



LEIGHTON PARK

Achievement with Values, Character and
Community

Admissions Policy and Procedures
Date: 19th March 2020

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1. Policy statement

- 1.1. Leighton Park (the School) follows the Quaker ethos, and values its links with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), though only a small number of students come from a Quaker background. The School accepts students from all faiths and none, ages 11-18.
- 1.2. The School is owned by Leighton Park Trust.
- 1.3. The School is a selective fee paying co-educational day and boarding school. Our mission is to inspire achievement with values, character and community like no other school can. Our vision is to develop the qualities in our young people that will help them to reach their greatest potential: to become the global change-makers of the future.
- 1.4. The main intake is at Years 7, 9, our Pre-Sixth programme (Year 11) and Lower Sixth – although students may also be considered for entry into other years, subject to availability.
- 1.5. The School normally offers places for students to join at the beginning of the Autumn Term but may consider students for entry at other points within the academic year in exceptional circumstances.
- 1.6. This policy is available on the School's public website but can also be made available in hard copy and in different formats upon request to the Registrar.

2. Policy aims

- 2.1. The aims of this policy are:
 - 2.1.1. To ensure the School identifies and admits students who will benefit from the vibrant and interdisciplinary education provided at the School, who will thrive in our culture of high expectations, whose families will be in sympathy with the ethos of a community based on Quaker values and ideals.
 - 2.1.2. To set out a transparent and fair process for all applicants.
 - 2.1.3. To ensure compliance with the School's charitable purposes.
 - 2.1.4. To ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation.

3. What Leighton Park is looking for

- 3.1. The School is always looking to enrich its community, with students who are committed to getting the most out of the opportunities Leighton Park has to offer.
- 3.2. The School has a wide range of Scholarships and Bursaries designed to attract able and talented students capable of deep thinking scholarship and who are passionate and have a strong values. Leighton Park is looking for students with the drive and determination to be the change-makers of the future. Our Scholarships Policy is available at section 15.
- 3.3. As a Quaker School, Leighton Park accepts students of all faiths and none, but who should be able to demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for Leighton Park's distinctive Quaker ethos and values. All students are required to attend Meeting for Worship, Collects and other aspects of the Leighton Park school day which are central to its ethos.

3.4. The School is looking for students who will work with us, follow our rules and guidance and benefit from our unique blend of deep Quaker values, the meaningful connections between staff and students, our first class academic and pastoral support and our holistic approach to learning.

4. Equal opportunities

- 4.1. The School commits to equal opportunities for all applicants irrespective of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, culture or any other personal characteristic that might be discriminated against.
- 4.2. At present the School's facilities for students with disabilities are limited, but the School will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001, in order to accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the School can cater adequately.
- 4.3. The School needs to be aware from the outset of any known disability, special educational need, or emerging issues, known or suspected special circumstances, which may affect a child's ability to participate in the admissions process or take full advantage of the education provided at the School. Parents of a child who has any physical or mental disability, special educational need, mental health challenges or disadvantageous social circumstances should provide the School with full details at initial enquiry or at the latest when registering the application, and keep the School apprised of any changes. See further details at 4.10.
- 4.4. The School needs this information so that, in the case of any child with particular needs, the School can assess those needs and consult with parents about the adjustments which can reasonably be made to ensure that the application procedure is accessible for the child and that the School can cater adequately for the student should an offer of a place be made.
- 4.5. In the event of adapted or specialist provision being required for a student to access the curriculum at Leighton Park, the School will organise a consultation with the parents and relevant specialists to assess what reasonable adjustments can be provided by the School and detail the costs of any additional provision that cannot be borne by the School. Responsibility for the costs of this additional provision, which cannot be met through reasonable adjustments, will rest with the parents.
- 4.6. A small number of students may receive specialist interventions from the ILC as a reasonable adjustment, where the School considers this necessary for the student to access the curriculum and usually where they are tracking two grades below their expected level.
- 4.7. Provision to support subject-specific academic development takes place in teaching departments. Students with no SEND but who would like additional support, extra lessons are available from the Individual Learning Centre.
- 4.8. Leighton Park allocates funds to make reasonable adjustments each year and careful consideration is given as to how these funds can best be allocated to

support applicants. Given this set budget allocation, prospective families that think they may need reasonable adjustments should ensure that they apply by the application deadline to ensure that they can be considered.

- 4.9. If special educational needs or a disability become apparent after admission, the School will consult with parents and refer to relevant specialists to consider recommended reasonable adjustments in order to allow, where feasible, the child to continue at the School.
- 4.10. Failure to disclose details of a child's known disability, mental health and or full special educational needs at the point of initial application may result in the School withdrawing a place.

5. Admissions procedure

- 5.1. Families should review the School's website and promotional materials to learn about the distinctive ethos and approach at Leighton Park. If interested, families should ideally then attend an open event or schedule an individual visit to learn more about the School. The School also offers Taster Days for students considering Year 7 and Year 9 entry. Parents are asked to disclose any disabilities or special educational needs (see section 4.2) in advance of a visit.
- 5.2. If families wish to pursue an interest in the School they should complete the online Application Form, including the payment of the Application Fee and submission of the child's most recent school report and any relevant Educational Psychologist or other specialist reports. For UK-based families this step needs to be completed by the application deadline, which is usually in mid-November of the year prior to entry.
- 5.3. Applying after the deadline may jeopardise a child's chance of a place at the School.
- 5.4. On receipt of the Application Form the Admissions Department will support the family with the application process, including scheduling entrance tests. These tests will usually be taken at the School, with the majority of our Year 7 and 9 applicants sitting the tests at an entrance tests day in early January of the year of entry. Students based overseas can sit these tests online but they must be overseen by a suitable invigilator. This can take place at the offices of one of Leighton Park's trusted educational consultant partners, the student's current school, British Council office or a lawyer's office.
- 5.5. All applicants will have an individual interview with a member of the School's leadership team. This can be done at the School or over Skype.
- 5.6. Leighton Park will request a reference from the Head of the applicant's current/previous school. This will be done only with the parents' permission but is a required part of our Admissions Process prior to any offer. Previous schools will be asked about the student's academic ability, participation in school life, predicated grades (if appropriate), talents, interests as well as special circumstances and normal ways of working. The reference will also ask if all school fees have been paid.

- 5.7. On completion of the admissions process, successful applicants will be offered a place, usually within three weeks of sitting the tests. Where there is no space available successful applicants will be put on a waiting list. The School will send an offer letter to the parents, setting out any specific conditions relating to the offer of a place. This offer is subject to the School's Terms and Conditions.
- 5.8. To accept the place, parents should read the offer and Terms and Conditions carefully. The completed acceptance form should then be returned to the Admissions Department. The offer letter will also detail the acceptance deposit required to secure the place. The child's place will only be secured when the completed acceptance form and acceptance deposit have been received.
- 5.9. The acceptance deposit will be held by the School in general funds until it is repaid without interest when the student leaves and following settlement of all outstanding fees and extras due to the School. Parents should note the requirement to give one full term's notice if a student is leaving. Failure to do so will result in a fee in lieu of notice being due, which may affect the deposit.
- 5.10. The family will, in due course, receive joining forms from the School. It is a requirement that these must all be completed satisfactorily prior to the start of term. Students will not be able to start at the School if any of the joining forms have not been completed in full. It is the family's responsibility to complete these forms correctly and the School will not be held liable for days missed as a result of these forms not being completed satisfactorily.

6. Waiting list

6.1. In the case where a child has met our entry requirements but there is no space available, a waiting list will be held for September entry, in the following order:

- Children with siblings in attendance at Leighton Park School at the time of entry (see explanatory notes)
- Those families who have applied for a weekly or full boarding place at time of registration.
- Children of practising Quaker parents or from families who regularly attend Quaker meetings, confirmed in writing by the Clerk of the meeting.
- Children ranked highest, according to the entrance tests and interview, with additional reference to the school report and confidential reference.

If there is more than one student in any of the categories 1-3 above, category 4 will be the determining criterion.

Students will be placed on the waiting list according to the above criteria.

Therefore, date of offer and acceptance will not be a consideration and a student's place on the waiting list could change according to the criteria set.

7. Applications outside the normal admission cycle

- 7.1. Parents are advised to contact the School in the first instance to discuss arrangements and check that spaces are available in the required year of entry. Applications will be dealt with by the Admissions Department who meet regularly with senior colleagues to discuss in-year applications. The admissions criteria and method of assessment is the same as for the normal admissions cycle, except that in-year joiners are interviewed by two different members of the School's leadership team.

8. Admissions criteria

- 8.1. In all cases, the Head has to agree the admission of any student. The Head's decision is final.
- 8.2. It is a condition of admission that:
 - 8.2.1. The student meets the admissions criteria set out in this policy.
 - 8.2.2. Any conditions of entry to the School are fulfilled.
 - 8.2.3. Full disclosure of any registered disability, special educational need or any additional needs are made.
 - 8.2.4. The School receives a signed and fully completed acceptance form.
 - 8.2.5. The School receives full payment of the acceptance deposit.
 - 8.2.6. The School receives a copy of the student's passport.
 - 8.2.7. The School receives a copy of the student's birth certificate in order to verify parental responsibility, and is provided with a copy of relevant court documents affecting the student's care or living arrangements, where applicable.
 - 8.2.8. The applicant is of a suitable age.
 - 8.2.9. Any necessary adaptation or specialist provision has been agreed in consultation with the parents, detailing any agreed reasonable adjustments by the School and committing to how any further adaptations or specialist provision will be paid for.
 - 8.2.10. Students whose parents are not based proximate to the School must have an appointed guardian, in accordance with the Guardianship Agreement completed to the School's satisfaction.

9. Assessments

- 9.1. Leighton Park is a selective, independent school. Students are assessed for eligibility in different ways depending on entry point:
- 9.2. Assessment for Years 7-9 and Pre-Sixth
 - 9.2.1. Reaching a satisfactory standard in our entrance tests, which are all based on the curriculum in the student's current school year. For Year 7 and 9 applicants these are usually held in early January of the year of entry.
 - 9.2.1.1. English comprehension
 - 9.2.1.2. Maths test

- 9.2.1.3. Creative writing/Essay
- 9.2.1.4. Lucid testing (used to understand students' strengths and weaknesses)
- 9.2.2. Interview
- 9.2.3. Reference
- 9.2.4. School reports
- 9.2.5. Any specialist reports (if applicable)
- 9.2.6. Feedback from any open events or taster days

9.3. Assessment for Sixth Form

- 9.3.1. Entry to Sixth Form from Year 11 at Leighton Park is automatic unless the student's GCSE performance is poor due to absenteeism or failure to meet deadlines and to abide by the School's expectations in terms of work rate and effort. Students whose performance is adversely affected by illness, bereavement or other family problems, will be treated sympathetically.
- 9.3.2. Students applying for a place in the Lower Sixth from outside of Leighton Park will not be expected to sit entrance tests but will be required to achieve the requisite GCSE results. Students must achieve five grade 6s or above, with at least a grade 7 in maths if they wish to study Maths A Level or at Higher Level on the IB programme. Full details are available in the A Level and IB course brochure.
 - 9.3.2.1. Students applying for the IB programme or who wish to study Maths or a Science at A Level will also be asked to sit a maths test.
 - 9.3.2.2. All applicants are expected to undertake an interview with a senior member of staff.
 - 9.3.2.3. For students for whom English is not their first language or who are not taking GCSEs, the School will ask them to take tests in English and mathematics.
 - 9.3.2.4. The Admissions Department will ask for a copy of the student's passport in order to establish identity and confirm date of birth.
 - 9.3.2.5. Leighton Park School will also request a copy of the student's most recent school report, as well as a confidential reference from the Head of the student's current school. For students applying for a place in the Lower Sixth, examination grades for GCSE modules taken and predicted GCSE results or equivalent are also requested. Failure to submit the required documentation will prevent the student gaining a place at the School.

10. Feedback on unsuccessful applications

- 10.1. The decision of this School regarding all applications is final. On request to the Admissions Department, the School will provide feedback on the application, usually in verbal form and within 28 days of the request. No correspondence on admissions will be entered into.

11. Overseas applications

- 11.1. Approximately 25% of Leighton Park students are from overseas.
- 11.2. The School realises that it is not always practical for students from overseas to sit the tests at the School. Therefore, arrangements can be made via the Admissions Department for students to sit tests, under strict examination conditions, at their current school or with one of our trusted agency partners. Interviews will be arranged and carried out using Skype. The Admissions Department will ask for a copy of the student's birth certificate or passport in order to establish identity and confirm the date of birth.
- 11.3. Leighton Park welcomes students who speak English as a second language provided they meet the academic criteria required. Such students, on admission to the School, have all opportunities open to them that are open to other students. In addition, students will have the opportunity for specialist EAL tuition on an individual or group basis, for which there will be a termly charge.
- 11.4. Please find below the guidelines for the level of English expected of an international student whose first language is not English:
- 11.4.1. Year 7 and 8 – Minimum level of A2 ability in the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference)
- 11.4.2. Year 9 and 10 – Minimum level of B1 ability in the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference)
- 11.4.3. Pre-Sixth Programme – Minimum level of B2 ability in the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) or 5.5 in IELTS
- 11.4.4. Sixth Form - Minimum level of B2/C1 ability in the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) or 6.0 in IELTS
- 11.5. Applicants will be classified as having EEA/UK status if one of the following apply (proof will be required):
- At least one of the parents or the child has an EEA/UK passport;
 - At least one of the parents permanently resides in the UK (not EEA) regardless of nationality.
- 11.6. For parents who are relocating to the UK, they will be afforded EEA/UK status during the registration and acceptance period provided they are permanently resident in the UK by the time the child joins the School. If the status changes whilst the child is in the School, Leighton Park reserves the right to increase the deposit to the Non-EEA level.
- 11.7. Applicants classified as non-EEA students will be required to pay the non-EEA registration fee, the non-EEA acceptance deposit and the non-EEA fees. If the status changes whilst the child is in the School Leighton Park reserves the right to increase the deposit and fees to the Non-EEA level.

12. Guardianship requirement for overseas students

- 12.1. All international students, whose parents do not live in the UK, must have a UK Guardian. Guardians can be a relative or a family friend who is over 25 years of age and lives within two hours of the School. Guardians must have suitable accommodation so that the student could stay with them if required. The

- Guardian must be appointed by the parents before the student arrives in the UK and a signed and fully completed Guardianship Agreement sent to Leighton Park.
- 12.2. Where there is no appropriate family member or friend who is willing to take on the role the parents must appoint a Guardian from a professional agency registered and approved by AEGIS. Leighton Park does not appoint Guardians on behalf of students.
- 12.3. The Guardian must be able to care for the student at short notice, at times of illness, recuperation, in the event of an exclusion, or otherwise as necessary, in addition to liaising with the School as necessary and providing the first point of contact.

13. Guardianship requirement for overseas students

- 13.1. Students who do not hold a UK or EEA passport may require a CAS (Certificate of Acceptance of Study) from the School to be able to apply for a visa to study in the UK for the duration of the course. All prospective families must read carefully the requirements of a Tier 4 Student Visa to make sure they meet the criteria before making an application to the School. These requirements are found on the UK Government website: www.gov.uk.
- 13.2. A prospective student, who has accepted a place at the School, but fails to attend the course because of a visa refusal, must pay a full term's fees in lieu of notice.
- 13.3. A CAS will not be issued until the School has received the signed Acceptance Form, deposit and application fee in full, a copy of the passport, details of an appointed UK Guardian, and the parental consent letter.
- 13.4. All overseas students from outside the EEA must have a valid Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) with healthcare surcharge paid, if applicable. A BRP is issued to the student once the visa has been approved by UKVI.
- 13.5. All non-UK resident EEA students must hold a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), and / or private health insurance. The EHIC card provides cover for health care whilst in any EEA country including emergency medical care and essential ongoing treatment without any upfront payment. Any changes concerning BREXIT that may arise in the UK over coming months will not affect the EHIC scheme until December 2021.
- 13.6. The School Health Centre requires a copy of the student's EHIC card, and/or valid health insurance certificate, to keep on file in case medical treatment is required at any time whilst in School.

14. Siblings

- 14.1. Parents who apply for and accept a place for their third or any subsequent children at Leighton Park after 1 May 2020 will be eligible for a discount of 20% on each of the third and subsequent child's school fees
- 14.2. The discount will only apply whilst there are a minimum of three siblings in full time education at the school. Where there are two siblings the fees will revert to full fees for both children.

15. Bursaries

- 15.1. Leighton Park School endeavours to make appropriate arrangements to enable young people from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds to take up places at the School if they meet our entrance criteria. Bursaries may be available, in cases of financial hardship, to existing and prospective students, though bursary funds are, naturally, limited. Bursaries are always means-tested and subject to annual review. Our process includes a home visit from a trusted third party company.
- 15.2. In line with our Quaker ethos the School aims to award a small number of transformational bursaries of between 80-100% to support families for whom a fee paying education would otherwise be unattainable.
- 15.3. Application forms are required in all cases and from the Bursary once the student is registered. Please email: jennyrowe@leightonpark.com to request the form and the School's separate Bursary Policy for further information.
- 15.4. The Bursary deadline is the same as the application deadline and is usually in mid-November of the year prior to entry. Any applications received after this date will not normally be considered and applicants will be invited to re-apply for the following academic year.
- 15.5. The parents of all students offered a bursary will be expected to re-apply every year, and bursaries will be subject to review every year. All applicants will be informed of bursary decisions in January.

16. Scholarships

- 16.1. A number of scholarships are granted for entry to Year 7, 9 and Sixth Form on the basis of a competitive assessments. These scholarships are also open to those already in the School. Once gained, a scholarship normally lasts throughout the student's time at Leighton Park but is subject to a satisfactory review of progress each year. For further details please see the Scholarship Policy
- 16.2. The School will consider scholarship applications from students entering Years 8, 10, 11 and Upper Sixth who have not previously had an opportunity to apply and who are making excellent progress in their chosen area.

17. Data protection

- 17.1. The School will take all reasonable measures to safeguard information provided as part of the admissions process. Information gathered as part of the admissions process will form part of the student's record in the case of successful applicants. Information gathered as part of the application for applicants who are not offered a place will be destroyed after the student ceases to be of school age as it is not unusual for students to re-apply to the School at a later date.

18. EXPLANATORY NOTES

18.1. Siblings

A sibling link applies when a child for whom admission is sought already has a brother/sister or step-brother/sister living in the same family unit and in attendance at the School, at the time of his/her entry to the School. A sibling does not include a cousin or other relative living in the same household.

18.2. Admission of twins, triplets or other children from multiple births

Where fewer places within a year group can be offered than there are children from multiple births living at a single address, the School has the discretion to treat this as an exceptional case and may admit all such children in order not to split the family.

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