REPTON

Admissions Policy

Last revised: Lent 2022
Next review: Lent 2023

This is a Whole-School policy. It is relevant to all Staff and Pupils at Repton School it should be read in conjunction with the following polices:

- Accessibility Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Expulsion, Removal and Review Policy
- Parental Support for the Aims and Ethos of the School
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Guardianship Policy

1 General information

1.1. Repton School, aims to provide the highest standard of education, pastoral care and broad co-curricular experience in an inspiring and spacious setting where children are allowed to be children, encouraged all the while to develop in confidence and self-esteem into their best self.

1.2. Repton School is a co-educational independent School for pupils from ages 13 to 18. The School has 620 pupils, of whom around 70% are boarders. Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and hence our policy is to provide individual and individualised tours for every child and their family, in person or virtual, and offer wherever possible a taster experience of House life, sometimes including overnight stays and participation in lessons and extra-curricular activities. Based on this principle we no longer stage Open Days, though we keep this under regular review. Families arrange bespoke experiences via our Admissions Managers, usually coming to us via the School website.

2 Admissions procedures

2.1. Repton School is an academically selective school, though all pupils are assessed in the round. Hence if it is agreed that on balance a pupil would gain and contribute a great deal from Repton, and suitable accommodation can be made for any learning access needs, the academic standard may be flexed on a case-by-case basis. Selection is, however, based upon academic

merit which is assessed through an entry examination (either CAT4 online test or CE), references from the candidate's previous school and an online interview. International students will also have Oxford Online English tests and a further assessment of their English competency at interview by our EAL Coordinator.) Our selection process is designed to identify pupils from anywhere and from any background who are able to benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

2.2. The usual points of entry are at 13+/Year 9, 14+/Year 10 and 16+/Year 12. We may admit pupils at 15+ or 17+ in unusual circumstances, but this is uncommon. There are scholarship opportunities in Academics, Sport, Music, Drama, DT and Art, as well as a prestigious all-round scholarship, the CB Fry Scholarship, which involves being at scholarship level in academic, sport, creative and leadership disciplines.

2.3. Applicants for admission should register as soon as possible as competition for places is strong. The registration form is at the end of this document in Appendix A. It is on registration that parents select a house for their child on entry at 13+. When a house list is full the waiting list is kept in strict chronological order by date of registration. For other age group entry points, whilst a House preference may be given, Houses will be allocated.

3 EQUAL TREATMENT

3.1. Repton School's aim is to encourage applications from candidates with a diverse range of backgrounds. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. A number of bursaries are offered to UK pupils in order to help make it possible for those who would otherwise not be able to afford the fees, and who meet the School's admission criteria, to attend the School. The School's provision for bursaries is described below.

3.2. Repton School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or social background.

4 PERSONALISED LEARNING (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS)

4.1. Repton School does not discriminate in any way regarding entry. The School welcomes pupils with special educational needs providing that its Personalise Learning department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with disabilities provided that our site can accommodate them. However, we strongly advise parents of children with special educational needs, physical or mental disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with Repton School before He/She/They sits the entrance exam so that the School can advise whether it can make reasonable adjustments in order to provide adequately for him/her. Parents should provide a copy of an educational psychologist's report or a medical report if they have one. The School will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if He/She/They becomes a pupil at the School.

5 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

5.1. The aim of the process is to identify ability and potential. Repton School is looking for well-rounded pupils with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, with interests that stretch beyond the academic curriculum. The School has strong traditions in music, drama, art, debating, community activities and sport. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual. Whilst children applying from prep schools elsewhere may be prepared for Common Entrance and Common Academic Scholarship, and may request that we offer on that basis, no specific preparation for the other CAT4 entrance tests is needed and all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their cognitive abilities. No specific profile is set with regard to CAT4 scores, as we wish to be open to a diverse applicant base, but we would tend to expect an average CAT4 score of 100 or more.

5.2. Entry at 13+ is by success at Common Entrance or by sitting the CAT4 test. Alternatively, those that have been entered for an Academic Scholarship will sit the Repton 13+ Scholarship examinations in May. A satisfactory school reference and positive recent school report is also a condition of entry for all.

5.3. For 14+ and 16+ entry the entrance assessment consists of the CAT 4 test. Places are offered on the basis of the performance on the entrance assessment and receipt of a satisfactory school reference and positive recent school report.

5.4. For 13+, 14+ and 16+ entry for pupils for whom English is not their first language, the entrance assessment consists of the GL CAT 4 Assessment and the Oxford Online English Placement test and additional written submission, as well as recent positive school reports. These assessments can happen at any point in the year before entry. A reference is not required, but a translated school report is requested.

5.6. Entry to the Sixth Form is subject to a minimum requirement of 5 GCSEs at Grade 6 unless there is compelling reason to modify this requirement, and in any event where this is necessary it will usually lead to the applicant being offered a BTEC or BTEC with one A Level as a Sixth Form course. Candidates must achieve at least a Grade 6 at GCSE in any subject to be studied at A-level, and a Grade 7 in the case of Mathematics, any Science or a Modern Foreign Language.

5.7. At all entry points, once a place is offered, the timescale for accepting the place will be as stated in the offer letter.

6 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS – Tier 4 Child Visa Applicants

6.1. We welcome applications from overseas pupils and the aim of the assessment process is to identify ability and potential. Repton School is 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.

6.2. All applicants that require a Tier 4 Child Visa will have a personal interview or a Skype interview with a member of Repton's staff. A satisfactory school report is also a condition of entry for all.

6.3. For all overseas applicants the entrance assessment consists of the GL CAT 4 Assessment and the Oxford Online English Placement Test, plus a written English test.

6.4. If an overseas applicant is sitting GCSE's they too would be expected to achieve a minimum requirement of 5 GCSEs at Grade 6. Candidates must achieve at least a Grade 6 at GCSE in any subject to be studied at A-level, and a Grade 7 in the case of Mathematics, any Science or a Modern Foreign Language.

6.5. The dates for the assessment process for the current year are published on our website, together with the closing date for acceptances.

6.6. In line with both the school's prominent focus on safeguarding and aligned with visa sponsorship requirements, families must agree to our Guardianship Policy, the key features of which are that guardianship must be provided by an AEGIS-Accredited guardian subject to the DBS checks associated with this. The only alternative to this arrangement is a close blood-relative (grandparent, uncle or aunt, or sibling over 25 years old)

7 SIBLING POLICY

7.1. Most siblings join us at Repton School. However, admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where the School judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment. There is no 'sibling discount' at Repton, though any family with multiple children in the School is equally entitled to apply for means-tested bursarial support should they feel it is necessary.

8 SCHOLARSHIPS

8.1. Repton School offers scholarships for excellence in the following areas:

- Academic (13+ & 16+)
- Art (13+ & 16+)
- Design & Technology (13+ & 16+)
- Drama (13+ & 16+)
- Music (13+ & 16+)
- Sport (13+ & 16+)
- C B Fry All-round (awarded should an applicant be successful in gaining an Academic, Sport and a creative scholarship)

8.2. Scholarships are designed to reward excellence and to celebrate exceptional talent. In recognition of this achievement, the scholar is offered up to a maximum of 20 per cent reduction in the fees throughout his/her time at Repton School. In addition, music scholars may be offered free instrumental tuition. However, for those candidates who are successful in more than one scholarship the combined total of all scholarships will not exceed 20%. The exception to this is the CB Fry award, which offers a 25% remission in reflection of the significant contribution that such pupils inevitably make to Repton. Please see the attached document, Conditions of Awards in Appendix B for further details regarding the expectations associated with an award.

8.3. We encourage parents of scholars who anticipate that they will experience difficulty in meeting the balance of the School fees to apply at the same time for one of the School's means-tested bursaries described below, or when they register their child.

8.4 In exceptional circumstances it is within the Headmaster's gift to enhance remission in recognition of truly exceptional talent or ability regardless of financial need.

9 Academic Scholarships:

9.1. At 13+, candidates who apply for academic scholarships sit the 13+ Repton Academic Scholarship papers in January of Year 8. A pupil who has not succeeded in the academic scholarship may be exempted from sitting the normal entrance examination, providing that He/She/They has performed sufficiently well. Scholarships are held for the duration of a pupil's time at the School, provided his/her conduct is satisfactory.

9.2. Further academic scholarships are offered to entrants to Year 12, including a John Port Scholarship to any outstanding candidates from the local John Port School to help high performing pupils from the maintained sector enjoy the benefits of a Repton education who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

9.3. All scholarship candidates will be interviewed in addition to sitting the academic papers.

10 Sports Scholarships

10.1. Sports scholarships are awarded to outstanding, all-round sportspeople who have achieved a high level of competence in one or more sports. He/She/They will be assessed by the Head of the relevant sport, the Head of Strength & Conditioning and by the Director of Sport, and will be expected to demonstrate high skill levels, commitment, physical fitness, qualities of leadership and team play of a very high order. They will be expected to make a contribution to the sporting life of the School throughout their time at Repton School.

11 Music & Creative Scholarships

11.1. Music scholarships are awarded to outstanding musicians who play any instrument or sing with exceptional ability. They will be required to perform two short pieces together with aural and practical tests. There will also be interviews with the Director of Music, or a member of the music department. The successful candidates will be expected to demonstrate enthusiasm for and commitment to music and will be expected to make a contribution to the musical life of the School throughout their time at Repton School, performing in the choir and other groups and ensembles as required by the Director of Music. They may be offered free tuition in a chosen specialism, in addition to or instead of a Scholarship.

12 Bursaries

12.1. Repton School's bursary programme seeks to extend access to Repton School to those who might otherwise not be able to afford the fees, subject to budgetary constraints. The School offers means tested awards annually to entrants at the usual points of entry. Bursaries are means-tested and both parents are required to provide proof of their income and assets. The level of support varies according to familial need.

12.2. The School's practice is to allocate its available bursary funding to pupils on entry to the School. The School's expectation is that parents who do not choose to apply for a bursary at the time that their child is being assessed, will not require financial support throughout the time that their child attends the School, though it is possible at any time for a family to approach the School for assessment of need. Based on that assessment, remission may be available, or other supportive measures such as payment plans etc.

13 Overseas applicants

13.1. We welcome overseas pupils who can study at Repton School as a boarder provided that he/she/they has a legal guardian living in the UK. The legal guardian should be someone whom he/she/they can stay with for some weekends and who will take responsibility for all travel arrangements to and from the School at the beginning and ends of each term, including half terms. All guardians are asked to sign a Guardianship Agreement with the school in line with the Guardianship Policy, see Appendix C. The key features of the Guardianship Agreement are that guardianship must be provided by an AEGIS-Accredited guardian subject to the DBS checks associated with this. The only alternative to this arrangement is a close blood-relative (grandparent, uncle or aunt, or sibling over 25 years old)

13.2. Repton School does offer short-term study programmes if space allows and the reasons and circumstances for the shorter than usual stay are substantial eg. An academically and sportively talented German pupil seeking a year abroad before Abitur (Repton would, on very rare occasions, consider a two-term placement in this instance.) It is not ordinarily the case that Repton would offer a single year in A Block or L6th, so overseas applicants may be offered a place in the year below should that be appropriate to the case.

14 Fluency in English

14.1. In order to cope with the high academic and social demands of Repton School pupils must be competent and confident English speakers. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) can be arranged at the parent's expense.

15 Religious Beliefs

15.1. Repton School has strong Christian roots, however, the School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it offers the opportunity for pupils to practise their own faiths. However, parents should be aware that there is compulsory Saturday morning School and that all pupils are expected to attend chapel on Wednesday and Sunday mornings.

16 School's contractual terms and conditions

16.1. Copies are on the School website and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

17 Complaints

17.1. The School hopes that parents and pupils will not have any complaints about the School's admissions process, though if they do they should write to the Deputy Head (Admissions & Marketing) initially.

JDW March 2022