



Admissions Policy for day places from September 2012 onwards

St George's School, founded in 1907, was one of the first co-educational day and boarding schools in the country. The aims of the School's Admissions Policy and Criteria reflect the Governors' intention to respect its original foundation and the wishes of its founder, the Reverend Cecil Grant, an Anglican Priest. When St George's became a Voluntary Aided School in 1967, an essential part of the agreement with Hertfordshire County Council and the then Department of Education was to maintain the aims, the ethos of the School and its religious character.

St George's School is a multi-denominational Christian foundation. It is not a church school and it is not supported financially by any religious body, such as the Anglican or Catholic Dioceses or the Free Churches. By tradition, the School's Chaplain is an ordained Anglican and is licensed by the Bishop of St Albans. All staff appointed to the School are required to support the Christian Foundation and many with their families are active members of both the School Chapel and local churches. Pupils and children of staff of the School can be baptized and confirmed by the Chaplain. Members of staff and former pupils who have maintained an active contact with the Chapel can also be married under Special License from the Archbishop. The Chapel is available for Christian groups and Churches and former members of the School use its facilities for special services.

St George's is the only multi-denominational maintained school with a Christian foundation in the Harpenden area. The School welcomes children from a wide church membership and has strong links with local churches (for example, the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, United Reform, Baptist, Salvation Army, Free and Evangelical congregations) in the civil parishes listed. As a Voluntary Aided School, the Governors are responsible for the RE syllabus, which for all years is largely based on the study of Christianity. All pupils are entered for at least the short course GCSE in Religious Studies at the end of KS4.

St George's has some day pupils from other faiths and non-Christian families and a number of boarders who come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Parents must agree to their children attending at least three designated Sunday Chapel services a term. This is a requirement of entry and continuing attendance at St George's School.

St George's does not have 'feeder primary schools'. Traditionally the School takes the majority of its day students from the surrounding area and this includes maintained and independent schools, denominational and multi-denominational schools.

When Reverend Grant set up St George's in 1907, he intended to serve a wider community than Harpenden alone, providing girls and boys with opportunity to attend a multi-denominational Christian Foundation. Successive Headmasters have followed Reverend Grant's lead and the Governors have always protected the aims of the Founder. In response to government directives to introduce precision and fairness into Admissions Policies in the late 1990's, the Foundation Directors agreed on the following distribution of places on a geographical basis to reflect the school's historic development – a pattern of attendance that has been born out over the decades through the school's admission records and registers of families:

- 70% of places should be allocated to children from the Harpenden Area (the civil parishes of Harpenden and Harpenden Rural)
- 20% from the Villages Area (the civil parishes of Ayot St Lawrence, Flamstead, Kimpton, Kings Walden, Markyate, Redbourn, St Pauls's Walden and Wheathampstead)
- 10% beyond the areas listed above.



There is no guarantee of a place for children living in any of the priority areas listed above. There is a separate admission policy for entry to the sixth form.

The aims of the School's Admission Criteria reflect the Governors' intention to respect its traditions and the aims of the Reverend Cecil Grant, the School's Founder. Briefly, these can be summarised as follows:

- To provide a rich educational experience to allow each pupil to make progress and work to realise his/her full potential.
- To protect and develop the religious character of St George's School.
- To provide boarding to support and enrich the experiences of pupils who live at the School.
- To remain, as Cecil Grant intended, a family school where brothers and sisters can be educated together.
- To admit children, regardless of aptitude or ability, whose parents declare their intention to support and uphold the traditions and ethos of St George's. These traditions include loyalty to the House system and the School's strong belief in competition. Competition in the School's curricular and extra-curricular life is deeply embedded in its sport, drama and music and involves children of all abilities and aptitudes. The tradition of regular and Sunday Chapel worship is central to the life and work of St George's.

The ethos of the school is described in the following statement:

The school was established by the Reverend Cecil Grant as a Christian Foundation accepting children of different Christian denominations. Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character centred on the School Chapel, in accordance with Christian principles and in partnership with the School Chaplain.

The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through its worship, teaching and the experience it offers to all its pupils.

- To allow children, regardless of their ability, access to specific curricular and extra-curricular opportunities or facilities that are particular strengths of the School. These include, for example, the choice of modern languages; different specialisms within Technology; the compulsory study of RE to GCSE level; involvement with choral and church music; the chance to contribute to, and participate in, regular Christian worship in the Chapel; the availability of particular sports and games (such as lacrosse and rugby) which are played on a competitive basis with regular fixture lists; Inter-House drama and music competitions; art exhibitions and particular extra-curricular activities, such as the School Sailing Club. Children who may not be able to participate in games can benefit from many other activities offered at the School, such as sailing, drama, music etc.

Parents and Guardians of children who gain admission will be expected to co-operate with the School in maintaining high standards of behaviour and achievement. A full copy of the School's Discipline Policy and School Rules is available to all parents. Parents and Guardians are strongly advised to read the School Prospectus in detail to appreciate the special kind of education offered at St George's. Firm guidance on behaviour and manners (both within and after school hours) and on



uniform is also provided and should be reinforced by the home – the Home School Agreement includes these.

Admission to St. George's School is not dependent on any voluntary contribution.

The admission of pupils is the responsibility of the Governors. All communication regarding Admissions should be clearly addressed to The Day Admissions Secretary, St George's School, Sun Lane, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 4TD.

Pupils will be admitted to St George's in Year 7 at the age of 11 irrespective of physical or academic ability. Only in exceptional circumstances will a child younger than 11 years of age or older than 12 years of age on 1 September of the year in which he/she is due to transfer to secondary school be considered for admission as a day pupil. The advice of the Headteacher of the current school that the child attends and another relevant professional, such as an Educational Psychologist, will be considered.

Boarders will be required to complete a suitability for boarding interview satisfactorily. A full report from the pupil's current school will be requested. In addition, parents must also be able to meet the financial requirements of boarding as long as the child is a registered pupil at the School. In exceptional circumstances, pupils younger than 11 years of age at the time of transfer to a secondary school may be considered, such as in the case of a family returning from overseas whose child is close in educational terms to secondary transfer. **There is no transfer of boarding pupils or boarding places to day places.**

The Governors wish to make it clear that in the application of their Admissions Criteria, they will not tolerate direct or indirect race discrimination and if it is demonstrated in any case that the policy has given rise to race discrimination, it will be disapplied.



Criteria for Day Admissions for the Academic Year from September 2012-July 2013

The Governors have agreed to admit 160 day pupils into Year 7 for September 2012. The arrangements and criteria listed below are reviewed annually and should not be regarded as binding for future years.

St George's is a multi-denominational Christian Foundation and is recognised by the DfE as a school with the religious character of Christian. By tradition its Chaplain, appointed and supported by the Foundation, is an Anglican and is licensed by the Bishop of St Albans. Daily and Sunday Chapel worship is a unique feature of the School and children of all Christian Churches (see Note 3 below) are welcome to apply for entry to the School.

The School's Priority Area comprises the Harpenden Area and the Villages Area together, each being as follows:

- **Harpenden Area** comprises the civil parishes of Harpenden and Harpenden Rural.
- **Villages Area** comprises the civil parishes of Ayot St Lawrence, Flamstead, Kimpton, Kings Walden, Markyate, Redbourn, St Paul's Walden and Wheathampstead.

Children will be allocated to any such Area according to their normal residence at the date of decision. (see Note 6 below)

The Governors will give priority to children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs nominating St. George's V.A. School, Harpenden as the named school.

If the School receives more applications than it has places available, the following criteria will be applied at the date of decision, in the order they are printed below. If more children qualify under a particular criterion than there are places available under that criterion, the subsequent criteria will be applied in order as a tie-break. A Governors Admissions Panel will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements of any of the criteria.

1. Children in Public Care (children looked after) (see Note 1 below).
2. Children who have a brother or sister at the school as a day pupil at the time of admission (see Note 2 below).
3. Children living with a parent or parents with a Christian commitment shown by membership of a Christian Church (see Note 3 below).
 - a) 70% of places available under this criterion will be allocated to children living in the Harpenden Area (the civil parishes of Harpenden and Harpenden Rural).
 - b) 20% of places available under this criterion will be allocated to those living in the civil parishes of Ayot St Lawrence, Flamstead, Kimpton, Kings Walden, Markyate, Redbourn, St Paul's Walden and Wheathampstead.
 - c) 10% of places available under this criterion will be allocated to those living outside the Priority Area civil parishes as listed above.



If there are insufficient applications to match any of the above allocations, the places will be transferred to other allocations in priority order (a), then (b), then (c), until they are all allocated.

4. Children whose parent or parents can prove that they have a particular medical or social reason that makes St. George's School uniquely well suited for the child (see Note 4 below).
5. Children whose parents can prove that they are of different Christian denominations, and are active members of their separate Churches (see Note 5 below)
6. Children whose normal residence is nearest the School, using the straight line home-school distance measurement provided by Hertfordshire County Council's GIS system as outlined in their Moving On publications.(see Note 6 below)

Note 1

A child in Public Care is one who is looked after by a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time of application and who the local authority confirms will still be looked after by the date of admission.

Note 2

A "brother" or "sister" means the sister, brother, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, or child of the parent or partner, living in the same home for at least three nights of the school week. This definition of brother or sister does not include cousins. Older brothers or sisters who are boarders or in the final year of the normal age range of the school (ie in Year 13) will not count for this criterion. "At the time of admission" will normally refer to the beginning of the academic year in September for those applying for places in Year 7.

Note 3

To be considered under this criterion, it is a requirement that at least one parent/carer attends a Christian Church (as defined in this note) with the child at least once a month over a continuous two year period immediately prior to the date of application. The child must be in attendance with a parent(s) and not just attending Sunday School or any specific Youth service/session/meeting/club on their own or with siblings, or attending a church service with or in their current school.

Please ask for the enclosed form to be signed by the Church leader and return it with the application or under separate cover to the Day Admissions Officer at the School.

A church or other organization will be deemed to be a Christian Church if it is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (website: www.ctbi.org.uk) or is in association with the Evangelical Alliance (website: www.eauk.org) or is a member of a local ecumenical group of other Christian Churches as verified by their Church leaders.

Note 4

Documentary evidence from a medical consultant, social worker or other related sector professional will be required if applicants wish to be considered under this criterion.

Note 5

To be considered under this criterion, it is a requirement that both parents/carers attend services at different Christian Churches which belong to different denominations. The attendance requirement for the parents for the respective Christian Churches is at least once a month over a continuous two year period immediately prior to the date of application. This attendance fulfilment will need to be



confirmed in writing by the respective Church leaders. The forms used in connection with Criterion 3 above may be used for this purpose or formal letters from Church leaders which includes their contact details for verification purposes. Such documentation should be returned with the application or under separate cover to the Day Admissions Officer at the School.

A church or other organization will be deemed to be a Christian Church if it is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (website: www.ctbi.org.uk) or is in association with the Evangelical Alliance (website: www.eauk.org) or is a member of a local ecumenical group of other Christian Churches as verified by their Church leaders.

Note 6

The child's normal residence is considered to be the one at which he or she spends at least three nights of the school week. Measurements are made by Hertfordshire County Council who use a specialist software package to calculate them. The definition of home-school measurement corresponds to the one used by Hertfordshire County Council in the County's admission arrangements and application literature. It is a straight line distance measurement.

Apartments in the same block will be treated equally with the measurement taken to the main entrance of the block. If after applying criterion 6 (Distance) there are more applications than places available from the apartment block furthest away, places for applications from this block will be allocated on a Random basis. Places will also be allocated on a Random basis if two separate addresses are exactly the same distance measurement from the school.

Note on multiple births

In cases where the application of the admissions criteria would result in twins or siblings of a multiple birth being allocated to different schools, one of which is St. George's School, the Governors will admit over the published admission number to avoid this occurrence.



Application for Year 7 Day Places 2012

St George's is a Voluntary Aided School. If you wish to apply for a place you must fill in the St George's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) **in addition** to the Secondary Transfer Form (STF) or online application to Hertfordshire CSF (Hertfordshire children) or the form provided by the LA in which you live (children living outside Hertfordshire). The School provides its own forms **direct** to parents. Applications cannot be given priority without the St George's SIF, a copy of which is in the School Prospectus, or obtainable from the Admissions Office by writing to The Day Admissions Officer (marking the envelope Admissions) or by telephone (01582 765477).

Please send the STF to Hertfordshire County Council by **31 October 2011**. You may send the STF to your local Student Services Team or apply on-line to Hertfordshire CSF by the deadline of - **31 October 2011**. For those living outside Hertfordshire, the form provided by their own LA should be returned to the LA in which they live. The St George's Supplementary Information Form should be forwarded to The Day Admissions Officer, St George's School by **Friday 21 October 2011**.

The number of day places for Year 7 in September 2012 will be 160.

Arrangements for visiting the School

Please refer to the Hertfordshire County Council Booklet 'Moving On' for details of secondary transfer visits. For visits at other times of the year, please telephone the Admissions Officer for an appointment.

Right Of Appeal

If a parent is unsuccessful in applying for a pupil place he/she can appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Any places given on appeal are in addition to places offered up to the published admission limit.