

Policy Name:	Admissions Policy
Policy Number:	A42

Staff member responsible	Revision Date	Approved By	Approval Date	Reason
Jonathan Slot (Head)	September 2022	Board of Governors	September 2022	Annual update
Jonathan Slot (Head)	October 2023	Approval by Marketing Committee	October 2023	Annual Review
Jonathan Slot (Head)	August 2024	Approval by Marketing Committee	October 2024	Annual Review

This policy is applicable to the whole school including Early Years

Shaping Brighter Futures

We provide an inspiring and joyful education that will be remembered for a lifetime and which empowers our children with the confidence, knowledge, skills and character to thrive. We are shaping brighter futures.

School Aims:

At St Neot's education is full of fun and good humour. We want every child to enjoy their time at school, to feel part of a community that holds family values at the core. We are determined that our children not only learn outdoors but learn about the outdoors. We want to create well-rounded, independent thinkers that are not only confident in their academic ability but hold the soft skills necessary for Senior School and the world ahead.

The St Neot's Way is:

- *Where we promote a true sense of community, family values, a love of the outdoors and a commitment to having fun.*
- *Where every child comes into school feeling safe, valued and with a broad smile on their face; and who returns home with uplifting stories to tell.*
- *Where a first class, personalised, rigorous academic journey is matched by an enriching, broad and challenging co-curricular programme.*
- *Where the children's character, contribution and service is as valued as their academic success.*
- *Where the children's physical wellbeing is surpassed by their mental wellbeing.*
- *Where highly skilled, passionate and dedicated teachers, working in first class facilities, are full of ambition for themselves and the children in their care.*

St Neot's Values

Happiness Kindness Self-Belief Honesty Respect

The Admissions Policy ensures all students can access the academic journey and that the school can meet their physical and mental wellbeing needs.

Introduction

St Neot's School is a co-educational independent school for pupils from age 2 to 13 years. St Neot's pupils are well-rounded, 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 and sport. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual. Pupils are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the school's behaviour policy.

Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your child will visit St Neot's school. We hold a number of Open Events, which give a general introduction to the school. Details are published on our website. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times for a meeting and tour with the Headmaster. Please contact our Registrar, Priya Patel, on 0118 9739650 or email admissions@stneotsprep.co.uk to arrange a visit.

St Neot's is highly successful in placing pupils at senior schools, at 13+, with a number of Scholarships and Exhibitions awarded each year.

St Neot's School is committed to ensuring the Admissions Register is maintained in accordance with Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. From the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed or been informed that the pupil will attend the school, an entry will be made in the school's Admissions Register. St Neot's is also committed to ensuring that details required by the County Council (Hampshire) regarding inclusion and deletion are submitted on a termly basis or within 5 days of a child joining the school.

St Neot's is a non selective school and there are no formal academic requirements.

THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

The usual points of entry are into the Nursery (2-4 years), from 4 years in Reception, at 7 years in Year 3 and at 11 years in Year 7. We may also have occasional places at other ages. Please contact the Registrar for details.

Nursery (Tiny Tuskers/Tuskers)

Parents are invited to meet with the Head of Nursery and/or the Head

Transfer from Tiny Tuskers to Tuskers is usually automatic and the move is usually made in the term after their third birthday.

On rare occasions we reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a place if it is felt that St Neot's School cannot offer the support your child will require.

Pre Prep, Middle and Main School

There are no formal entry requirements for children transferring from external Nurseries/Schools into Pre Prep (Year R-Yr2), Middle (Yr 3&4) or Main School (Yr 5-8). The offer of a place will be made subject to a taster day where possible, and satisfactory references and reports from the previous school, as well as reports from any relevant external agencies, for example from an appropriate practitioner for a child with a medical condition or Special Educational Needs.

Pupils will be invited to an Induction morning during the Summer Term.

All prospective parents are invited to the school to meet the Headmaster (or member of SLT) and are offered a tour of the school. Prospective parents are invited to attend Open Mornings (tours can also be offered virtually) which are held on a regular basis. *If the initial visit takes place during the school holidays reports should be provided from the previous school and relevant external agencies will still be contacted for references.*

If a pupil has significant needs that require further investigation, then additional taster days may be required to enable a more accurate picture of the pupil's needs to be assessed by the school and more specifically the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities coordinator (SENDCo). Following a successful taster day and references (where applicable) a place will be offered.

We reserve the right to not offer a place or withdraw the offer of a place if one of the prerequisites outlined above demonstrates that St Neot's would not be able to meet the requirements of your child.

EQUAL TREATMENT

The school pays due regard to the Equality Act (2010). Our aim is to encourage applications from children with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world.

St Neot's School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a child's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background. (Our provision for bursaries is described below). Although St Neot's has Christian roots, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief and we allow the pupils to opt out of services, by request.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We do not discriminate in any way regarding entry. We welcome pupils with special educational needs, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with physical disabilities provided that our site can cope with them. However, we advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with St Neot's School so that we can make adequate provision for him/her. Parents should provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report to support their request. Full details may be found in the school's Equal Opportunities, Inclusion and Cultural Diversity Policy and the school's Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy.

We will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for a child if he/she becomes a pupil at the school.

FORM PLACEMENT AND SETTING

We accommodate pupils according to the school's assessment of the pupil and vacancies within sets. Throughout the pupil's career in school, all setting and class arrangements are the decision of the school and would remain within the school's normal parameters. All pupils are required to sit examinations and check up tests as set by the school.

SIBLING POLICY

The vast majority of siblings join us at St Neot's School. However, admission is not automatic and the procedures outlined above will still be followed. There may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

BURSARIES

The School offers a reduction in fees where there are 3 or more siblings attending the school. St Neot's school aims to offer as much support as we can but this is done on an individual basis, taking into account financial circumstances. Priority is given to children in their final years at the school. Such bursaries are subject to review by the Board and the conditions of our Charitable status.

Our Bursary Policy can be viewed on our website, or can be obtained from the Finance Office.

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at St Neot's school provided that he/she has a relative or legal guardian living in the UK with whom he/she can stay.

SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

Copies will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

COMPLAINTS

We hope that you and your child do not have any complaints about our admissions process; but copies of the School's complaints procedure are available from our website or can be sent to you on request.

Admissions Process

Once you have received your prospectus and/or visited the school the next stage in the admission process is:

1. **Registration** – Please complete the Registration Form and return it with the non-refundable fee of £150 to the Registrar. This will ensure that your child is included on our waiting list for their year group.
2. **Assessment** – A copy of the pupil's latest school report if requested. With the prior permission of the prospective pupil's parents, we will also request a confidential pupil report from the current school, including a full SEN report (where appropriate) and a history of the support that has been required in the previous setting. This is to ensure that all is in order and for the School to get a clear picture of a child's contribution and strengths. We will also request from you, copies of recent reports to assist with placing a new pupil in the correct groups for his or her lessons.

Parents who knowingly hide significant information regarding the specific learning difficulties of a child may forfeit the place that has been offered. For example, once these needs are highlighted shortly after joining St Neot's, and where the needs have a direct and unmanageable impact upon the learning of current pupils, the Head may advise the parents to seek a more appropriate educational environment for their child.

3. **Offer of Place** – Once we are in a position to offer your child a place we will contact you and we will request confirmation from you that you definitely wish to take up the place.
4. **Confirmation** – This is an agreement to the School's Terms and Conditions and involves the payment of the confirmation deposit (£600 for entry into Nursery and £300 for entry into Reception and above). This is returned at the end of the pupil's final term, subject to the terms and conditions.
5. **Induction/New pupil day** – Once a child's place is confirmed we will invite them into the school for an induction day/new pupil's day the term before they are due to start; they will spend either the whole day or a morning with the class they are likely to join when they come to St Neot's. Pupils joining Reception and Nursery will also be invited to attend a series of familiarisation sessions, commencing in the Spring Term.

CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION

St Neot's School adheres to the revised guidance '*Children missing education: statutory guidance for local authorities*'. This guidance reflects the changes brought about by the *Education (Pupil Registration) (Amendment) (England) regulations 2016** which have amended the *Education (pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006*. The changes were effective from 1st September 2016.

Since September 2016, the Registrar at St Neot's School is required to notify the Local Authority when a pupil's name is about to be removed from the school admission register under any of the grounds listed in Children Missing in Education 2016. This duty does not apply when a pupil's name is removed from the admission register at standard transition points - when the pupil has completed the final year of education normally provided by the school - unless the local authority requests that such returns are made.

The school will also make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of a child jointly with the local authority, before deleting the pupil's name from the register. (Regulation 8 (1) of the Education, Pupil Registration, England. Regulation 2006). From September 2016 schools must also notify the local authority within five days of adding or deleting a pupil's name on the admission register at non-standard transition points. The notification will include all the details contained in the admission register for the new pupil.

St Neot's is fully aware that there is an overlap also with *KCSIE 2024* which recognises children missing education as a safeguarding issue particularly when a child leaves with no known destination. Furthermore, the school acknowledge its right under the regulations to delete a pupil for non-return within 10 school days after authorised leave or after 20 school days unauthorised absence (in both cases, in the absence of illness or other unavoidable cause), does not arise until the School and LA have jointly made reasonable enquiries (described in the guidance) as to the pupil's whereabouts, and failed.

The school also undertakes to amend the admissions register where a parent notifies the school that a pupil will live at another address. The admissions register must record details of the pupil's new residence, the full name of the person with whom they will reside and the date from when it is expected the pupil will reside there.

The School also undertakes to amend the admissions register where a parent notifies the school that the pupil is registered at another school or will attend another school in the future. The admissions register must record the pupil's destination school and the date from when it is expected the pupil will attend or first attended the new school (where this information can reasonably be obtained).

The school will request sight of either the birth certificate or passport as part of the registration process. If a child is coming from outside of the UK, further checks may be required.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

In relation to deletions from the register, the duty arises as soon as the grounds for deletion are met and in any event before deleting the child's name.

Data will be sent to the local authority via a secure system for transferring pupil data.