

Scholarship Policy

Independent Day School for Boys and Girls

Our Lady of Sion School

Reviewed: 29 August 2019

Frequency of Review: 3 years

Next review: August 2022

Our Lady of Sion School

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 at their point of entry.

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 relating to the area of application.

For scholarship applications into Year 12, it is based on exceptional achievement in GCSE examinations (Academic Scholarship) or outstanding ability in a particular curriculum area (Subject Scholarship) if it is being studied here at A Level (for example, Art, Music, Creative Writing, and Drama).

Candidates will only be called for an academic scholarship interview if they have reached the required standard in the entrance examinations and/or there is a strong nomination from a teacher/teachers who have recognised outstanding ability/aptitude or for those students going into Year 12, they have achieved outstanding GCSE examination results.

Applications for specific subject-scholarships will be accompanied with evidence (usually a portfolio of certificates and any other associated evidence) and assessed through formal interview with subject staff and/or members of the Senior leadership Team.

Scholarship awards are generally in the region of 5-10%.

Scholarships are highly sought after and only a small number of scholarship applications are successful.

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 child/children 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. along with supporting evidence from teachers who can evidence notable ability.

The following scholarships are usually offered at Key Stage 3 (on entry), and may be offered to exceptional students at Key Stage 4 (if they join us at this point) and at Year 12 where the following subject areas are included in the current GCSE/A level curriculum.

Academic (not subject specific but focusing on general academic prowess.)

Music

Art

Drama

Sport

If a scholarship is awarded, there would be an expectation that the student actively pursues their talent within the school community.

Academic Scholarships

Candidates who achieve outstanding results in their entrance examinations will be called back to attend a scholarship interview. If there is a strong nomination from a teacher/teachers who have recognised outstanding ability/aptitude, this will also be considered in this process.

Year 12 candidates who achieve outstanding GCSE results may apply for an academic scholarship which would be assessed through exam-grade data and an interview with the Head and the Head of Sixth Form. We would normally anticipate 64 points from academic results gained from the best 8 GCSE subjects taken including English and Maths, as a prerequisite for applying for a Year 12 academic scholarship.

Further Details about Subject Scholarships (available in Years 7-11 on joining Our Lady of Sion)

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.

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.

Procedure for awarding scholarships

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 Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher 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 Headteacher, in conjunction with the Deputy Headteacher and the Bursar.