

Policy Title: Admissions Policy

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An Introduction to Hall Grove

Hall Grove is a co-educational day and weekly boarding school of some 450 pupils, set in 40 acres of its own grounds located between Bagshot and Windlesham. It was established by the Graham family in 1957 and it remains in the same private ownership. The school is run as a limited company.

Hall Grove sets high standards and aspires to maintain its position amongst the very best preparatory schools in the country. Inspections are invariably highly positive. The quality of relationships between staff, children and parents has always been a defining feature of Hall Grove; it is a very happy place in which to teach and learn.

The school seeks to provide a high-quality education at an affordable price in order to maintain its accessibility to as wide a range of families as possible. This is a central strategy which underpins the future success of the school and is vital in times of financial restraint.

Admissions Policy

We at Hall Grove take pride in welcoming children from diverse backgrounds. We are pleased to have within the school family a wide range of ethnicity. Hall Grove pays due regard to the Equalities Act of 2010 and reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) in terms of admissions. The school expects to be updated by parents/carers as and when circumstances for those with SEND change.

Whilst our Assembly worship is broadly Christian in character, we have children from all faiths and we are pleased to support them and help develop their spirituality in as many ways as possible. We make allowances for special diets and for individual religious observance.

Our Equal Opportunities policy extends to children with learning difficulties or with physical incapacities and we will always make a reasonable adjustment to the working of the school to accommodate an individual need. We respond sensitively to medical needs, family circumstances and to individual educational needs, recognising that every child is unique and all will develop at different rates and at different stages.

No child will be prevented from attending the school on grounds of their faith, culture, race or family background.

Through careful nurturing and a well-developed, integrated pastoral care system, we look after children in a holistic way to ensure the best possible outcome for every child.

We have a fine record of achieving academic excellence, as witnessed by results at the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, Common Entrance and Scholarship Exams. We aim to help all our pupils become secure, happy and self-disciplined individuals through a diverse programme of academic, sporting, outdoor, artistic and musical activities.

No child is offered a place at Hall Grove unless it is felt that his/her aptitude and ability will enable them to flourish within the School's ethos.

To thrive in this atmosphere, it is essential that the children who join the school are well-motivated, have the potential to achieve the learning outcomes set by the teaching staff and can adapt quickly to the educational, behavioural and social demands of a carefully structured and busy school day.

To ensure that the pupils we accept at Hall Grove meet these criteria we liaise closely both with the parents and any pre- school, nursery or school the children are currently attending.

Admission to Hall Grove

Prospective parents should contact Admissions to make an appointment to visit the School, either at one of our Open Mornings or by private appointment with a member of the Admissions team/senior member of staff. Contact Admissions on 01276 473059 or via email admissions@hallgrove.co.uk

Entry to Pre-School

Following a visit to the school, the child's current nursery/childminder will be contacted and asked to complete a transition report. Parents are also invited into school for a Stay & Play session, where parent and child will meet with the Early Years staff. A place will be offered following this visit and once information from the child's 2 year old progress report and/ or information from any childminder/nursery the child attends, has been reviewed by the Head of Early Years.

Entry to Reception

Every child is invited into school for a Stay & Play session where parent and child will meet with the Early Years staff. The child's current nursery school will be contacted and the child's key worker will be asked to complete a transition report. In the unlikely event that we have any concerns about the child's suitability for Hall Grove at four years of age we will discuss these with the parents; otherwise we will confirm the offer of a place following the child's visit and receipt of the nursery report. In practical terms this means that a place is usually confirmed in the Spring Term prior to the next year's September intake. However, in some cases this will be subject to further pre-school visits.

We value close collaboration with pre-schools and nurseries, not only as regards the information they supply us about the development of prospective pupils, but also through our interest in the methods they use to inspire and motivate the children in their care.

Entry to Year 1 – Year 6

Reports will be requested from the child's current school and prospective pupils are invited to spend two days at Hall Grove, during which they will participate in normal lessons and are assessed in Maths and English. Children will also be observed in class and asked to undertake some written assessments to gauge their suitability for the school. Pupils entering the school from Year 4 and above will often have a short, informal interview with a senior member of staff. Teachers will pass their lesson observations to the relevant Section Leader and this feedback, coupled with a report from the current school, is sent to the Headmaster who, as in all cases, will make the final decision to offer a place. Children applying from overseas, and therefore unable to visit the school will be asked to complete online assessments.

Entry into Year 7 and Year 9

The admissions process for all applicants, both internal and external, starts with a discussion between parents and the Headmaster to discuss the Hall Grove Senior School and the opportunities it offers. If it is felt that the senior school is the right fit for the applicant, they will then move into the assessment phase.

External applicants will attend an Assessment Day at Hall Grove, designed to give every child the opportunity to demonstrate their potential.

The day will include:

- Online assessment in verbal, non-verbal, quantitative, and spatial reasoning.
- A written task, which cannot be prepared for.
- An interview with a senior member of staff.

A pastoral and academic reference will also be sought from the external applicant's current school.

Places are offered based on performance in the assessment, school reference and the Headmaster's overall impression of the child's suitability for life at Hall Grove.

Internal candidates will complete the same assessments. Senior school places will be offered to Hall Grove pupils based on assessment performance, current academic record and their contribution to the wider life of the school.

To join Hall Grove at any point after the start of Year 9, please contact the Admissions team.

Scholarships and Awards

A small number of academic Scholarships and Exhibitions for the Senior School can be applied for using the admissions process above and these should be discussed with the school in advance. These scholarships are subsequently awarded at the Headmaster's discretion.

Applications for children to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group

Parents have the right to request, but not insist, that their child is considered for admission to a class outside of their normal age group. This could be the case, for example, if a child is gifted and talented, has experienced problems such as ill health, or that the child is Summer born, i.e. a child born between 1st April and 31st August. Parents who wish for their child to be considered for admission to a class outside of their normal age group must make an application for the normal age group in the first instance. Parents must then submit a formal request to the school for the child to be considered for a different age group class instead. This request should be in the form of a written letter. Each application will be considered on a case by case basis.

Boarding

Any family interested in boarding will meet the Headmaster or the Head of Boarding for a tour of the Boarding House and discussion. Children can be booked in to board from Year 3 onwards on Mondays to Thursdays, inclusive, during term-time. There are twenty-one beds available. The boarding house also runs the occasional Friday night boarding night.

UK Based Admissions

Prospective parents contact the Admissions Team: 01276 473059
or admissions@hallgrove.co.uk



Initial visit to Hall Grove on an Open Morning or by individual appointment.



Parents register pupil(s) and pay the non-refundable £200 registration fee



Pupils are assessed according to their year group, as detailed above.



An offer of a place will be made shortly after the assessment process. A Deposit of £1,000 is required to secure the place on acceptance.



Induction Mornings for those joining the school in September take place towards the end of the Summer Term and further joining information will be posted in mid-July.

We are happy to consider entry to all year groups during the year, subject to availability, up to the beginning of Year 10.