

PRIOR PARK EDUCATIONAL TRUST
ADMISSIONS POLICY
(Revised July 2009)

1. Prior Park Educational Trust comprises three schools
 - Prior Park College -a Catholic Senior School, boarding and day school for pupils aged 11-18
 - Prior Park Preparatory & Pre-Preparatory School - a Catholic Preparatory School, boarding and day for pupils aged 3-13.
 - The Paragon, Junior School of Prior Park College - a Christian school for day pupils aged 3-11

2. The Headmaster of each school determines the number of pupils who can be admitted at each level of entry. Generally the Preparatory School expects to admit 22 - 28 pupils at Year 3. The College generally expects to admit up to 60 pupils at Year 7, around 40 pupils at Year 9, and approximately 20 pupils at Year 12. The Paragon Nursery can accept up to approximately 30 pupils. Thereafter each year group has two parallel classes, so more pupils can be accommodated. Each year group has a different capacity.

3. Each school may accept a few pupils into other years if places are available. Each Headmaster is responsible for decisions relating to the admission of pupils into his school. Whether or not a place is offered rests with the Headmaster: his decision is final, and when applicants exceed the available number of places it is inevitable that some candidates have to be disappointed. All offers of places are made in writing, either by the Headmaster or by the Director of Admissions & Marketing on his behalf.

4. Prior Park College applications for a place in Year 7 should be made before the published deadline in December of the year preceding entry. Applications for Year 9 entry must be received by the published deadline in February of the year of entry, and for Year 12 by the published deadline in November of the year preceding entry. In the event of oversubscription, the Headmaster will apply stated criteria to the applicants, rank them in order and offer places accordingly. The detailed entry procedures are documented in the relevant Entrance and Scholarship booklets. A waiting list of unsuccessful applicants will be held and parents advised if places do become available.

It is naturally hoped that Prior Park Preparatory School and The Paragon pupils will progress to Prior Park College. However in some instances, the College may not be the most suitable senior school. Advice should be taken from the Headmaster of the Prep School, headmaster of The Paragon and the Director of Admissions & Marketing of the College as early as possible.

5. A waiting list of unsuccessful applicants will be held until the closing date for receipt of acceptances and places will be offered as places become available. The closing date for 11+ acceptances is a date agreed by all the Bath schools and is published in our literature.

6. Our aim is to admit pupils with academic and other qualities such that the child would gain the maximum benefit from the opportunities available at the Prior Park schools, whilst maintaining a balance between day and boarding pupils, boys and girls. In the event of there being more applications than places available, places will be offered in accordance with the following criteria; the weighting of these criteria may vary:

- whether the family are Roman Catholics or other Christians
- academic ability & school report or an informal teaching assessment
- extra-curricular interests & other talents
- siblings* at Prior Park College or other schools within the Foundation
- previous attendance at Prior Park Prep School or The Paragon (for College entry)
- class size & size of the school roll
- other factors

** A child is a sibling if they are a full or half-brother or sister, they are an adoptive brother or sister if they are children of the same household*

7. For entry to the College the relevant academic standards must be met, determined by the appropriate entrance exam (according to age group) or Common Entrance, or Scholarship papers, or interview and current school report, or GCSE results.

8. Children with Special Educational Needs

The three schools are proud of the help they are able to give to pupils with Special Needs/Specific Learning Difficulties, but the number of children who can be given such assistance is necessarily limited.

The Preparatory School, due to physical limitation on the specialist study room and the number of pupils that can be withdrawn from the main classes, is limited to a maximum of 15% of its total roll being pupils with SEN/SpLD. The numbers accepted in each entry will vary slightly within this overall figure, but will be around 4 per year. A level of dyslexia which is more than mild/moderate cannot usually be supported by the school resources.

The Paragon is able to accommodate approximately 15% of its total roll being on the Learning Support register for SEN/SpLD. A level of mild/moderate dyslexia can usually be supported by the school resources.

The College can cater for up to four pupils in Year 7 with mild dyslexia or dyspraxia, and up to a further four in Year 9. Candidates must normally be able to meet the baseline requirements of a spelling age which is not below the chronological age by more than 2 years, and reading and comprehension ages at least in line with chronological age.

Due to the limitations on the number of places very early enquiry is recommended at the Preparatory School or College in the case of any child with Special Needs. Further detail on arrangements for assessment and entry routines are available through the Registrar at each school.

10. A policy and plan on Accessibility for the Disabled is available on request.

11. Scholarships & Bursaries

College scholarships are awarded on merit and are independent of parental financial circumstances. The criteria for scholarships are set out in the scholarship booklet and parents are advised to consult their child's school with regard to whether or not it is appropriate for him or her to apply for a such an award. Scholarships can bring a fee remission of between 5% and 50% of the fee, but awards higher than 30% are unusual. Applicants for practically assessed awards must meet the normal academic entry requirements. Should you feel able to decline the monetary reward associated with a scholarship, the money so released will be used to attract other talented pupils.

Means tested bursaries may be awarded to pupils who would benefit from the opportunities afforded by a Prior Park education, but whose entry is potentially restricted by financial circumstances. Early contact with the Bursar, Colonel Michael Vacher, is advised. Bursary Application Forms must be returned to the Bursar by the closing date for registrations. A bursary can be added to a scholarship.

All bursaries and scholarships are kept under review throughout an award holder's time at the College and, whilst it is highly unusual for an award to be removed, a significant decline in commitment or performance would inevitably bring into question the continuation of the award. It is a condition of a bursary award that parents report any significant improvement in their financial situation.