

Admissions to Junior Department (9+, 10+)

Admission to Year 5 and Year 6



The Entry Procedure

Step 1

Visit the School:

Ideally, your first visit to the School should be on our Open Day at least one year prior to entry.

Step 2

Junior Department Open Doors Afternoon:

In June we welcome you and your daughter to this event where you can learn more about the ethos and structure of the Junior Department and its integral place within the school community. You will have a tour of key parts of the school campus, an opportunity to hear from both the Headmistress and the Head of Junior Department, and most importantly the Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms will have 'open doors' for you to observe current students in typical classroom activities. Invitations will be sent to all registered candidates and those on our enquiry list in the Trinity term or you can book your place at www.shsk.org.uk

Step 3

Register:

Candidates should be registered at least one year prior to their entry date, although late applications may be acceptable. A registration form should be completed and returned to the Admissions Office with the appropriate fee. Once your daughter is registered you will automatically receive details of the entry procedure at the appropriate time.

Step 4

Taster day:

Registered candidates will be invited to spend a taster day at St Helen's as part of the entrance assessment process. The day will take the form of a normal school day and will include lessons in known and new subjects. There will also be an opportunity to meet students already at St Helen's and members of the teaching staff.

Step 5

Assessment day:

Candidates take assessments in mathematics and English. The English assessment consists of a reading comprehension exercise and a written task, and the mathematics assessment comprises a mental arithmetic section as well as written questions. A reference will be required from the candidate's current school and each girl will be interviewed by the Head of the Junior Department or another member of the Junior team the week following the written assessment. Candidates being assessed for diagnostic purposes take the assessment papers only.

Step 6

Offers and accepting a place:

Following the interview, results will be sent to parents. If your daughter is offered a place parents are asked to accept the place as early as possible as there could be important implications for those on our waiting list.

Step 7

Welcome to St Helen's:

After accepting a place students are invited to the School on two occasions; the first in June when they will have an afternoon of activities and a chance to meet other students in their form as well as their form tutor; the second in September which is an Induction Afternoon the day before the beginning of term.

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Critical dates

- Junior Department Open Doors Afternoon: 14 June 2018
- Whole School Open Day: 29 September 2018
- Closing date for registration: 16 November 2018 although late entries may be considered
- Assessment day: 26 January 2019
- Interviews by appointment: w/c 28 January 2019
- Results will be sent by post on 6 February 2019
- Closing date for acceptances: 4 March 2019
- Induction day: 20 June 2019

Entry requirements

Assessment papers will be set as follows:

English: The examination will involve a reading comprehension exercise and a creative writing task.

The writing will be assessed on the following points: Imagination and creativity; form and purpose; organisation and cohesion; sentence structure; punctuation; vocabulary; spelling and handwriting.

The best preparation is reading. Excellent examples of good stories and poems are available in the children's section of bookshops and libraries.

A writing journal in which children record thoughts and ideas, write stories and poems and develop banks of vocabulary, can also help to develop imagination and confidence.

Time: 1 hour 20 minutes (9+ and 10+)

Mathematics: The paper will include short questions on all areas of the National Curriculum: number; measurement, geometry, algebra and statistics (with the addition of ratio and proportion for Year 6).

There will be a mental arithmetic section as well as written questions, including some problem-solving. For all written answers candidates will be encouraged to show working out as necessary.

Finally some questions are included to help identify candidates who excel in this curriculum area.

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes (9+ and 10+)

Candidates will be given further opportunity to demonstrate their skills in English and mathematics at interview. This will also be an opportunity for the interviewer to follow up on any assessment queries.

Diagnostic assessment

In certain situations candidates may take 9+ and 10+ assessments or the 11+ assessments for diagnostic purposes with a view to entering the School at a later point. Such testing allows parents to ascertain their daughter's current level of ability and thus suitability for the School. These diagnostic assessments will only be available to registered candidates on the published testing dates. Diagnostic candidates take assessments only. References and interviews will not be required until the point of entry. Please contact the Registrar for further information and to notify your interest in a diagnostic assessment.

Moving up to senior school

Students accepted into the Junior Department will be expected to enter St Helen's Year 7 at the appropriate time. They will take the St Helen's assessment at 11+, not for the purpose of selection, but for staff records and possible scholarships.

Scholarships and bursaries

Scholarships and bursaries are not available in the Junior Department but all students will be considered at the time of the assessment for 11+ scholarships.