

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

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 3

The Junior Open Afternoon:

This event is an opportunity for parents who are interested in the Junior Department to learn more about the assessment process, as well as the ethos and structure of the Junior Department within the wider school community. Invitations will be sent to all registered candidates and those on our Enquiry List.

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 girls 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 test followed by 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 since there are important implications for those on the waiting list.

Step 7

Welcome to St Helen's:

After accepting a place girls 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 girls 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

- Whole School Open Day: 30 September 2017
- Junior Open Afternoon: 12 October 2017
- Closing date for registration: 17 November 2017 although late entries may be considered.
- Assessment: 27 January 2018
- Interviews by appointment: w/c 29 January 2018
- Results will be sent by post on 7 February 2018
- Closing Date for Acceptances: 5 March 2018
- Induction Day: 21 June 2018

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 exam queries.

Diagnostic Testing

Candidates may take 9+ and 10+ examinations or the 11+ examinations 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/examinations will only be available to registered candidates on the published testing dates.

Diagnostic candidates take examinations only. References and interviews will not be required until the point of entry.

Moving up to Senior School

Girls accepted into the Junior Department will be expected to enter the mainstream St Helen's Year 7 at the appropriate time. They will take the St Helen's examination 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 girls will be considered at the time of the examination for 11+ scholarships.