

Proposal to Expand Old Swinford Hospital Information for the School Organisation Committee

Information about Old Swinford Hospital

Old Swinford Hospital is a Voluntary Aided Boarding School maintained by Dudley LA and supported by Thomas Foley's Charity which is governed by the Feoffees of Old Swinford Hospital. The School has grown significantly in recent years, especially in the Sixth Form and currently has some 600 students. It is oversubscribed at every admissions stage.

The School is funded according to the Dudley LA formula (Y7-11) and the LSC formula (Y12 and 13). Parents pay a fee (currently £8,325 per year) to meet the cost of boarding provision. The Feoffees are obliged to make a contribution of 10% of all capital costs and they make additional grants to support other activities at the School which are not the responsibility of a statutory authority.

Under the terms of the Education Act 2002 (as amended), the Governors set separate admission numbers for boarding and non boarding numbers in each year of admission. There are different admission procedures for each category of admission. Although most places at the School are allocated to boarders on a non selective basis, 16 selective places are currently available through the Dudley LA co-ordinated admissions scheme for "outboarders" in Y7. Outboarders do everything that boarders do except sleep at school. Parents pay a fee for meals, accommodation and supervision beyond the school day. This fee may be claimed by eligible families against Working Tax Credit.

Some fifty students join the School in Year 12 as Day Students. Since 2004, girls have been eligible to be admitted as Day Students, however regulations provide that the total number of girls should not exceed 25% of the total number in the Sixth Form There are no compulsory fees for Day Students in the Sixth Form.

Old Swinford Hospital educates students from a wide range of backgrounds in the UK and overseas. In order to be eligible for admission all students must have full UK or EU/EEA nationality or have other legitimate residential status. The Tables below show an analysis of students by home address.

	Y7-11		Sixth Form	
	Boarder	Non Boarder	Boarder	Non Boarder
Dudley MBC	42	40	6	99
Other Black Country LAs	19	4	6	1
Other West Midlands LAs	130	30	56	56
Other UK	47	0	25	0
Overseas/BFPO	23	0	21	0

	Y7-11		Sixth Form	
	Boarder	Non Boarder	Boarder	Non Boarder
Dudley MBC	6.9%	6.6%	1%	16.4%
Other Black Country LAs	3.1%	0.7%	1%	0.2%
Other West Midlands LAs	21%	4.9%	9.2%	9.3%
Other UK	8.0%	0	4.1%	0
Overseas/BFPO	3.8%	0	3.5%	0

Nearly 50 boarders in the school have some type of "boarding need" and have at least part of their boarding fee paid by the Feoffees or by other charitable trusts with which the school works. Old Swinford Hospital is participating along with Dudley LA in the DfES Pathfinder Project to enable more vulnerable children who would benefit from a boarding education to find places in state and independent boarding schools.

Old Swinford Hospital was established in the tradition of the Church of England but welcomes and supports all students equally whether or not they or their parents are practising Anglicans.

Summary of Changes

It is proposed to increase the admission numbers as follows:

	Y7 Boarders	Y7 Non Boarders	Y9 Boarders	Y9 Non Boarders	Y12 Boarders	Y12 Non Boarders	Total
2007	44	16	15	0	10	50 (Up to 32 Girls)	135
2009 Onwards	44	16	30	12	13	47 (Up to 31 Girls)	162
Increase	0	0	+15	+12	+3	-3 (Up to -1 Girl)	27

This pattern of admission has been determined following consultation. There will be no increase in the number or proportion of selective places in the School at any stage. The proposed Admissions Policy for September 2009 can be found at Annex A

By 2012 this will produce a school with the following profile:

	Boy Boarders	Boy Non Boarders	Girl Non Boarders	Total
Y7	44	16		60
Y8	44	16		60
Y9	74	28		102
Y10	74	28		102
Y11	74	28		102
Y12	87	44	31	162
Y13	87	44	31	162
Total	484	204	62	750

The Table below illustrates the change in the overall profile of the School as a result of these proposals:

	2006	2012	Change
Number in School	607	750	+143
Number of Boarders	377	484	+107
Percentage Boarders	62%	65%	+3%
Number in Sixth Form	273	324	+51
Percentage in Sixth Form	44.9%	43.2%	-1.7%
Percentage Boarders in Sixth Form	42.8%	35.9%	+6.8%
Percentage Girls in Sixth Form	27.5%	19.1%	-8.4%
Percentage Boarders in Y7-11	69%	64%	-5%

OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL

FINAL DRAFT ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR IMPLEMENTATION WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 2009

Introduction

Old Swinford Hospital is predominantly a boarding school for boys aged 11-18 and the majority of places are therefore designated as boarding places for boys of those ages. However, places are also available for a small number of out boarders aged 11-16 and for Sixth Form day students. Not more than 25% of the students in the Sixth Form may be day girls.

In order to be admitted to the School, all candidates must have full United Kingdom or other EU/EEA nationality, or have other approved residential status in the United Kingdom.

Admission Numbers:

The Admission Numbers for each category for each year of entry shall be as follows:

Year of Entry	Boarders	Out Boarders	Day Students
7	44	16	
9	30	12	
12	13		47 (incl 31 Girls)

Admissions Procedure for Boarding Places

Suitability for Boarding

Candidates for boarding places are assessed to determine their suitability for boarding. This assessment includes the following:

- An interview
- A reference from the candidate's present school and/or a previous school where the candidate is not currently at school or has recently changed school
- Consideration of any other information that the parent/carer of the candidate may wish to provide to support the candidate's application or which may be provided at the request of the parent/carer by another person
- Information provided by a Local Authority (or equivalent authority outside England and Wales), where relevant.

In determining whether or not a candidate is suitable to board, the School has regard to the following questions:

- Does the candidate wish to board?
- Does the candidate have experience of staying away from his parents/carers whether or not he is currently a boarder?
- Does the candidate show evidence of self reliance and independence?
- Does the candidate show evidence of understanding and relishing the challenges of a communal life?
- Does the candidate show understanding of the responsibilities of a member of a boarding community?
- Is there any medical or psychological reason why boarding would not be appropriate, or any need that could not be met by reasonable adjustment to the boarding accommodation, routine and practice?

Oversubscription Criteria for Boarding Places

Places will be allocated to those deemed suitable for boarding according to the following oversubscription criteria:

1. First priority will be given to candidates who are looked after by a local authority in England and Wales, in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989(b) at the time of application is made and where the local authority confirms that they will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school and agrees to pay the Governing Body the full boarding fee as determined by the Governors from time to time in respect of the candidate's place at the school. Pursuant of their responsibilities under the Children Act 1989 (as amended), the Governors will not admit candidates who cannot satisfy them that they are suitable for boarding whether or not they are looked after by a local authority;
2. Second priority will be given to candidates who have satisfied the Governors that they have a significant degree of boarding need, including candidates who are the sons of members of HM Armed Forces and Crown Servants serving abroad and candidates whose parents are temporarily resident outside the United Kingdom for other work purposes;
3. Third priority will be given to candidates with a brother, half-brother (where they share one common parent) or step brother living at the same address who is already a boarder at the school;
4. The final oversubscription criterion for boarding places shall be a random ballot of remaining candidates.

The academic ability and aptitude of candidates for boarding is not a criterion, however for Sixth Form boarding places, candidates will need to obtain GCSE Grades A*-C in 7 subjects in order to take up a place offered. Boarding places are not available to girls.

Admissions Criteria for Out Boarder¹ Places in Year 7

Sixteen Out Boarder places in Year 7 will be awarded on the basis of academic ability as determined by an assessment test taken in the Michaelmas Term before the year of entry. The Governors determine the qualification level for the test each year and in the event that more candidates attain the qualification level than there are places available the following oversubscription criteria shall apply:

1. First priority will be given to candidates who are looked after by the local authority, in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989(b) at the time of application is made and where the local authority confirms that they will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school and agrees to pay the Governing Body the full out boarding fee as determined by the Governors from time to time in respect of the candidate's place at the school.
2. Second priority will be given to candidates with a brother/sister, half brother/half sister (who share a common parent) or step brother/sister who is already a pupil in the school.
3. Third priority will be given to candidates whose normal place of residence as determined by a straight line measurement in metres lies closest to the Main Entrance to the School in Heath Lane.

Admissions Criteria for Out Boarderⁱ Places in Year 9

Twelve Out Boarder places in Year 9 will be allocated according to the following oversubscription criteria:

1. First priority will be given to candidates who are looked after by the local authority, in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989(b) at the time of application is made and where the local authority confirms that they will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school and agrees to pay the Governing Body the full out boarding fee as determined by the Governors from time to time in respect of the candidate's place at the schoolⁱⁱ.
2. Second priority will be given to candidates who do not at the time of the closing date for applications already attend at a secondary school (other than a middle-deemed-secondary school).
3. Third priority will be given to candidates with a brother/sister, half brother/half sister (who share a common parent) or step brother/sister who is already a pupil in the school.
4. The fourth oversubscription criterion shall be a random ballot of remaining candidates.

Admissions Criteria for Day Student/Day Boarderⁱⁱⁱ Places in Year 12

Places Awarded on the basis of Aptitude in Sport or Music (6 Places)

Six Day Places in Year 12 will be awarded on the basis of aptitude in sport or music.

First priority will be given to candidates who show suitable aptitude for sport or music and who are looked after by the local authority, in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989(b) at the time of application is made and where the local authority confirms that they will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school.

Other places will be awarded according to a rank order determined by taking into account the candidates' performance in trials and auditions held at School. Places will be awarded to sport and music candidates in turn. In 2009 the first place will be awarded to a music candidate and in 2010 to a sport candidate. This order will alternate each year thereafter. Boys and girls will be considered equally for the award of these places.

Places Awarded on the basis of Ability (43 Places)

The remaining Day Places in Year 12 will be awarded on the basis of academic ability as determined by an assessment test taken in the Lent Term of the year of entry.

First priority will be given to candidates who demonstrate a suitable ability and are looked after by the local authority, in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989(b) at the time of application is made and where the local authority confirms that they will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school.

Other places will be offered according to a rank order of marks awarded until the number of places offered to girls (including any awarded on the basis of aptitude in sport or music or to children looked after by the local authority) equates to 25% of the projected total number of students in Year 12. No further places will then be offered to girls. Should there be no further suitable boy candidates, remaining places will not be filled.

In the case that there more candidates qualify as a result of the test than there are places available the following criteria will apply:

1. First priority will be given to candidates who are already boarders at the school;
2. Second priority will be given to candidates with a brother/sister, half brother/half sister (who share a common parent) or step brother/sister who is already a pupil in the school.
3. Third priority will be given to candidates whose normal place of residence as determined by a straight line measurement in metres lies closest to the Main Entrance to the School in Heath Lane.

All candidates will need to obtain GCSE Grades A*-C in at least 7 subjects in order to take up a place offered.

Transfer to the Sixth Form without changing Categories

The transfer into the Sixth Form of all pupils already in the School is subject to achieving GCSE Grades A*-C in 7 subjects.

Transfer between Boarding, Out Boarding and Day Boarding and Day Student Categories

There is no automatic transfer between categories for pupils already in the School. Those admitted as out boarders or day students may transfer to take up a vacant boarding place at the beginning of an academic year provided they meet the "suitability for boarding" criterion. They may transfer at other times if there is boarding need and they meet the "suitability for boarding" criterion.

Those admitted as boarders may apply to transfer to out boarding status at the beginning of Year 9, or day boarding or day status at the beginning of Year 12. They will be offered places using the criteria listed above in competition with applicants who are not already members of the School. There is no guarantee of a place being offered.

Out boarders may transfer to day student status at the beginning of Year 12 on giving one term's notice. Otherwise, they will automatically transfer to day boarder status subject to accommodation being available. If day boarding accommodation is not available they will be deemed to be day students.

Boys admitted as day students may apply to be day boarders subject to accommodation being available. Day boarder status is not available to girls.

Waiting List Procedures

Parents of candidates who are unsuccessful in obtaining a place will be asked to indicate whether they wish to remain on a waiting list. Waiting lists are maintained the September of the year after the one in which admission was originally sought. For example, unsuccessful candidates for admission in September 2009 would be eligible to remain on a waiting list until September 2010. The length of time on the waiting list is not material to whether or not a place is finally awarded. It should be noted that new candidates are not admitted to Year 11 or 13.

Candidates on the waiting list for a boarding place will be considered along with any new applicants at the point when any vacancy arises. The place will be awarded according to the stated oversubscription criteria. Candidates judged to be unsuitable for boarding will not be kept on a waiting list. They may, however, reapply and be reassessed for each year of entry.

Vacancies for the Out Boarder places in Year 7 or Sixth Form Day Places will be filled by the next available candidate in the rank order of the admissions test, audition or trial or the other oversubscription criteria listed above, subject in the case of Sixth Form Day Places to the maximum number of places for girls not being exceeded. No further applicants will be considered.

Vacancies for Out Boarder places in Year 9 will be filled by applying the oversubscription criteria to those on the waiting list and any to other candidates who may have applied at the point when the vacancy occurs.

ⁱ Out boarders in Years 7 to 11 do everything that boarders do except routinely sleep in school. They may arrive for breakfast at 0730 (but do not have to arrive until 0820) and may depart after the end of Prep. They have full access to the facilities of the Boarding House including study areas. From time to time they may also sleep in the Boarding House if accommodation is available.

ⁱⁱ The Out boarder fee relates solely to after school hours provision. It is not a charge for education and so many families will be able to reclaim at least part of the Out boarder fee as a Working Tax Credit. Parents should consult www.hmrc.gov.uk for details.

ⁱⁱⁱ Day boarders in the Sixth Form are equivalent to out boarders but there is greater flexibility concerning their routine.