- sports
- art
- drama

12.2 Scholarships are designed to reward excellence and to celebrate exceptional talent. In recognition of their achievement, the scholar is offered a maximum award of 25% reduction (is this still the case we have offered 40% scholarships) in fees without means testing throughout their time at the School. In addition, music scholars are offered free tuition in a musical instrument. Details of potential scholarships will be sent to all who express an interest. All scholars undertake to maintain the highest standards of work and behaviour while at RMS.

12.3 Parents who anticipate that they will experience difficulty in meeting the balance of the tuition fees, are encouraged to apply at the same time to the Director of Finance and Operations (DFO) for bursary support when they register the child.

12.4 **Academic Scholarship**

All Candidates are considered for academic scholarships at 11+. The most outstanding performers in the entrance examinations are invited back for further testing and interview.

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

12.5 **Music Scholarship**

Music scholarships are awarded to outstanding musicians who play any instrument or sing with exceptional ability. Criteria and the audition process are outlined on the website. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate enthusiasm for and commitment to music, and will be expected to make a contribution to the musical life of the School throughout their time here.

12.6 **Sports Scholarship**

Sports scholarships are awarded to outstanding, all-round sportswomen who have achieved a high level of competence in one or more sports. Candidates will be assessed and interviewed by the Director of Sport, 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 RMS.

Criteria and assessment process are outlined on the website

12.7 **Art Scholarship**

Candidates will be asked to bring a portfolio of work, and/or to complete a piece of assessed work at RMS under supervision and have an interview with the Head of Visual Arts.

12.8 Drama Scholarship

Candidates will be asked to provide a record of performance and/or to complete a piece of assessed work at RMS under supervision and have an interview with the Head of Drama.

13. SCHOLARSHIPS AT 16+

Scholarships are available to internal and external candidates with a particular talent in Art, Sport, Drama, Music or general academic merit. Tests are taken in the November of Year 11.

14.0 BURSARIES

Bursaries are available at 11+ entry. Parents who wish to be considered for financial support are required to complete a Statement of Financial Circumstances. All requests are means-tested in accordance with the criteria published on the School's website.

14.1 Bursaries may be applied for in addition to scholarship awards. The level of support varies according to parental need.

14.2 Bursaries will be subject to annual review. In this case the family will be required to provide updated information about its financial circumstances, and levels of support may vary annually. This is to ensure that the limited funds available for this purpose are allocated on a fair, transparent and consistent basis.

14.3 The Cadogan Rose Bursary Award and the Grace Robinson Bursary Award enable a pupil displaying strong academic promise or potential in Sport, Art or Performing Arts to attend The Royal Masonic School for Girls allowing her to benefit from the educational opportunities offered and in turn make a positive contribution to the life within the School, but who would not be able to do so without financial help. The Cadogan Rose Bursary award shall be for an appropriate proportion, or the total amount of the day fees, as determined after allowing for the financial contribution to be made by the parents using the School's financial assessment criteria. The Award shall not normally be given to a pupil whose parents are assessed as being able to afford more than 25% of the school fee.

14.4 The Grace Robinson Bursary Award shall provide for 50% of the total amount of the day fees. The Award shall not normally be given to a pupil whose parents are assessed as being able to afford more than 25% of the school fee.

14.0 SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

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

15.0 COMPLAINTS

Advice and support in making a complaint can be requested via the school office.