

UPPINGHAM

Admissions Policy

Uppingham School is a co-educational independent School currently for boys and girls from ages 13 to 18 and from September 2025 for pupils aged 11-18. The School has approximately 850 pupils of whom 740 are 'boarders' and 110 are 'day' pupils or day pupils in boarding houses ('day-in-boarding' pupils).

Deciding on the right School for your child is very important, and we believe a personal visit is invaluable. Throughout the year, we hold several Visiting Days and Discovery Mornings and details of these are published on our website. Private family visits are also hosted six days per week in term time, which can be arranged through the Admissions Department admissions@uppingham.co.uk.

1 Aims

Uppingham School aims to:

- ensure compliance with our charitable purposes
- employ assessment processes that are fair and consistent to all applicants.
- identify pupils whose academic level (or potential), personal qualities and other abilities match the standards expected to allow a young person to thrive in and contribute to the wide-ranging opportunities in a busy and demanding environment.

2 Points of Admission

Uppingham is an academically selective school. Selection is based on academic merit which is assessed through an entry examination, an interview and references and other relevant information from the candidate's previous School. Our selection process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from Uppingham's well-rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

The usual points of entry are as follows:

Entry into Fourth Form (Year 9) at age 13:

Each year we seek to admit 130 boarding pupils into year 9: 72 boys and 58 girls. Alongside these we will admit up to 30 day pupils – 15 boys and 15 girls, as space permits. Most of these places are awarded in the pre-tests that are sat in year 7. A smaller number of places are available to be awarded in Year 8. Details regarding our [pre-test processes](#) and making [late applications](#) are available on the Admissions section of our website. Registration for the pre-test process should be complete by the end of September of Year 7.

Entry into Lower Fifth Form (Year 10) at age 14:

Typically, there are a small number of places available for entry at this point each year. Candidates for these places are considered as [late applications](#) and the process described on the Admissions section of our website.

Entry into Lower Sixth (Year 12) at age 16:

The number of pupils in the Lower Sixth year increases by 25% with the admission of about 35 girls and 25 boys annually. The majority of the girls join The Lodge, a dedicated sixth form

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girls' house and an increasing number of boys will join Farleigh House which becomes a sixth form boys' house from 2026. The [Sixth Form assessment process](#) has its own timetable. Candidates should be registered with the School by the end of September and the assessments run from mid-October to mid-November for entry the following year. Offers are made on 1st December and initial replies are required within eight days.

It would be very rare that a pupil joins directly into the Upper Fifth (Year 11) or into the Upper Sixth (Year 13).

From 2025, entry will also be possible into our Year 7 and Year 8 Lower School.

It is planned that there will be an initial total of 18 places available in each year group. Tests for entry into these year groups will be in the academic year before entry and details of tests and deadlines advertised on our website.

3 Registration

All prospective pupils should be registered formally; our [registration form](#) is available online and a non-refundable fee of £250 is required. We may be able to waive this for families seeking a substantial bursary; direct contact with the Admissions office should be made to clarify this.

Families making late applications or seeking entry into Lower Fifth should clarify with the Admissions Department that there are places available before registering.

4 Selection Criteria

It is a requirement that parents disclose all relevant information likely to have a bearing on the Admissions process. If information which should have been disclosed subsequently comes to light, the School are entitled to rescind an offer.

Admissions decisions are made by at least two members of a selection committee drawn from: Director of Admissions, Deputy Director of Admissions and Senior Tutor), Deputy Head (Academic), Senior Deputy Head, Headmaster. The Head of Learning Support may be co-opted when specific advice is required.

5 Equality and Accessibility

5.1 Equal treatment

We aim to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible and are mindful of our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the Children and Family Act 2014 during the Admissions Process. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Means-tested fee assistance is available, please see the scholarship section below.

If English is not the native language, applicants must have sufficient command of the English language to participate fully, in and out of the classroom.

Participation in co-curricular activities is an integral and essential part of pupil life and known talents, and particular skills will be advantageous.

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5.2 Information Sharing

We require parents to inform the School at the outset of the application process (typically in advance of the registration process) about any needs which their child may have or any other significant matters which the School should reasonably be aware of because, for example, it would necessitate tailored provision and/or would materially impact on their child's attendance at School and/or ability to engage in day-to-day School life. The School may wish to discuss these matters with the parents and/or require some further information.

Parents must ensure that information provided is accurate, complete and not misleading and relevant details and information (or changes to them) are shared in a timely and transparent manner.

A failure to disclose relevant information and/or the provision of inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information may - in some cases - lead to the withdrawal of an offer or termination of the School's Parent Contract.

5.3 Special Educational Needs, Disabilities, Allergies

The School is inclusive and maintains and drives a positive culture towards inclusion of disabled people and those with special educational needs.

Uppingham does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, provided we can reasonably offer them any support that they require and cater for any additional needs and that our site can accommodate them. We aim to ensure that all our pupils, including those with disabilities and/or special educational needs, are provided with a safe and inclusive environment in which to learn.

Our policy is to apply our admission criteria to all potential pupils. We require parents of children with special educational needs, disabilities or allergies (suspected and diagnosed) to discuss their child's needs with the School at the outset of the admissions process so that we can consider and make – to the extent reasonable – appropriate provision for them.

Parents are required to provide with the Registration Form full details of all relevant information about their child, including any reports (including any educational psychologist reports, medical reports or assessments or other relevant expert third party reports), materials or information about their child's needs (educational, health or otherwise), and this may include any final or draft EHC needs assessments (or applications for a needs assessment) or final or draft EHC Plans (or applications for an EHC Plan). This is so that the School can assess their child's needs and consult with parents about any adjustments which can reasonably be made and so that the School can ensure, for example, that their child will be able to meaningfully access the education offered and that we are able to ensure their health and safety, and the health and safety of others. This information should be provided prior to the admissions assessment process.

Where parents of a prospective pupil feel their child requires adjustments (in respect of the admissions process and/or with regards to education at School and participation in School life in the event they are offered and take up a place at the School), parents should raise these with the School at the outset and the School may – depending on the circumstances - require some further information from parents or request further

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assessments in respect of the needs identified and will discuss with parents (and their child's medical advisers, if appropriate) the adjustments proposed and whether they can reasonably be made for the child if they were to become a pupil at the School.

There may be exceptional circumstances in which we are not able to offer a place for reasons relating to a child's special educational needs and/or disability. For example, if, despite reasonable adjustments (in the case of disability), we feel that a prospective pupil is not going to be able to meaningfully access the education offered, or that their health and safety or those of other pupils or staff may be put at risk, or where the School cannot reasonably accommodate the adjustments required or reasonably provide the nature or level of the support required. Other reasons might include the setting is unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude, or special educational needs (SEN) of the young person; the attendance of the young person would be incompatible with the effective education of others; the attendance of the young person would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources.

Sometimes, the situation of pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs changes between an offer of a place being made and the pupil starting at the School. The School requires parents to be pro-active in updating the School as to any changes which mean that the information provided during the application process is out of date or incomplete. In the vast majority of cases, this will not affect a pupil's place at the School. However, the School may, in exceptional circumstances, need to reconsider the offer of a place if a pupil's circumstances change materially. It is in the pupil's interests that any such decision is made as early as possible to avoid any disruption to their education, so parents are urged to be forthcoming and transparent in their communications with the School about any material change to their child's circumstances.

In the event your child has an EHC needs assessment or EHCP (whether at the application stage, draft or final form) it is important that these (and the applicable supporting documentation, e.g. educational psychologist reports or other expert assessments) are shared promptly with the School and that the School is kept up to date with respect to any relevant decisions of the Local Authority or changes in provision.

Pupils requiring learning support will be accepted on the basis that the School can effectively provide for their needs, and that they can achieve the set academic standards.

6 Scholarships and Means Tested Fee Assistance

Scholarships seek to reward excellence and outstanding potential. They are available only for entry into the Fourth Form and into the Lower Sixth. Whilst the value of a scholarship is normally a 5% discount of the School's fees, means tested fee assistance can extend this value to 110%. The [scholarships available and the related application timelines](#) are described in the Admissions section of the website. Our means tested fee assistance policy is articulated separately and can be found [here](#). Please note that the bulk of our means tested support is awarded through success in the scholarship process.

7 Financial Information

Any applicant for a place at the School, including those who apply for means tested fee assistance support, and overseas applicants, may at the discretion of the School be required

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to provide additional financial information and/or undergo checks to confirm that they are able to pay the School's fees (or any percentage of the fees still payable if fee assistance is granted).

8 Houses and House Allocations

Whilst every effort is made to support the ambitions of a candidate to enter a particular house when they join into any year group in the Upper School (Fourth Form (Year 9), Lower Fifth (Year 10) and Lower Sixth (Year 12)) places are limited, and allocations made on a first come first served basis so long as any one feeder school is not over-represented in the year group. Places will also be reserved for overseas students so that there is an appropriate balance of different EAL pupils across the houses.

Families are able to register their children for a particular house at the point of registration so long as space is available in that house. If a list is full, then a waiting list is put in place where the order is determined by the date of registration. Priority is also given to those with siblings in the house or who had a parent in the house.

Once a pupil joins the school and becomes a member of a house, a change of house will generally not be permitted unless an application is made and accepted to switch from 'day' to 'boarding' or vice versa (see below). If a switch is made from 'boarding' to 'day', if the new day pupil cannot be accommodated as a 'day-in-boarding' pupil in a 'boarding' house, a move to a 'day' house would be required.

9 Transfer between 'Day' and 'Boarding'

Applications to Uppingham are made for a 'boarding' place, for a day-place-in-a-boarding house ('day-in-boarding' place) or for a 'day' place.

With limited numbers of 'day-in-boarding' places available, pupils who cannot be accommodated as 'day-in-boarders' will also be considered for 'day' places. Preference will be given to those with a sibling in the same house and those registered earlier.

'Day' pupils are permitted to apply to become 'boarders' in the Sixth Form in one of the two Sixth Form Houses, The Lodge (for girls) or Farleigh (for boys). Such applications will be considered supportively so that 'day' pupils can opt to become 'boarders' and change houses.

Where change from 'boarding' to 'day' is required for financial or pastoral reasons, if the new status cannot be accommodated as a 'day-in-boarding' pupil in the same 'boarding' house, a switch to a 'day' house would be required. Pupils becoming day pupils should not block a boarding space that another boarding applicant may require.

10 Siblings and Existing Relationship with the School

Family connections with the School are favourably considered and do form part of the decision-making process, but each applicant must reach the academic and other criteria set by the School; acceptance is not automatic. When the School is oversubscribed and we need to decide between two or more candidates who meet our admission requirements, after all appropriate allowances and special consideration has been given, we may give preference to

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a child with a particular skill, talent or aptitude; a child who already has a sibling in the school or whose parent is a former pupil here.

11 Overseas Pupils

At present, approximately 30% of Uppingham's pupil body live overseas and about 25% of the School community might not have English as a first language. 5% are English speaking families living abroad. We welcome applications from overseas. We welcome overseas pupils, provided that they have the legal right to enter, live and study in the UK and they have a relative or 'educational guardian' living in the UK with whom they can stay when the school is closed or when emergencies require this, More details of which are contained in the School's 'Terms and Conditions' and 'Guardianship Policy' found in the [parent contract](#) pages of the website.

12 Fluency in English

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of a busy boarding school, pupils must be confident English speakers able to communicate clearly and effectively. They will be effective writers on a variety of topics, including imaginative writing and read confidently in a variety of genres. Normally pupils should have been educated in the English medium before coming to the School or have an Upper Intermediate/Advanced level of English. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) can be arranged as required at the parent's expense. Such tuition may be a condition of entry for some.

13 Religious Beliefs

Uppingham School welcomes applications from prospective pupils of all faiths and of no faith.

Although the School has a Church of England tradition, the School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it endeavours to support others to practice their own faith. Families should be aware that attendance at assemblies in Chapel and Chapel services on Wednesdays and Sundays is compulsory for all.

14 Conditions of Admission

Admission to the School is on the understanding that parents or legal guardians accept the terms and descriptions set out in this document, the Schools' Terms and Conditions and other School Policies such as the School Rules, the Guardianship Policy and other policies communicated through the New Pupils' Papers or that are made available via the Parent Portal or the School website.

15 Complaints

The School's Complaints Procedure is on the School's website and can be sent to prospective parents on request. The Complaints Procedure is not available for use by prospective parents.

16 Records and Review

Applicants' details will be held on file with due regard to data protection legislation and in line with our Retention of Records Policy. Please see the [School's Privacy Notice](#) for further information about how the School collects, uses and processes personal data.

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For candidates who do not join the School, Uppingham School will not hold your or your child's personal data for longer than is necessary for lawful purpose. Typically, this is until the child is too old to be considered for admission into the Sixth Form. This allows any later admission enquiry to be more easily considered and held address any ongoing matters or queries arising from the application.