



This policy conforms to current legislation (Equality Act 2010) and should be read in conjunction with the information given on the school's website and in the prospectus.

1. General principles

- i. Gordonstoun is a co-educational, independent boarding school of some 600 students aged from 8 to 18. The Junior School includes students from the age of 8 to 13 years and the Senior School, from 13-18. Half of the Junior School pupils are full boarders; at the Senior School approximately 90% of the students are full boarders.
- ii. In keeping with the unique mission and aim of the school, as described in the prospectus, and to provide a very broad range of experiences (academic, physical, emotional and spiritual), applications are welcome from a range of aptitudes and backgrounds, and all successful applicants will have shown good potential to contribute positively to this distinctive ethos. A positive contribution and commitment must be maintained throughout the student's time at the junior or Senior School.
- iii. In the context of Gordonstoun's unique ethos and curriculum, we welcome applications from students with special educational or physical needs, but we are only able to admit those for whom the schools' resources, reasonably adjusted where appropriate, would be able to meet the student's educational needs. Parents are encouraged to discuss with our Director of Admissions the feasibility of a Gordonstoun education for their child. We may ask for an educational psychologist's report or a medical report to assist our assessment and to support any request, for example, for extra time, special resources, or other individual arrangements.

- iv. Students of all religious leanings (or none) are expected to attend a daily assembly; at the Junior School this is held in the Assembly Room; at the Senior School, in chapel. These assemblies form an important part of the daily rhythm with which students are expected to engage. The ethos of the school is broadly Christian.

2. Admission Criteria

- i. The appropriateness of each admission to either school is based on a very broad range of criteria. Successful applicants will have demonstrated that they are likely to make progress within the school's mainstream teaching programmes and both benefit from and contribute positively to the broad curriculum and life of the community.
- ii. In the Senior School (years 9-13) it is expected that students will be prepared and entered for GCSE examinations and be able to demonstrate an aptitude to do well – and, similarly, students entering the sixth form are expected to have shown ability at GCSE (or equivalent). However, the curriculum is broad and may well suit applicants who will manage the academic curriculum but will also thrive beyond it.
- iii. Typically, sixth form students study three A Levels and most go on to university.
- iv. Entry into the Senior School is based on school entry examinations or other entry tests or, if entering at year 12, on the basis of GCSE results (or equivalent), in addition to school reports.
- v. For many of those applying to the Junior School – in the absence of examination results - admission will be based on an interview either with the Principal or with the Head of the Junior School.
- vi. The transfer of students from the Junior to Senior School is the norm but not automatic and the Head of the Junior School and the Principal of Gordonstoun will discuss this process with parents, particularly when adjustments at Senior School to meet a student's needs have to be considered.
- vii. The schools reserve the right to turn down an applicant when the optimum in terms of available places or other practical constraints has been reached; or when in the school's opinion an applicant would not flourish at the junior or Senior Schools because adjustment to cater for specific needs cannot reasonably be made.

viii. Junior and Senior Schools welcome applicants who have previously been home-schooled. Such candidates will normally be assessed on the basis of tests conducted at Gordonstoun in core subjects.

3. Admission Procedure

- i. Entry to the Junior School is at any of its school years. The entry to the Senior School is at 13+/Year 9, 14+/year 10 and 16+/year 12. Occasionally entries are accepted at other ages.
- ii. To apply for a place at the school, parents complete a registration form and submit it to the Admissions Department. The form can be completed on-line or downloaded from the school website and mailed.
- iii. An important part of the admissions procedure is for each prospective student, with his or her parents, to meet the Principal (or his Deputy). Arrangements are made for individual visits throughout the year. (See below, however, for overseas applicants)
- iv. In addition, all admissions to the Gordonstoun are dependent upon the provision of the following documents:
 - a. the most recent school reports
 - b. a statement of the most recent academic results achieved by an applicant at the previous school (these may be Common Entrance, Entry Test, GCSE or other formal school or public test results).
 - c. a testimonial sent directly to us by the Head of the applicant's current school
 - d. Special Educational Needs form (provided by Gordonstoun) signed by the head teacher of the student's present school and (where we deem it appropriate) an educational psychologist's report or a medical report.
 - e. sight of the prospective student's passport, a copy of its information page and of any requisite visa required for study in the UK (see 6iii below).
 - f. completed Gordonstoun medical forms

4. Scholarships

Scholarships are fee reductions made on the basis of a student's exceptional ability in one or more areas of the curriculum. They are awarded on the basis of i) the applicant's proficiency in one or more areas offered for scholarship and ii) the applicant's performance in written examinations in the core subjects and iii) the school's assessment of the applicant's likely prominence within the School in that area.

- i. **Academic Scholarships:** written examinations for entry to Years 9 and 12 are held annually in February.
- ii. **Music Scholarships:** Auditions are held if appropriate.
- iii. **Art Scholarships:** A portfolio of work is submitted.
- iv. **Sports Awards:** these are available for entrance to Years 9 and 12. Candidates undergo physical tests to demonstrate specialist and general skills.
- v. **Junior School Scholarships:** assessments for students applying for junior scholarships are held in November for the following September.

It should be noted that the benefits of the Neil Wylie Music Scholarship are not carried through to the Senior School.

5. Bursaries

Bursaries are fee reductions made on the basis of an applicant's (in)ability to pay some or all of the fees charged by the school. They are awarded on a discretionary basis following rigorous and objective means testing.

- i. Applications for **bursaries** should be made to the Finance Department. Those responsible for paying the fees will be asked to complete a standard means test; the details submitted are kept strictly confidential.
- ii. Written evidence of income and family capital is required.
- iii. Bursaries are normally reviewed on a yearly basis, and fresh financial information will be required annually.
- iv. Further details of bursaries can be obtained from the Fees Administrator, on **01343 [837914](tel:01343837914); or fees@gordonstoun.org.uk**

6. Overseas Applicants

Gordonstoun's unique ethos and curriculum are stimuli for applicants from overseas. About a third of the Year 9-12 students come from outside the UK and about a 20% in the Junior School.

- i. We encourage parents to visit the school in advance of an application with their son or daughter in the same way that UK residents do. However, we will consider applicants without a visit providing that we have access, in the normal way, to the documents listed in part 3. (iv) of the 'Admissions Procedure' (above). This would normally be arranged by our agent in the country of domicile.
- ii. In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Gordonstoun, students must have a good working knowledge of English. A student should be able to understand and communicate readily with teachers at the School without the help of an interpreter. Tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL) is offered at the School.
- iii. Students from outside the European Union will require an educational visa. They should consult the Home Office UK Border Agency website (www.ukvisas.gov.uk) to find out whether a student visa is required, and, if it is, how to apply for one in the country of residence. It is the responsibility of parents to obtain the appropriate student visa before arriving at Gordonstoun and to renew as necessary. Advice on the procedure can be obtained from the Admissions Department.
- iv. Gordonstoun holds a Tier 4 Highly Trusted sponsor licence.

7. Contractual Terms and Conditions

Copies of contractual terms and conditions are available on the website, from the Director of Admissions, or the Finance Director. They will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

8. Contacts

Admissions Department: +44 (0) 1343 837829 admissions@gordonstoun.org.uk
 Finance Department: +44 (0) 1343 837914 fees@gordonstoun.org.uk
 Main school number: +44 (0) 1343 837837
 Website: www.gordonstoun.org.uk

9. Complaints

We hope that you and your child do not have any complaints about our admissions process; but copies of the schools' complaints procedure can be sent to you on request.

10. Trustees

The Chairman of Trustees is Professor Bryan Williams, who can be contacted at Gordonstoun, Elgin, Moray, IV30 5RF. A list of members of the Schools' Trustee body can be found on the School's website www.gordonstoun.org.uk

11. Charitable Status

Gordonstoun is a Scottish charity, no. SC037867. Company registered in England no. 288105.

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