

St George's School

	Additional Needs	
	Committee: Staff and Students	
	Co-ordinator : Mrs N Borland-Peel	
	Last Reviewed : Summer 2024	Next Review : Spring 2027
	Policy links to NMS 3 & 15	

RELIGIOUS NEEDS

St. George's is a school which has a Christian ethos. All children are expected to attend weekday Chapels, as well as Sunday Chapels at least three times a term; this must be agreed when children are offered a place at the school. Sunday Chapel attendance is optional for Sixth Form. Most chapel services are based on the Anglican tradition but varieties of Christian churches are represented amongst students, staff and parents. As stated in the School's Attendance Policy Sunday attendances are an integral part of the life of the school for both boarders and day students. However, any student can formally request that they be withdrawn from worship replacing this obligation with school service.

Non-Christian boarders and their families accept the above when applying to the school. Arrangements can be made for non-Christians who also wish to attend their own place of worship. Any boarders who wish to follow their own religion's observations will be supported by staff, in consultation with parents, as far as it is practicable to do so. For example, Ramadan observation which requires eating at a certain time can be organised with the kitchen staff; Hindus who say regular uninterrupted prayers are respected when doing this, maybe in a corner of their room or in a quiet area; where a parent wishes to have a boarder home for a religious holiday or observance, this would be acceptable within guidelines provided by the DfES for all maintained schools. However, a boarder would not be allowed to take a religious holiday and simply remain within the boarding house. Dietary needs are provided for (see item below).

Any religious intolerance is handled either at a simple level involving adult input of discussion, education and encouragement of empathy and understanding, or, in serious cases, following the school Bullying Policy with the involvement of the Director of Boarding or Headmistress.

DIETARY NEEDS

There is a choice of food at all meals. During supper there is typically a choice of two hot meals as well as a vegetarian and/or vegan option. In addition all boarders can state their particular dietary needs, whether it be for medical reasons, religious reasons, personal moral commitment or simply personal preferences. Each House keeps a list, which is regularly updated, and the kitchen has a copy.

LANGUAGE NEEDS

St. George's Learning Support Department tests all pupils to ascertain their educational needs including English. Specialist teaching is provided within the budget allocated by the LEA for Learning Support and supplemented when possible by the school. There is never enough money to provide individual tuition for overseas students.

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Boarding parents whose children need a great deal of specialist teaching on a one-to-one basis, will be advised upon entry to the school and will need to pay for private EAL tuition, organised through the school, or privately with a tutor. The School has its own EAL tutor.

Students may be exempted from studying a Modern Foreign Language to allow them time to have extra English classes/study periods in the Library. It is sometimes possible to have private tuition arranged at this time.

EAL students may take GCSE and A-level exams in their mother tongue if this can be arranged privately and the exam syllabus is available and practicable. Other privately entered exams may also be advised by the Learning Support or Examinations department, especially for Sixth Formers hoping for UK University entrance, although the school will not be responsible for tuition arrangements nor for some of the costs involved (e.g. oral assessment).

CULTURAL NEEDS

Boarding Staff are appointed who have empathy for cultural differences and encourage both interest and respect among the different cultures. They will always endeavour to help children from another culture to cope with the differences they experience and to adjust to life in the UK.

Boarding Staff and Learning Support Staff liaise fully on matters which are relevant to boarders.

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We use a number of strategies and interventions to support boarders with particular educational needs. These include mentoring by sixth form students and being assigned an Academic Support Tutor (AST) for targeted one-to-one support. We support boarders who wish to work with tutors outside of school either face-to-face or online.