



Solihull School

Admissions Policy

1. Introduction

Solihull School is an independent day school open to girls and boys between the ages of 7 and 18 (National Curriculum Years 3 to 13). The School is divided into two main sections, Solihull Junior School for pupils between the ages of 7 and 11 (National Curriculum Years 3 to 6), and the Senior School for pupils between 12 and 18 (National Curriculum Years 7 to 13). Although the vast majority of pupils pass through from the Junior School to the Senior School, that progress is not automatic and pupils in the Junior School sit the 11+ examination on equal terms with the external candidates.

The major points of entry to the School are at 7+ (for entry into Year 3), 11+ (for entry into Year 7) and 16+ (for entry into Year 12). However, examinations for entry are also set at 8+ (for entry into Year 4), 9+ (for entry into Year 5), 10+ (for entry into Year 6), 12+ (for entry into Year 8), 13+ (for entry into Year 9) and, on occasions, 14+ (for entry into Year 10). In addition, in special circumstances candidates are also accepted into the School in the remaining years.

The School is open to applications from boys and girls, irrespective of race, nationality, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion or creed, disability or previous educational background. In particular, the School is fully aware of its responsibilities to ensure compliance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act and race and gender discrimination legislation. The School also has extensive provision of academic and music scholarships at 11+ and 16+ and an Assisted Places Scheme to provide funds for able pupils on the basis of financial need.

The School's intention is to make offers on merit so that it offers the opportunity of education to those pupils who will be successful in relation to the School's academic standards and aims. The School also makes every effort to encourage as wide a range of applications as possible, through frequent Open Days and meetings for potential candidates, through advertising, through contact with local schools and through the availability of sample papers for candidates from 7+ to 11+.

2. The Procedure for Candidates from 7+ to 14+

a) Registration

Every candidate must be registered prior to the date laid down each year by the School. The deadline is usually in February for entry into the Junior School, late December for entry at 11+, 12+, 13+ and 14+. There is a fee that must be paid on registration and this is non-refundable. In certain circumstances late registrations and the late sitting of the examination are allowed at the discretion of the Headmaster.

b) The Examinations for Candidates from 7+ to 14+

Examinations for entry into the Junior School take place on a Saturday in March each year. The syllabi for each age group are attached as Appendix I. Examinations for entry into the Senior School take place on a Saturday in January each year. The syllabi for 11+, 12+, 13+ are attached as Appendices II, III and IV. All of the examinations are, to an extent, based on the National Curriculum, so that there should be no need for any pupil to make extra preparation for them.

The timing of the examination, of the announcement of results and of the deadline for acceptance is co-ordinated, as far as possible, with other local independent schools to ensure that candidates have a fair chance to make a decision. Special provision is made for candidates who have been identified as having a specific learning difficulty through an educational psychologist's report. In particular, candidates at 11+, 12+, 13+ and 14+ are given an appropriate allowance of extra time, and cognisance is taken of any report in the final process of selection for entry into the Junior and Senior School.

c) Additional Information

Information about each candidate is requested from the candidate's existing school and this information forms an important part of the decision-making process. In addition, the School may also make direct contact with a candidate's existing school to ensure that selection is made on the best possible evidence.

d) Interviews

At 11+, 12+, 13+ and 14+ a number of borderline candidates may be interviewed by the Headmaster and staff who have been involved in the marking of papers, so that there is as much information as possible for the final process of selection.

e) Selection

The final selection of candidates takes into account not only the examination performance, but also all the other available data.

The final choice from the candidates for the Junior School is made by a group comprising the Headmaster, the Head of the Junior School, in consultation with the teaching staff of the Junior School.

The final choice from the candidates for the Senior School is made by a group of staff comprising the Headmaster, the Deputy Heads, the Head of the Lower School, the Heads of English and Mathematics and, where appropriate, the Heads of Science and French and the Head of the Middle School. In addition, the Director of Learning Support is present to offer guidance on candidates with specific learning difficulties. At the end of this process, candidates are informed as quickly as possible whether they have been offered a place or not. A number of candidates are also placed on the waiting list for entry.

f) Scholarships and Assisted Places

The School awards a large number of scholarships each year at 11+ and, in exceptional circumstances, at 12+ and 13+. These scholarships are a maximum of 40% of the annual fee and a minimum of 10%. After the first examination the best candidates – about 50 in a normal year – are invited back for interview with the Headmaster and the Head of the Lower School. There are also a number of Music Scholarships – two or three in a normal year – which are awarded on the basis of auditions. In addition, the School makes funds available according to financial need to able pupils through the Assisted Places Scheme. This scheme is administered by the Bursary.

g) Acceptance

After a place has been accepted through completion of the Acceptance Form, the parents of successful candidates are sent a copy of the Parents' Handbook and are required to sign the Parental Contract.

h) Appeals

Parents of candidates not accepted have the right of appeal against the decision within two weeks of the publication of the results. That appeal will be heard by two Governors and their decision is final.

3. Entry into the Sixth Form

a) Procedure

In a normal year between 50 and 60 pupils enter the School from other schools. Candidates should normally be sixteen years of age, but not yet seventeen on 1 September of the year of entry. Candidates are required to register for entry in the same way as at every other age, but the deadline is late February. Offers for admission are made on the basis of interviews with two senior members of staff from the Headmaster, the Deputy Heads, the Head of Sixth Form and the Deputy Head of Sixth Form, a confidential report from the Head of the candidate's existing school, predicted and/or mock GCSE results and a brief personal profile provided by the candidate.

Any offer that is made is conditional on achieving a minimum of six subjects in GCSE at grade B or better. In addition, individual subjects do have specific requirements in performance at GCSE, for example a grade B at GCSE for a subject that is to be continued.

b) Transition to A2 is not automatic – pupils must attain at least grade D in their three chosen A2 subjects at the end of their Lower Sixth year. After the process of interviews a number of firm offers are made and some candidates are also placed on a waiting list.

c) Scholarships

Scholarships are also available for entry into the Sixth Form for both internal and external candidates. There are academic scholarships, but also scholarships in Music, Art and Design & Technology. The academic scholarships are awarded on the basis of two written papers taken in late February. Candidates applying for a Science or Mathematics Scholarship must take two papers, either Mathematics and Mathematics II or Mathematics and Science. Candidates taking other subjects must take a Subject Paper and a General Paper. The papers are designed specifically so that they do not require extra work beyond candidates' existing studies for GCSE. There are also separate tests for candidates for the Music, Art, and Design & Technology scholarships that take place in March.

Due cognisance is paid in the selection process to any specific learning difficulty, but no time allowance is granted in the examination.

d) Acceptance

After a place has been accepted through completion of the Acceptance Form, the parents of successful candidates are sent a copy of the Parents' Handbook and are required to sign the Parental Contract.

e) Appeals

Parents of candidates not accepted have the right of appeal against the decision within two weeks of the publication of the results. That appeal will be heard by two Governors and their decision will be final.



SOLIHULL JUNIOR SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

SYLLABI FOR ENTRANCE AT 7+, 8+, 9+ AND 10+

The entrance examinations are, to an extent, based on the National Curriculum. However, as the aim is to select pupils who will best benefit from the education which the Junior School offers, the examination papers will test skills beyond the National Curriculum requirements typical of the relevant age groups. The details below describe in very general terms the **minimum** levels required. If you want more information on what the National Curriculum Attainment Levels mean in terms of specific content either contact your child's teacher, log on to www.nc.uk.net or write to the Head of Solihull Junior School. They will be able to interpret the jargon contained in the relevant documents!

Parents should not feel that it is necessary to have their child specially coached for these examinations. Any child of the required ability should be able to sit the Entrance Examinations without such extra tuition.

7+ Entrance Syllabi

The various tests cover Mathematics, mental and written, reading with simple questions on the content of what has been read to test comprehension, and writing a simple story. The academic content of these tests is based on Attainment Level 2A/3 in the English and Mathematics of the National Curriculum.

8+ Entrance Syllabi

The various tests will cover Mathematics, mental and written, reading with simple questions to test the comprehension of what has been read, a comprehension, story writing. The academic content of the tests is based on Attainment Level 3 in the National Curriculum for English and Mathematics.

9+ Entrance Syllabi

The various tests will include Mathematics, mental and written, English, which will have a section on comprehension of a suitable passage, a section devoted to writing a story from a selection of topics. The academic content of the tests will be in line with Attainment Level 3A/4 of the National Curriculum for English and Mathematics.

10+ Entrance Syllabi

By the time pupils take the 10+ Entrance Examination, there are still three parts: an English paper which contains a comprehension section and an essay from a choice of titles, a Mathematics paper including mental and written. The academic content of the tests is based on Attainment Level 4/5 of the National Curriculum for English and Mathematics.



SOLIHULL SCHOOL

SYLLABUS OF WORK TO BE COVERED FOR THE 11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR ENTRY INTO THE LOWER SCHOOL.

In the 11+ age group candidates need only offer English and Mathematics.

MATHEMATICS

General:

There will be one paper lasting one and a half hours. It will contain three sections.

- Section A will consist of a series of short questions in which the candidates will not be required to show working.
- Sections B and C will consist of longer problems, often with several parts, where the candidates are asked to think through more complex and testing situations.

Calculators and Calculator Watches will **not be allowed** in the examination.

SUMMARY OF WORK TO BE COVERED

Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers (but not complicated long division).

Time and the 24 hour clock.

Recognition of patterns of numbers.

Finding areas of squares and rectangles.

Simple direct proportion.

Time, distance and speed in simple cases.

Averages.

Problems involving money.

Interpretation of simple Bar Charts (drawing of them is not required).

Very simple probability.

ENGLISH

Section A: Response to Reading (Prose passage or poem)

Section B: Composition Exercise

Section A will test the candidates' reading skills. They will be assessed on their ability to comprehend and understand the passage. They will be expected to write critically about aspects of character, setting, situation and theme. They will also need to consider closely the writer's choice of language.

Section B will allow the candidates to write a composition of their choice, from a range of options. These might include a short story, a description of an imagined or real event, or merely the opening chapter to a longer narrative. Credit will be given for imagination, clarity of expression, grammatical accuracy and quality of imagery.



SOLIHULL SCHOOL

THE SYLLABUS OF WORK TO BE COVERED FOR THE 12+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

In the 12+ age group candidates need only offer English and Mathematics.

MATHEMATICS

General: There will be one paper lasting an hour and a half.
Calculators will not be allowed in the examination.

SUMMARY OF WORK TO BE COVERED:

Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers (but not complicated long division).

Addition and subtraction of decimals. Addition and subtraction of simple fractions.

Time and the 24 hour clock.

Recognition of patterns of numbers.

Finding areas of squares and rectangles.

Simple direct proportion.

Time, distance and speed in simple cases.

Averages.

Problems involving money.

Interpretation of simple Bar Charts (drawing of them is not required).

Very simple probability.

The use of letters in Algebra. Substitution of positive numerical values for letters.

ENGLISH

Section A: Response to Reading (Prose passage or poem)

Section B: Composition Exercise

Section A will test the candidates' reading skills. They will be assessed on their ability to comprehend and understand the passage. They will be expected to write critically about aspects of character, setting, situation and theme. They will also need to consider closely the writer's choice of language.

Section B will allow the candidates to write a composition of their choice, from a range of options. These might include a short story, a description of an imagined or real event, or merely the opening chapter to a longer narrative. Credit will be given for imagination, clarity of expression, grammatical accuracy and quality of imagery.



SOLIHULL SCHOOL

THE SYLLABUS OF WORK TO BE COVERED FOR THE 13+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

At 13+, English, Mathematics, French and Science are obligatory.

MATHEMATICS (One and a half hours)

An outline of the syllabus is given below:

ARITHMETIC AND MENSURATION

Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of integers, fractions and decimals; the correct use of brackets; simple percentages.

Indices

The area of the triangle, rectangle.

The volume of the cuboid.

Elementary statistical ideas, e.g. averages, easy bar charts, pie charts.

Simple probability.

ALGEBRA

Simple equations (but NOT simultaneous equations).

The meaning and use of co-ordinates.

Straightforward travel graphs and their interpretation.

The questions set in Algebra will assume an understanding of directed numbers.

GEOMETRY

The following geometrical properties may be examined:

Angle properties of parallel lines, the angle sum of a triangle, angle properties of isosceles and equilateral triangles.

NOTES

- (i) Questions on trigonometry will not be set.
- (ii) Candidates must bring their own geometrical instruments to the examination.
- (iii) The use of calculators is forbidden; all such aids, including watches which incorporate a calculator, must be handed to the invigilator before the paper is set.

ENGLISH

Section A: Response to Reading (Prose passage or poem)

Section B: Composition Exercise

Section A will test the candidates' reading skills. They will be assessed on their ability to comprehend and understand the passage. They will be expected to write critically about aspects of character, setting, situation and theme. They will also need to consider closely the writer's choice of language.

Section B will allow the candidates to write a composition of their choice, from a range of options. These might include a short story, a description of an imagined or real event, or merely the opening chapter to a longer narrative. Credit will be given for imagination, clarity of expression, grammatical accuracy and quality of imagery.

FRENCH

Present tense and Imperative of common verbs

Regular plural of nouns

Feminine and plural forms of adjectives

Definite and Indefinite articles

A simple question asked and answered in French: e.g. "quel age as-tu?"

Partitive article, Possessive adjectives, Demonstrative adjectives

Numbers 1 - 100, the date, the time

Perfect tense with avoir and etre (but NOT of Reflexive verbs)

One direct object pronoun before verb

Negatives: ne..pas, ne..rien

Comparison of adjectives

Immediate future with 'aller'

Note:

The emphasis in the examination will be on Communication and Comprehension as is appropriate to GCSE. The ability to write coherently in French is more important than detailed grammatical coverage.

SCIENCE

The Science paper in the entrance examination will be based on the Common Entrance Syllabus including earth science, and it will be expected that pupils will be familiar with the Programme of Study for key stage 3, excluding Sc1, based on the Common Entrance Syllabus. An understanding of basic scientific principles and ideas will be expected.

Questions may involve:-

1. Manipulation and presentation of data
2. Interpreting data. (This may include line graphs, bar charts, pie diagrams as well as interpreting tabulated data.)
3. Comprehension.

Useful background books

Longmans: Science 11 - 14. Chemistry, Physics, Biology (Separate books).

Oxford University Press: Starting Science I and II by Frazer and Gilchrist. (This is not an inclusive list)