



DEAN CLOSE
SCHOOL
CHELTENHAM

The Dean Close Foundation

Independent, Co-educational, Day and Boarding School

**Admissions Policy
(W038)**

Registered Charity No: 1086829

Date of Issue: Sept 20
Review Date: Sept 21
Owner: Admissions Director

THE DEAN CLOSE FOUNDATION

ADMISSIONS POLICY

- This policy has been authorised by the Trustees of The Dean Close Foundation (the “Charity”) for all of its schools, (the “School”).
- This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Bursar (or the Finance and General Purpose Committee) on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Introduction

1. Throughout this Policy Dean Close (The School) means Dean Close Pre-Preparatory School (DCPPS), Dean Close Preparatory School (DCPS), Dean Close St John’s (DCSJ) and Dean Close Senior School (DCS). The term *parents* will include guardians and others who have parental responsibility for children entering the School. The term *pupils* will be used throughout.

Statement of Intent

2. Dean Close School must feel confident that a prospective pupil will benefit from the education offered, in line with the general standards achieved by their peers, so that they can enjoy a complete, happy and successful School career. These criteria must continue to be met throughout the individual’s time at Dean Close. The School’s policy is to apply these criteria to all pupils and potential pupils regardless of any known disability, subject to its obligation to make reasonable adjustments so as not to put any disabled pupil at a substantial disadvantage relative to their non-disabled peers.

Equal Opportunity

3. Promoting equal opportunities is fundamental to the aims and ethos of Dean Close. We welcome applications from pupils of all ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds and all are treated equally. Human rights and freedoms are respected but must be balanced with the needs and rules of our School community and rights and freedoms of others.

4. The School seeks to provide a welcoming atmosphere where all individuals feel valued and can make the most of their abilities, including those with learning difficulties and disabilities, on the proviso that the educational needs of the child can be met within the School’s academic environment.

Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

5. The School seeks to make adequate provision for children with disabilities, including those with a EHC plan, and is committed to making reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs. The School must, however, be aware of any known disability or learning difficulty which may affect a child’s ability to take full advantage of the education provided.

6. Parents of a child who has any disability must provide the School with full written details at registration before accepting the offer of a place. The School needs this information so that,

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in the case of any child with particular needs, we can assess those needs and consult with parents over any reasonable adjustments that need to be made to cater adequately for the child. Similarly, if a learning difficulty or disability becomes apparent after admission, the School will consult with the parents about reasonable adjustments that may allow the child to continue at the School.

7. Parents of disabled or potentially disabled children must provide full disclosure of any medical, educational, psychologist or other reports regarding their child's disability, medical condition or special educational needs. In assessing any pupil or prospective pupil the School may take such advice and require such assessments as it regards as appropriate. Failure by parents to make the necessary disclosure of information may prevent the School from providing adequate support and may lead to the removal of the child.

Enquiries and Visits

8. All families who request a prospectus or enquire about entrance to the School are encouraged to visit, either on an Open Morning or for an individual tour. Many families visit the School a number of times before deciding whether to register. They will normally have met the relevant Headmaster/Headmistress and Admissions Staff/Registrar and one or more Housemasters or Housemistresses (if appropriate), as well as touring the School with an adult or a pupil before they formally register.

Registration

9. In order to reserve a place in the School, a completed Registration Form is sent in with the appropriate registration fee and a copy of the child's passport and birth certificate (or just birth certificate if the child does not hold a passport). A deposit will be required upon submission of the Parent Contract, as detailed in the Terms and Conditions of Acceptance.

10. For pupils transferring from DCPS and DCSJ - notification to the Headmaster of DCS that a pupil's first choice of senior school is DCS via submission of the 'Moving up to Dean Close School Form' will qualify as registration for the Senior School for pupils from DCPS, however for DCSJ a registration form is also required, but no registration fee is payable. Receipt of the completed forms is normally required by end of September of the year prior to entry. An additional top up deposit is required which can be added on to the Lent Term's fees or payable by separate arrangement.

Parents at DCPS who are not intending for their child to transfer to DCS must give separate formal written notice to the Headmaster of DCPS at least a term before leaving or they will be required to pay a term's fees in lieu of notice, in accordance with the schools terms and conditions.

11. For pupils transferring from DCPPS, notification to the Registrar of DCPS that a pupil wishes to accept a place at DCPS will qualify as registration for the Prep School. An additional top up deposit is required which can be added on to the Lent Term's fees or may be paid by separate arrangement.

Parents at DCPPS who are not intending for their child to transfer to DCPS must give separate formal written notice to the Headmistress of DCPPS at least a term before leaving or they will be

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required to pay a term's fees in lieu of notice, in accordance with the school's terms and conditions.

Criteria for Admission

12.

- Admission to Dean Close School will depend upon the availability of a place in the appropriate year group and house.
- Admission is conditional upon acceptance of the School's Terms and Conditions, which we reserve the right to vary at a term's notice.
- Details of the Terms and Conditions of Acceptance of a place at Dean Close, including the School's duties, are contained in the Registration Form and Parent Contract.
- All new pupils joining Dean Close from Year 3 and above will be required to sit the school entry tests or undergo appropriate assessment to ensure they can access the curriculum.
- The Headmaster/Headmistress will make the final decision over entry having taken into consideration all the criteria for admission, including evidence that a pupil will be able to meet the School's requirements regarding a pupil's suitability for the curriculum that is on offer, discipline and conduct.
- Procedures and Conditions for the award of Scholarships and Bursaries are given in the relevant application forms and on the accompanying Conditions of Award sheet.

Offer and Acceptance

13. Where a candidate is successful, a letter is sent offering a place in the School; this offer must then formally be accepted via signature (by all relevant parties) and by return of the signed Parent Contract. Appropriate joining literature is sent out prior to the term of admission.

14. At all ages, and prior to a major stage change, Parents will be advised by the School as to whether their child's educational needs can be met within the School's academic environment. If it is felt that Dean Close can no longer provide for the academic educational needs of the child, then parents will be given every support and advice in seeking an alternative educational establishment for the child.

Notice of Leaving

15. A full term's notice, in writing (hard copy) to the Headmaster or Headmistress as appropriate, is required of parents' intention to remove a pupil; otherwise a term's fees in lieu of notice will be payable. Provisional notice can, of course, be accepted where a pupil's return to the School depends on examination results.

Age-Related Variations

Dean Close Pre-Prep School

16. Families of Pre-Prep pupils will meet the Headmistress of the Pre-Prep School and the Registrar.

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17. After registration, the Registrar or Headmistress:

- Contacts the parents and discusses any particular needs of the pupil.
- Makes an appointment for the pupil to come in for a trial day or part day (this may not always be possible for families moving to the area).
- After evaluating the pupil's readiness for school, arranges the sessions of schooling (Squirrel Kittens, Nursery or Kindergarten).
- In the case of pupils entering Reception, Years One and Two, the pupil will be assessed informally upon his/her literacy and numeracy skills.
- Advises parents on ways in which they can help to prepare the pupil for schooling.

Squirrel Kittens/Nursery /Kindergarten

18. Pupils may be either part-time or full-time; at least two sessions a week are essential initially. The number of sessions that a pupil attends may be increased as and when the teacher and parents feel the child is ready.

Reception, Years One and Two. All pupils are expected to be full-time in these classes.

Dean Close Prep School

19. All pupils entering the school will be required to sit entry tests and submit their latest school report. All prospective pupils will also be encouraged to come for a taster day (during which the entry tests can be invigilated) where possible and practical. Pupil interviews can also be conducted on Zoom or Skype. Parents will be notified in their offer letter if there are any stipulations to entry to Dean Close School. Pupils entering at Year 7 are selected on the understanding that they should be suitable to continue their education at Dean Close Senior School from Year 9. All pupils' progress will be reviewed annually and parents will be informed as explained in the School's Assessment Policy.

20. Entry at Year 8 is unusual. A place will be offered to start in Year 8 only if a place can also be offered for Year 9 entry to DCS.

Dean Close St John's

21. All pupils entering the school at Year 3 will be required to sit the entry tests and submit their latest school report. All prospective pupils will also be encouraged to come for a taster day (during which the entry tests can be invigilated). Pupil interviews can also be conducted on Zoom or Skype. Parents will be notified in their offer letter if there are any stipulations to DCS entry.

Dean Close Senior School

22. All pupils entering the school will be required to sit entry tests or be assessed as appropriate. They will be required to submit their latest school report (including CAT4 results if appropriate) and DCS will seek a reference from their current school. Prospective pupils will also be encouraged to come for a taster day (during which the entry tests can be invigilated) where possible and practical. Pupil interviews can also be conducted on Zoom or Skype. Parents will be notified in their offer letter if there are any stipulations to Dean Close School entry, for instance if they will require ongoing learning support or English as a Foreign Language tuition.

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23. It will normally be expected that entrance to the school at Year 9 will be for five years, taking pupils to the end of their secondary education. Pupils' progress will, however, be reviewed annually as part of the school's assessment and reporting processes. The threshold for entry into the VIth Form is 6 grade B's (6's) at GCSE. Ideally pupils should achieve a Grade A (a 7 or above at GCSE) in their proposed A 'Level subjects. For some subjects, there are some recommended levels of achievement at GCSE to carry those subjects on to study at A Level. These are outlined in more detail in the Sixth Form brochure.