

ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFER POLICY

Leweston is a co-educational independent boarding and day school for pupils aged 5 to 18. We seek to admit pupils who are able to benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

Leweston welcomes prospective parents and their children for personal visits at any time throughout the year, please contact the Admissions team admissions@leweston.dorset.sch.uk for more information.

Equal Treatment

Leweston School encourages the widest possible diversity of background in applications from candidates. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. The school is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or social background. However, the school reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if a special educational, medical or any other need, which the school deems significant, is not disclosed during the admissions process and, after due consideration, it is felt that the school is unable to provide appropriate support to the pupil.

Special Educational Needs

We welcome pupils with special educational or physical needs, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer them the support that they require. The school will comply with its obligations under the Equality Act and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001. In our admissions process we take into account individual's learning needs. Parents must alert us to any disability, special educational need or medical condition on the registration form. We will then contact you to ensure in your child's assessments we address any needs they have. Parents should provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report to support their request, for example for extra time or other special arrangements. During the assessments our Head of Individual Needs will supervise the pupils. Once a pupil is accepted into the school, and provided that they can benefit from the type of education we offer, the school will work with the family to ensure that any particular learning needs are met.

Religious Beliefs

Although Leweston School has Catholic roots, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and we offer the opportunity for pupils of other beliefs to practise their own faiths. However, parents should be aware that there is compulsory Wednesday (whole school) and weekend (boarders) Mass, and that all pupils are expected to attend.

Entry Procedure and Registration

The main points of entry into the school are Reception, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 with admissions into the other year groups being dependent on vacancies. We do consider late or mid-year entry and keep, as far as possible to our normal admission procedures.

The aim of the admissions process is to identify potential. We are looking for well-rounded pupils with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, with interests that stretch beyond the confines of the academic curriculum. The school has strong traditions in music, drama,

art, debating, community activities and sport. There are many co-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

At times applications for year groups can outweigh the number of places available so early registration is encouraged. To register the Registration Form must be completed and the relevant Registration Fee, which is non-refundable, paid. Registration reserves a place for your child in their chosen year group and year of entry, provided that they satisfy the relevant entry requirements and complete the admissions process. It does not guarantee an offer of a place. Registrations will be considered in the order they are received so we recommend that families register at least a year before entry.

If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available in a particular year group, candidates will be placed on a waiting list.

Entry to the Prep School

Applicants for the Prep School will be informally assessed on a taster day. They will perform the same work as other children in the class and teachers will observe their progress and interactions. Staff will provide feedback for parents at the end of the taster day. In some cases, further taster days may be required.

Entry to the Senior School

Pupils joining Year 7 and Year 9 are asked to complete the Independent Schools Examinations Board Common Pre-Tests (ISEB Pre-Tests). The ISEB Pre-Tests are online, multiple-choice assessments that incorporate Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning, English and Maths. Some pupils will sit these tests in their Preparatory Schools as part of their standard transition process. For pupils not doing this, an invitation will be extended to sit the tests at Leweston. In both cases the tests are sat in the November of Year 6. Internal candidates sit the same tests as external pupils.

Once the ISEB tests are complete applicants are invited to our Assessment Day which takes place on a Saturday morning in January. The morning consists of a range of team building and group activities as well as meetings with the Headmaster and Deputy Heads. Pupils who apply after this event may be invited to a personal Assessment Day when they join one of the current classes and experience a normal timetable of lessons as well as sit the assessment papers. This option will be offered subject to availability.

11+ and 13+ scholarships are awarded following an assessment day in the February preceding the year of entry.

Entry at 12+, 14+ and 15+ is subject to availability and assessment will take place as part of a taster day.

No specific preparation for the school assessment tests is needed; all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude and extra-curricular skills.

Entry into the Sixth Form

External applicants will be invited for interview and will have the opportunity to sit the scholarship entrance paper in the Autumn term. The offer of a place will be dependent on predicted grades for

GCSE. The expectation is that candidates will obtain at least seven GCSE grades at grade 5 or above, with most subjects requiring at least grade 6 as a prerequisite for Sixth Form study.

Offer and Acceptance

If the applicant and the school are happy to progress after their assessment the school will offer a place. Offers are typically open for a limited time only. Parents are asked to secure the place by completing the Acceptance Form and paying a deposit (which is returned against the final school bill). Joining information is shared with you ahead of the relevant start date.

Admission into Leweston School is determined by the Headmaster and is subject to the school's Parent Contract, amendments will be made to this periodically.

References/Reports

We liaise closely with an applicant's current school during the admissions process and require the Headteacher to provide a confidential report for entry at all stages. Parents considering transferring their child from another school must inform the other school of their plans and fulfil all financial obligations to that school.

Fee Assistance

A limited amount of bursarial support is available for pupils in the senior school only. Bursaries are means-tested and their value is related to the income and financial resources of the pupil's family. Further information is available in our Bursary Policy which can be found on the school website.

Siblings Policy

We welcome siblings of existing pupils to join us at Leweston School however, admission is not automatic and the normal entry procedures apply.

Overseas Applicants

We welcome overseas pupils to Leweston School as boarders, provided that they have a relative or legal guardian living in the UK. In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Leweston School, pupils must have a certain level of English ability. This is assessed as part of the application procedure, by providing a UKiset test or taking Leweston's own tests. Candidates are reassessed when they start at Leweston School and tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) is compulsory unless the Director of International Students confirms otherwise. Some EAL lessons are provided as part of the standard curriculum whilst others are an additional charge, details of which can be found on the school's website.