



Admissions Policy General Policy Statement

Colfe's School is an academically selective, co-educational independent school for pupils from the ages of 3 to 18.

This policy covers admission to both the junior and senior schools.

Deciding on the right school for your child is very important and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your child will visit Colfe's. We hold a number of open events throughout the year which give a general introduction to the school. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times. Application to the School can be completed online. Details are available on the School [website](#).

Our selection is based on:

- a satisfactory report (most recent) and confidential reference requested by Colfe's from the prospective pupil's previous school, if appropriate. The reference may be requested before or after assessment;
- academic merit which is assessed through an entry assessment;
- the completion of a signed declaration by all parents of the prospective pupil, which informs the school of all known learning difficulties or differences of the prospective pupil;
- consideration of siblings, staff children and a balanced cohort.

Pupils must meet standards which will enable them to benefit from the School's educational standard and academic ethos. The School's policy is to apply these criteria to all those who apply. Appropriate reasonable adjustments will be made in respect of any disability, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, of which the School is made aware. The School actively encourages applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world.

The selection processes applicable at different entry points are described below.

Admission to the Junior School – EYFS and Key Stage 1

Pupils can join Colfe's either at 3+ into Nursery which is two form entry, or 4+ into Reception which is three form entry (including pupils moving up from Nursery). Offers are made in the Autumn Term of the year preceding entry, following an assessment. Occasional places do become available at 5+ (Year 1) and 6+ (Year 2) and are subject to the above admission criteria which includes an assessment.

Admission to the Junior School – Key Stage 2

There are a limited number of spaces available each year to join Y3 (7+). Assessment involves spending a morning at the School; sitting age-appropriate papers in Maths and English (including Comprehension, Creative Writing and Spelling); and an informal interview with a member of the senior team. Occasional places do become available at 8+ (Year 4), 9+ (Year 5) and are subject to the above admission criteria which includes an assessment.

Admission to the Senior School

Prospective pupils, internal and external, complete an assessment in Maths and English at 11+, with the addition of a Science paper for occasional place admissions at 12+, 13+ and 14+.

A confidential written report is also requested from a prospective pupil's current school. All candidates will complete a group interview on the day of assessment and candidates being considered for academic scholarships will be invited for interview with the Headmaster. Parents of applicants are informed by an agreed date of the outcome of the application.

Admission to the Sixth Form

Prospective pupils to the Sixth Form must make an application in the autumn of the year preceding entry. The entrance assessment involves a written personal statement as well as two recent school reports. Those wishing to apply for an academic scholarship (including Leatherseller Scholarships) will be required to sit an examination, candidates can choose between an essay-based or mathematics assessment. Successful candidates will be invited to interview and offers made are conditional on achieving at least four Grade 7 at GCSE. For Leatherseller Scholarships, most applicants will need to achieve at least five Grade 8s at GCSE.

Scholarships and Fee Remission at 11+ and 16+

Colfe's awards scholarships to pupils entering the School at Years 7 and 12 who demonstrate exceptional ability and who will make a positive contribution to the life of the School. In cases of proven financial need, scholarships may be supplemented by the award of a means-tested scholarship which are subject to annual review. A limited number of fully funded places are available every year. The importance of the wider curriculum at Colfe's is reflected in our policy of offering a limited number of scholarships in Music, Drama, Art and Sport, all of which are crucial ingredients in the success of the School. Parents are specifically advised that all scholarship and means-tested scholarship awards are made based on assessed merit at the discretion of the School.

Further information can be obtained on request from the Director of Admissions (admissions@colfes.com).

Retention of Pupils

Subject to satisfactory academic progress and conduct, pupils remain at Colfe's until the end of Year 13.

Year 6 transition to Senior School

Pupils proceeding from Year 6 of the Junior School to the Senior School at 11+ are required to sit the School's 11+ entry assessment. The results are used for appropriate monitoring of a pupil's progress and to assess the eligibility of these candidates for academic scholarships. However, a pupil's progress to the Senior School is assumed to be automatic, unless parents have been clearly informed to the contrary by the Head of the Junior School, who in the normal course of events would expect to give such advice and guidance by the end of the spring term of Year 5 at the latest.

Year 11 transition to Sixth Form

The current entry requirements for those in Year 11 is a minimum of three GCSEs graded A/7 or above. Students also need to meet the subject-specific eligibility criteria for each of the courses they wish to follow; we expect students to follow a four-subject curriculum as a matter of routine. Progression to Year 13 is dependent on achieving an equivalent of CCC in the Goldsmiths Colfe's Internal Examinations (GCIE) at the end of Year 12.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

The Parents must notify the School when completing the admissions application process and subsequently in writing if at any time they are aware or suspect that the pupil has a learning difficulty, and the Parents must provide us with copies of all written reports and other relevant information.

Reasonable adjustments and access arrangements

Reasonable adjustments and access arrangements may be offered to pupils in entrance assessments, provided that the application is supported by the following:

- the written recommendations of an independent and appropriately qualified physician or another medical professional; or
- a signed file note from the SENDCo/Head of Learning Support of the candidate's current school that confirms the pupil's underlying difficulties, their normal way of working and current access arrangements.

The examination scripts of pupils with SEN are scrutinised specifically and sympathetically as part of the selection procedure.

Should a place be offered and accepted, any access arrangements that the School may grant for 11+ or 16+ entrance assessments will stand only for these entrance assessments and the School can make no guarantee that these will apply for everyday learning. The School will discuss thoroughly with parents (and their child's medical advisers, if appropriate) the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if they become a pupil at the School, to ensure that the prospective pupil is not put at a substantial disadvantage compared to a pupil who is not disadvantaged because of a special educational need or disability.

There may be exceptional circumstances in which we are not able to offer a place for reasons relating to a child's learning difficulty or disability. For example, if, despite reasonable adjustments, we feel that the School is unable to provide adequately for the prospective Pupil's special educational needs, or that their health and safety or those of other pupils or staff may be put at risk, we reserve the right to decline a place at the School.

Equal Opportunities

Colfe's welcomes applications for admissions from all sections of society and is non-discriminatory in line with the *Equality Act 2010* and Equal Opportunities Policy. This applies to all pupils and includes inappropriate discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, religion or belief, physical ability or disability including HIV status, learning ability, other special educational needs or academic or sporting ability, race including colour, nationality, ethnicity, family, cultural or linguistic background, sex and sexual orientation.

The School acknowledges its responsibility to make reasonable adjustments in accordance with the *Equality Act 2010* and the *Special Educational Needs & Disability Act 2001* to accommodate the needs of applicants, and pupils who have disabilities.

Final Selection Procedure

Acceptance of a place at the School implies an acceptance of the School Policies in place as set out in the terms and conditions (parent contract) and the terms of the Entry Acceptance Form, which is signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s), when a place is accepted. The acceptance form must be signed by all individuals who have parental responsibility.

If parents are dissatisfied with an admission decision, they are advised to address this using the admissions complaints procedure which is available on our website.

Document reviewed September 2025