

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	20	0
9	24	6	0
12	26	0	50 (up to 42 girls) ⁱ

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 sibling (using the definition determined by Dudley LA for this purpose) 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 Boarderⁱⁱ Places in Year 7

Places Awarded on the basis of Aptitude in Sport or Music (4 Places)

Four Out Boarder places in Year 7 will be awarded on the basis of aptitude in sport or music.

1. 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 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 schoolⁱⁱⁱ.
2. Second priority will then be given to candidates 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 sport candidate and in 2010 to a music candidate. This order will alternate each year thereafter.

Places Awarded on the basis of Ability (16 Places)

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 a pass mark for the test each year and in the event that more candidates attain the pass mark 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 sibling (using the definition determined by Dudley LA for this purpose) who is already a pupil in the school.
3. Third priority will be given to candidates whose normal place of residence (using the definition determined by Dudley LA for this purpose) lies closest to the Main Entrance to the School.

Admissions Criteria for Out Boarder^{iv} Places in Year 9

The six 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 school^v.
2. Second priority will be given to candidates who do not, at the time of application, already have a place at a secondary school (other than a middle-deemed-secondary school).
3. The third oversubscription criterion shall be a random ballot of remaining candidates.

Admissions Criteria for Day Student/Day Boarder^{vi} Places in Year 12

Places Awarded on the basis of Aptitude in Sport or Music (7 Places)

Seven 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 with a sibling (using the definition determined by Dudley LA for this purpose) who is already a pupil in the school.
2. Second priority will be given to candidates whose normal place of residence (using the definition determined by Dudley LA for this purpose) lies closest to the Main Entrance to the School.

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 day or day boarding 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.

Those admitted as 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.

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. The length of time on the waiting list is not material to whether or not a place is finally awarded. 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.

Candidates on the waiting list for an out boarder or Sixth Form day student place awarded on the basis of aptitude in sport or music will be considered along with any new applicants at the point when the vacancy arises.

Vacancies for other out boarder and Sixth Form day student places will be filled by the next available candidate in the rank order of the admissions test or, if necessary, the oversubscription criteria listed above. No further applicants will be considered unless there are no candidates on the waiting list in which case places will be allocated by random ballot.

ⁱ The total maximum number of students in Year 12 is projected to be 170 (including those progressing from Year 11) and therefore up to 42 girls may be admitted.

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Out Boarder fee relates solely to after school hours provision. It is not a charge for education.

^{iv} 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.

^v The Out Boarder fee relates solely to after school hours provision. It is not a charge for education.

^{vi} Day boarders in the Sixth Form are equivalent to out boarders but there is greater flexibility concerning their routine.