

## **Scholarship Policy**

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**Independent Day School for Boys and Girls**

**Our Lady of Sion School**

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### **POLICY - AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

Our Lady of Sion is keen to admit students with a wide range of talents and to encourage excellence in all areas.

Scholarships are offered to children entering the school in Years 7 and 12. A scholarship is a discretionary privilege, subject to high standards of attendance, diligence and behaviour on the pupil's part and to the parents treating the School and its staff reasonably. The awarding of a scholarship is dependent upon a candidate's performance in competitive examinations or assessments, which take place in January. Candidates will only be called for an academic scholarship interview if they have reached the required standard in the entrance examinations. Scholarship awards are generally in the region of 10-20% but in exceptional circumstances may be in excess of this. Scholarships are highly sought after and only a small percentage of scholarship applications are successful as scholarships are limited.

All awards are given as a percentage of the fees so that their relative value remains constant throughout a student's school career. All scholarships are reviewed annually. Scholarships are not means tested.

#### **Entrance**

All candidates for Senior School entry sit an entrance examination. Detailed information about entrance examinations is given in the admissions documentation, which accompanies our prospectus.

Parents who have registered their sons and daughters for our entrance examination will be asked whether they wish to apply for a scholarship, except for academic scholarships where the entrance examination results will be used to select the candidates.

#### **Scholarships**

Scholarships are awarded to students entering Years 7 and 12.

The following scholarships are offered for Year 7 entry:

- Academic
- Music
- Art
- Drama
- Dance
- Sport

A Sixth Form scholarship is offered for Year 12 entry.

If a scholarship is awarded then there would be an expectation that the student actively uses their talents within the school community.

#### **Academic Scholarships**

Candidates who achieve outstanding results in their entrance examinations will be called back to attend a scholarship interview.

#### **Music Scholarships**

Candidates will be expected to show a high degree of musical promise. Documentary evidence of a candidate's musical standard will be required.

At 11+ candidates must be at least Grade III on their main instrument. They will be expected to perform two contrasting pieces on their main instrument and one piece on their second instrument (at least one of the instruments must be orchestral). An accompanist will be provided. There will be one sight reading test on each instrument, one sight singing test and aural test commensurate with their present ability.

A short but detailed listening paper will be set to assess the candidate's awareness of different musical styles, theoretical and instrumental knowledge and a proven ability to relate music on the printed page to music played to the candidate. There will be an interview with the Head of Music.

Please note that one of the instruments may be the voice.

### **Art Scholarships**

Candidates will be expected to present a folder of work to show originality, inventiveness, technical competence and a variety of media if possible. The amount of work should reflect an enthusiasm for the subject, both from school and extra-curricular activities. The candidate will be expected to undertake a drawing and design brief lasting approximately one and a half hours.

### **Drama Scholarships**

Candidates should submit with their application a portfolio of supporting evidence such as examination/festival certificates (originals), photographs, press cuttings etc. Drama candidates will be required to present a Dramatic Monologue from a published play, which must be learnt from memory and staged (gesture and movement). Candidates may use costume and props, if they wish to do so. This will be followed by a sight reading on improvisation and a short interview. Please give full details of any Speech and Drama examinations, festivals or productions that your son/daughter may have been involved in and experience.

### **Dance Scholarships**

Dance candidates should submit with their application a portfolio of supporting evidence such as examination and festival certificates (originals), photographs, press cuttings etc. Dance candidates will be required to perform a solo piece of any style (between 1 – 1.5 mins) that demonstrates their technical and performance skills (this piece does not need to be choreographed by the candidate). This will be followed by a short choreographic task and an interview.

### **Sport Scholarships**

Candidates applying for a Sport Scholarship should demonstrate enthusiasm to participate in a range of sports and show a good general standard. They should also demonstrate above average ability in at least two sports. When they attend for assessment, candidates should show evidence of the ability to grasp skills and apply these to the practical situation. Candidates must demonstrate an element of maturity in their performance and the potential to develop further.

### **Sixth Form Scholarships (Entry into Year 12)**

#### Internal Candidates

At present, no charge is made for tuition in Years 12 and 13 (the Sixth Form) for students who have completed the first five years of the Senior School, whose fees have been paid in full and who satisfy the School's requirements for A Level study. Pro rata Sixth Form fees (based on the Year 11 fee), are payable for students who join Our Lady of Sion after Year 7 and who do not gain the required number of GCSE points for a scholarship but satisfy individual subject requirements for their A level choices.

The Sixth Form is not, therefore, deemed a fee paying year group. Those Sixth Form students who are not eligible for a fee charge will be subject to an administration fee.

Please note that the provision of the sixth form scholarship is reviewed annually in the Autumn Term of the students' Year 11. The school reserves the right to change the qualification requirements for the award of a sixth form scholarship and the value of the scholarship at this time.

## External Candidates

Students who wish to join Our Lady of Sion's Sixth Form from other schools may apply for a sixth form scholarship. These may be awarded to students who gain excellent GCSE results.

### **Procedure for awarding scholarships (Year 7)**

Results from all assessments are collated and rank orders established. Reports from the candidate's present schools are considered.

Scholarships are awarded according to relative performance of candidates, and are at the discretion of the Awards Committee. These are subject to annual review. The school reserves the right to review a scholarship if the student's conduct or achievement falls short of the expected standard.

### **Awards Committee**

The Committee meets in the Spring Term and consists of the Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster and Assistant Heads. Heads of Faculty may be invited to attend as appropriate.

At other times of year, decisions regarding prospective scholarship candidates will be taken by the Headmaster, in conjunction with the Deputy Headmaster and the Bursar.

**Authorised by**

**Chair of Governors**

**Date**