

Wellington College Admissions Policy

I. Introduction

Wellington College is a co-educational independent school for around 1040 pupils aged 13-18. Most pupils (80%) board with the remainder being day-pupils. Annually, 185-190 pupils join Wellington at 13+ (Year 9), with a handful of 14+ (Year 10) places also available most years. Furthermore, 40-50 pupils join the Sixth Form each year at 16+. *Ad hoc* places are available at other times, but this is rare.

2. Visiting Wellington College

Most families will wish to visit Wellington College before registering their child formally for entry. There are three ways of doing this:

- A. **Visitors Days.** These are our main open mornings and take place on Saturdays every term. In total, we run seven Visitors Days per year with a specific 16+ Visitors Day in September. Around 125 families attend each Visitors Day, and a typical programme includes a presentation by the Master with members of SLT speaking and a Q&A session with a pupil panel, a tour of the school with a current pupil, and lunch in the dining-hall. Places on Visitors Days can be booked via our website.
- B. **Master's Lodge Receptions.** These are smaller, more intimate and informal open mornings, often used by parents for a second visit. Two Master's Lodge Receptions are held every term with around 12 families in attendance. Brunch is hosted by the Master, Julian Thomas, in his home where an informal Q&A is followed by a tour of the campus. Senior staff, HMs, and Third Form pupils are on hand to help answer questions. Places on Master's Lodge Receptions can be reserved by contacting the Admissions Office.
- C. **Individual Visits.** On most days throughout the academic year, we can accommodate three individual visits from prospective families. These are primarily designed for overseas families, and occasionally UK-based families, who are unable to attend a Visitors' Day or Lodge Reception. Individual visits can be arranged by contacting the Admissions Office and usually consist of a meeting with the Director of Admissions, Deputy Director of Admissions or Registrar, as well as a tour of the school with a Lower Sixth College Ambassador.

Demand for looking around Wellington is currently very strong so parents should contact the College at the earliest possible opportunity to arrange a visit.

3. Registering for Wellington College

All pupils interested in attending Wellington College must be formally registered. A non-refundable fee of £300 is payable upon registration.

The deadline for registering for 13+ entry is 30th June of Year 5, i.e. three years before the intended year of entry. All 13+ registration is completed on line in the Admissions section of the Wellington College website.

It is possible for us to assess late 13+ candidates but families should be aware that there will be limited availability of boarding Houses if their child is successful in winning a place following a late application.

Families interested in 14+ entry should contact the Admissions Office to check for availability of places.

Pupils applying for 16+ entry will also find an online registration form on the Wellington College website. A four-month registration window runs from 1st June until 30th September a year before the intended year of entry.

4. The Admissions Process

For 13+ entry, the process is split into two separate stages.

Stage 1: All registered candidates sit the ISEB Common Pre-test, an age-standardised and adaptive series of tests in English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning. References are also requested from current schools. This takes place in October/November of Year 6.

Stage 2: Long-listed candidates (selected on performance in the ISEB test and reference) are invited to an Assessment Day in January/February of Year 6. Assessment Days consist of a series of collaborative, problem-solving activities and an interview with a senior member of staff.

Conditional offers are made in March of Year 6. These offers are conditional on candidates achieving an average of at least 65% across core and supporting subjects at Common Entrance in Year 8. Alternatively, candidates will have performed to an acceptable level in the academic Scholarship examinations in Year 8 or, for overseas candidates, in the Wellington College entrance examinations.

Late Assessment: For those families who, for one reason or another, miss the original deadline for entry, late assessment options in Year 7 and Year 8 are also available. Year 7 applications follow the same two stage process detailed above. The Year 8 process is just one stage for a small number of invited students. Timings and further details of this process can be supplied by the Admissions Office.

For 14+ Entry, candidates take written papers in English and Maths, and a series of baseline tests to assess cognitive ability across different areas. Candidates are interviewed by the Director or Deputy Director of Admissions and a reference is requested from the current school.

Offers are made on an *ad hoc* basis.

For 16+ entry, the process is split into two separate stages.

Stage 1: All candidates upload their latest set of school reports and a personal statement as part of the online registration process. This takes place during the registration window which runs from 1st June until 30th September a year before the intended year of entry.

Any candidate for whom English is not their first language, whether studying currently in the UK or abroad, who wishes to apply for 16+ entry must complete [UKiset](#), an online test designed for international pupils which measures ability over three areas: Vocabulary, Maths and Non Verbal Reasoning. UKiset can be taken in any approved testing centre around the world and must be completed by 30th September for any international pupil's application to be considered.

Stage 2: Long-listed candidates (selected on the strength of their school reports and personal statement) are invited to an Assessment Day in November of Year 11. Assessment Days consist of: academic papers in three subjects which candidates intend to take in the Sixth Form; a Maths Skills test; an interview with a senior member of staff; a Harkness discussion session. References are also requested from the current school of all long-listed candidates.

Offers are made on 1st December of Year 11. These offers are unconditional but candidates must be aware that sixth form subject selection in many subjects will be dependent on certain grades at GCSE (or equivalent qualification) having been achieved. Specific requirements are explained in the Subject Choices booklet available in the Academic curriculum section of the College website.

5. Selection Criteria

Wellington is an academic school with high academic standards, but the College also believes passionately in all-round education; selection for entry is therefore not simply based on academic considerations. Potential for growth in the five areas of the Wellington Identity (in **bold** below) therefore form a large part of the Admission team's decisions which are based upon the following:

- A. **Intellectual, inspired and independent** learners. Successful candidates will have met the College's minimum academic entry requirements. At 13+, this means that they will achieve an average of at least 65% across core and supporting subjects at Common Entrance. For 16+ entry, successful candidates should secure predominately grades 9 and 8 / A* and A grades in their GCSE or iGCSE subjects, with A* or at least an 8 in the subjects they wish to continue in the Sixth Form, especially in Maths, any Science or any Modern Language.
- B. Successful candidates will also have displayed, during the admissions process, a desire to contribute broadly across the co-curriculum during their time at the College, so they will develop themselves fully as an **individual**.
- C. Successful candidates will also have displayed, during the admissions process, the right character and personality for life in a very busy boarding school environment. This includes traits such as tolerance, **independence, inclusivity**, grit and resilience, as well as the College's core values of kindness, courage, respect, integrity and responsibility.

6. Sibling Policy

Wellington operates a Sibling Policy at 13+ entry which can best be described as the 'middle line'. Sibling status is not ignored during the admissions process but the College does not automatically accept every sibling who applies. This is simply because we believe strongly that Wellington will not necessarily be the right school for every sibling.

If the younger sibling of a pupil currently at the College therefore broadly meets the selection criteria described in the previous section, then he or she will be prioritised for a place during the decision-making process.

It should be noted that the Sibling Policy does not apply during the 16+ entry process as it does at 13+.

7. Applications from members of the Wellington Community

The College appreciates that other members of the broader Wellington Community, and not just younger siblings, may wish to gain a place at the College. Applications from families with strong connections to Wellington College (e.g. Old Wellingtonian parents or grandparents, friends of the College, ex-members of staff) are therefore warmly encouraged. As with siblings, community connections do not guarantee the offer of a place, but they do form part of the decision-making process.

8. Equal Opportunity

In line with the College's commitment to inclusivity and diversity, no boy or girl is disadvantaged in any of these processes as a result of gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, ethnicity or social background. Indeed, all admissions, including any at ages other than those above, are made in due observance of this policy and details given via the Registration Form, Acceptance Form, Scholarship booklets and Terms and Conditions. Although a Church of England foundation, Wellington College does not select for entry based on religious belief.

9. Overseas Applicants

Approximately 15% of boarders at Wellington College (roughly 12% of the overall pupil body) reside overseas. Our overseas boarders reside in around 40 different countries and one-third come from ex-pat families. Wellington does not have a quota system for overseas boarders but, in line with the College's commitment to diversity and inclusivity, will continue to admit pupils, if they fulfil our selection criteria, from as wide an international pool as possible.

For those overseas candidates who do not speak English as their first language, they must possess a high level of fluency in English so that they are able to access our curriculum, which is delivered in English, from the moment they enter the College. At 13+ entry, this is measured both via the English and Verbal Reasoning sections of the ISEB Common Pretest and also performance on the assessment day. At 16+ entry, all candidates whose native tongue is not English are asked to complete UKiset, an adaptive and age-standardised series of tests specifically designed for overseas applicants.

Lessons to support English as an Additional Language (EAL) are available at parents' expense.

Overseas applicants who require a Visa to study in the UK will not be admitted to the College until the Tier 4 Student Visa has been granted. We will provide guidance on this process.

10. Specific Needs

Wellington College is able to accommodate pupils with many specific learning difficulties but these must be discussed with our Head of Academic Support at the time of application. We will monitor any pupils with a statement of SEND and, in many circumstances, can provide assistance and guidance to any pupil with learning, organisational, revision or exam difficulties. The College welcomes pupils with disabilities provided that both the College and the family is comfortable with access to the site and with reasonable adjustments that might be made within our large and, in many areas, historic campus.

The College strongly encourages parents of children with any form of special educational need or disability, as defined under the updated SEND Code of Practice, to discuss their child's requirements with us before going through the admissions process. Parents are also encouraged to discuss any ongoing health or medical condition at this time. Wellington will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the reasonable adjustments which can reasonably be made for their child, and whether we can meet their needs before offering a place.

As with every pupil going through the admissions process, a place will only be offered to a child with specific needs if we are confident that Wellington College is an environment in which they can truly flourish and be happy from every perspective, able to successfully access the academic curriculum and partake in our extensive enrichment programme, including sports and other College events, in a fulfilling capacity.

11. Bursaries

Widening opportunities at Wellington for families who otherwise would not be able to afford the fees at the College is a significant priority for us. Bursaries are therefore available if parents can demonstrate, through a means-test, that they would not otherwise be able to send their child to Wellington College. The value of means-tested bursaries may be up to 95% of school fees dependent on family circumstances. Any family wishing to make a bursary application will be invited to apply as part of the broader admissions process and more details are available on the College's website. Bursary awards are not linked to scholarships.

We do not have an unlimited pot of funds for bursaries and so bursaries will be rationed based on candidates' merits as identified through the admissions process. Families must therefore understand that, even if their need for a bursary is substantial, we may not be able to award one even if they have an offer of a place.

12. Scholarships and Exhibitions

Scholarship awards reward excellence and celebrate outstanding potential and application across a number of different areas. Scholarships are available at both 13+ and 16+.

At 13+ Academic and Music Scholarships and Exhibitions are offered *before* entry to the College via an examination and interview process that takes place during Year 8. Candidates must be under the age of fourteen on 1st September of their intended year of entry. However, the College's six highest academic accolades – our named Scholarships – are awarded at the end of the Third Form (Year 9).

Scholarships for Sport, Art, Dance, Drama and Design Engineering are also offered but not until *after* joining Wellington College, at the end of Third Form. Candidates who are likely to be interested in these Scholarships are, however, invited to attend an Inspire Day in the Lent term of Year 8. Inspire Days allow students to show their talent and work to date to our teachers and get a feel for the extension programme that will be available to them in Third Form and beyond.

Wellington College is not able to award Scholarships at 14+ entry.

At 16+ Scholarships are offered in all the areas mentioned above; Academic (including Computer Science and Design Engineering), Music, Sport, and The Arts.

Scholarship awards in themselves do **not** provide reduction in school fees. Music Scholarships afford parents free tuition in two instruments and free composition and Alexander Technique lessons.

More detail about the Scholarship and Inspire Day process is available on our website.

13. The Prince Albert Foundation

The Prince Albert Foundation (PAF) was established in 2010 by a group of like-minded parents and Old Wellingtonians who believed that wealth should not be a bar to the excellent education that schools like Wellington College can provide. The Foundation offers life-changing bursaries, up to full fees, for talented and deserving pupils who otherwise would be unable to access the quality of education and opportunities presented by attending Wellington College. The College's aim is to educate around 20 Prince Albert pupils at any one time and works closely with a number of partner organisations in order to identify boys and girls who might best benefit from the programme. Direct approaches are also considered and initial enquiries should be made either to the Admissions office or to Mr Murray Lindo (MSL@wellingtoncollege.org.uk) who oversees the programme. In recent years, specific bursaries under the auspices of the PAF include: the Jimmy Higham Bursary for sport and the Sir Anthony Seldon Bursary for the Arts.

14. Foundationers

In accordance with the College's original foundation, one aim of which was to provide education for the children of deceased military officers, the College continues to educate, free of charge, the children of deceased servicemen or servicewomen of Her Majesty's Armed Forces irrespective of rank and the orphan children of persons who, in the sole opinion of Governors, died in acts of selfless bravery. Initial enquiries should be addressed to The Bursar, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7PU.

Mr Ed Venables
Director of Admissions
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