

Admissions Policy 2024-25

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MORE HOUSE SCHOOL

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Contents

	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Aims	4
3. Open Events	4
4. The Entry Procedure	4
4.1 Pre-Senior (Years 5- 6) Entry	5
4.2 Year 7 (11+ Entry)	5
4.3 Occasional Places	6
4.4 Sixth Form (Year 12 Entry)	6
5. Success Criteria	7
6. Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	8
7. Waiting List	8
8. Fees and Payment Information	8
8.3 Additional Fees	9
9. Scholarships and Bursaries	9
10. Admissions Database	10
11. Applications from overseas pupils	10
13. Monitoring	11

1. Introduction

More House School is a vibrant, creative and ambitious Catholic school for girls aged 9-18 in the heart of Central London.

We pride ourselves on our progressive and forward-thinking approach to the curriculum, as well as our outstanding programmes in Art, Drama, Music and Sport. Our central London location means our pupils benefit from excellent links with top Central London arts venues, sporting facilities and global brands.

As a small school, our academic philosophy is underpinned by strong teacher-pupil relationships and we provide an inspiring environment for all our students to grow to new heights. We know our pupils as individuals, provide for their specific needs and encourage them to become socially conscious young adults.

We are a Catholic School who welcomes pupils of all faiths and none and we actively celebrate our diversity. More House School pupils are encouraged to be big thinkers, ethical leaders and active global citizens.

Through living by Catholic values, our pupils are invited to achieve their God-given potential, by striving to be tolerant and thoughtful members of our community, whilst offering the very best version of themselves to all that they do. They will reflect our core values by acting with commitment, integrity, and compassion.

With Christ at the centre of our caring, supportive and prayerful community of pupils, staff and parents, we know our pupils as individuals, provide for their specific needs and encourage them to become socially conscious young adults.

We provide a safe and supportive environment that embraces and respects people of all faiths or none. Our reputation for excellent pastoral care finds its roots here. Within this framework, our girls have the space to explore and develop their ethical, moral, and spiritual values. They come to understand the benefits of tolerance and respect, the significance of human dignity, and the duty of care that all leaders should demonstrate. They know what they stand for and appreciate the importance of their uniqueness.

Our overriding aim is to ensure that every pupil who joins More House is capable of accessing and achieving in the full breadth and depth of the curriculum, both academic and co-curricular; this forms the basis of our Admissions Policy.

<u>Religious beliefs -</u> We are a Catholic School who welcome pupils of all faiths and none and we actively celebrate our diversity. More House does not select for entry on the basis of religious beliefs.

Bursaries are available to enable as many as possible, who meet the admissions criteria, to attend More House.

All enquiries, visits, registrations and admissions to More House are communicated and managed via the Admissions Department.

Please also refer to the following policies available on the More House website or via the Admissions Department:

- Bursary Award Policy and Procedures
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy
- Scholarship Programme Policy

2. Policy Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain how to apply for a place at More House School
- Set out More House School's Admissions procedure

3. Open Events

- 1.1 We welcome prospective parents and pupils to a number of Open Mornings throughout the academic year. Dates for these can be found on the <u>Open Events</u> page on our website. Our <u>Admissions</u> page outlines the application process as detailed in this policy and contains links to the relevant forms needed to apply for a place at More House in any year group.
- 1.2 Prospective parents who are unable to attend our open events are welcome to arrange a private tour of the School. Please contact our Head of Admissions on +44(0) 207 235 2855, or email registrar@morehousemail.org.uk

4. The Entry Procedure

More House is a non-selective school. However, our Admissions process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from our balanced and well-rounded education, both academically and personally, and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

The usual points of entry are at Pre-Senior (Year 5 & 6) 11+ (Year 7) and 16+ (Lower Sixth). We may also have occasional places at other year groups. Please contact the Head of Admissions for details. The School's Registration Form is available on our website.

4.1 Pre-Senior (Years 5- 6) Entry

- For entry at Year 5 or 6, you must complete the More House Registration Form and return this to our Admissions Department along with a copy of your daughter's passport and latest school report.
- Your daughter will be invited to More House to meet with our Head and/or Deputy Head and to complete two short assessments in Maths and English.

4.2 Year 7 (11+ Entry)

- More House School is part of <u>The London 11+ Consortium</u> and thus operates an admissions process which is coordinated with all the other members of the Consortium:
- All prospective pupils sit the 11+ Common Entrance Test which they can choose to complete either at their own School (if this is offered) or at More House. They are also invited to attend a <u>Selection Day</u> at More House;
- To apply for a Year 7 place at More House, the first step is to complete and return our <u>Registration Form</u> and <u>Entrance Test Form</u> as soon as possible in the year preceding the desired year of entry, but no later than the closing date for admissions. Key dates for the 11+ procedure can be found on our website;
- Both forms must be completed in full and a non-refundable registration fee of £150.00 should be paid via bank transfer to the More House account detailed on the Registration Form. A copy of your daughter's passport, a copy of her latest school report and any visa required should also be sent, along with proof of payment of the £150 Registration Fee;
- The above should be emailed to our Head of Admissions at registrar@morehousemail.org.uk;
- Once registration is complete, all applicants will be invited to our <u>Selection Day</u>.
 Applicants are interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and take part in both a Creative Task and a STEAM activity;
- If your daughter has chosen to sit her 11+ Common Entrance Test at More House, she will also be sent details of this;
- Candidates eligible for additional time will be granted this if supporting evidence is provided, in accordance with JCQ rules, when requested by Consortium Schools;
- Following the completion of the 11+ Common Entrance Test and <u>Selection Day</u>, and on receipt of references from your daughter's prep or primary School, offers will be sent to parents, in line with all Consortium Schools;
- Along with written acceptance of your offer, a deposit of 50% of one term's fees is required to secure the place, along with a signed Acceptance Form, agreeing to our

- School Contract, and
- Deposits are returned when your daughter leaves the School. Please note, the
 deposit is non-refundable should you choose to withdraw your daughter from the
 process after the deposit is paid.

4.3 Occasional Places

- For entry into Years 8 to 10, these are known as occasional places;
- We encourage prospective parents and pupils to attend our <u>Open Events</u>, but also
 offer individual tours to families unable to attend these. As part of your visit, all
 prospective families are invited to meet the Head for an informal discussion before
 applying for a place with us;
- Admission is through an interview with the Head and Deputy Head, either a CAT
 cognitive reasoning test and/or an English and Maths assessment, and a reference
 from the pupil's current School;
- To apply for a place in Years 8 to 10, the first step is to complete and return our
 Registration Form as soon as possible in the year preceding the desired year of
 entry. There is no official closing date for applications, but we encourage parents
 to apply no later than half a term before the desired entry point;
- The form must be completed in full and a non-refundable registration fee of £150.00 should be paid via bank transfer to the More House account detailed on the <u>Registration Form</u>. A copy of your daughter's passport, a copy of her latest School report and any visa required should also be sent, along with proof of payment of the £150 Registration Fee;
- The above should be emailed to our Head of Admissions at registrar@morehousemail.org.uk;
- Along with written acceptance of your offer, a deposit of 50% of one term's fees is required to secure the place, along with a signed Acceptance Form, agreeing to our School Contract, and
- Deposits are returned when your daughter leaves the School. The deposit is non-refundable should you choose to withdraw your daughter from the process after the deposit is paid.

4.4 Sixth Form (Year 12 Entry)

- We welcome applications from Year 11 pupils to join our <u>Sixth Form</u>;
- We encourage prospective parents and pupils to attend our <u>Open Events</u>, but also
 offer individual tours to families unable to attend these. As part of your visit, all
 prospective families are invited to meet the Head for an informal discussion before
 applying for a place with us;

- Admission is through an interview with the Head, a reference from the pupil's current school and satisfactory predicted grades in order to meet the criteria outlined in our Sixth Form Information Booklet;
- To apply for a place in Year 12, the first step is to complete and return our
 <u>Registration Form</u> as soon as possible in the year preceding the desired year of
 entry, but no later than the end of the Spring Term;
- The form must be completed in full and a non-refundable registration fee of £150.00 should be paid via bank transfer to the More House account detailed on the Registration Form. A copy of your daughter's passport, a copy of her latest school report and any visa required should also be sent, along with proof of payment of the £150 Registration Fee;
- The above should be emailed to our Head of Admissions at registrar@morehousemail.org.uk;
- Along with written acceptance of your offer, a deposit of 50% of one term's fees is required to secure the place, along with a signed Acceptance Form, agreeing to our Terms and Conditions;
- In the unlikely event that your daughter is unsuccessful in meeting our GCSE
 Entry Requirements, and her offer is subsequently withdrawn, your deposit will be returned in full, and
- Deposits are returned when your daughter leaves the School. The deposit is non-refundable should you choose to withdraw your daughter from the process after the deposit is paid.

5. Success Criteria

- 5.1 As an inclusive School, every child who applies for a place at More House is invited to attend our 11+ Selection Day, meaning that each applicant has the opportunity to go through our whole Admissions Process.
- 5.2 We are looking for curious, well-rounded pupils with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, with interests that stretch beyond the confines of the academic curriculum. We value academic achievement and co-curricular endeavour in equal measure, so welcome applications from pupils with a wide variety of strengths and passions.
- 5.3 The School has strong traditions in sport and the creative arts and we offer many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

- 5.4 As a Catholic School, we encourage applications from children who practise the Catholic faith, but we are a diverse community and therefore warmly welcome applications from children from all faiths, or none.
- 5.5 More House School reserves the right to not offer a place to a pupil if an unsatisfactory reference is received from the pupil's current school and/or if More House feels the pupil will not be able to contribute to all areas of School life (academic and co-curricular).

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- 6.1 More House does not discriminate on the grounds of race, religion or belief, culture, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities;
- 6.2 At More House, we welcome pupils with special educational needs providing that our SENCO department can offer the support the child requires to access the curriculum at the pace at which it is taught, and
- 6.3 Differentiated teaching is delivered at each key stage and we also offer a wide range of specialist learning support, through bespoke programmes for each pupil.

7. Waiting List

- 7.1 When a class or year is full, applicants will join our waiting list. Applicants are required to register and pay the non-refundable registration fee of £150 in order to join a waiting list.
- 7.2 Waiting list places are allocated in order of receipt of registration forms. The only exception is when an immediate place becomes available, in which case candidates who are able to join the School immediately will be given preference.

8. Fees and Payment Information

- 8.1 The <u>School Fees</u> can be found on the website, and include school lunches.
- 8.2 Payment Information

- Fees are due contractually by the first day of each term or via a prearranged <u>Direct</u>
 <u>Debit</u>.
- A full term's notice of withdrawal (given no later than the first day of the previous term) is required in writing to the Head or a term's fees are payable in lieu of the correct notice.
- A sibling discount of up to 15% reduction on fees is given in respect of the eldest daughter when there are three (or more) sisters attending the School at the same time.

8.3 Additional Fees

- Private music lessons are available, fees can be found on the website and are payable to the individual music teacher. (10 individual 30 minute lessons)
- There will be some trips available to pupils that incur an extra cost. Some of these are
 optional, such as evening theatre trips, while others are part of the curriculum and full
 attendance is expected.
- 6.4 Our full Parent Contract is available on our website.

9. Scholarships and Bursaries

9.1 More House School offers a range of scholarship grants to pupils entering Year 7 and Year 12, as outlined in our <u>Scholarship Programme Booklet</u>.

9.2 Year 7

- A 25% fee remission is available to Academic Scholars invited to apply for the award following Selection Day and the completion of the 11+ test.
- Scholarship grants are also available in Art, Drama, Music and Sport.

9.3 Year 12

- A 25% fee remission is available to Academic Scholars invited to apply for the award based on predicted grades and results in mock GCSE examinations.
- Scholarship grants are also available in Art, Drama, Music and Sport.
- 9.4 Bursaries may be awarded by the Governing Board in cases of financial need, provided funds allow this. The process is managed by an external agency. Please see our Bursary Policy which is available on request.

10. Admissions Database

10.1 In order that persons enquiring about More House may receive information about our School their details are entered on to our Admissions Database. The data is only used within the School's admissions system, and is not divulged to any third party outside the School, in accordance with the UK Government current Data Protection legislation.

11. Applications from overseas pupils

- 11.1 More House School holds a Home Office licence as a Student and Child Student Visa Sponsor for prospective pupils moving to the UK and joining an independent School.
- 11.2 Parents are asked to state on our Registration Form whether they are currently non-UK residents and whether the applicant would be joining the School as a dependent on a Work Permit or would require us to issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) for a Student or Child Student Visa.
- 11.3 We support families through their applications but recommend third party agencies to assist in the gathering of documentation. We outline the requirements for a Student and Child Student Visa and conditional offers are made dependent on the success of the application. Offers are confirmed once the visa application has proved successful and the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) is activated.
- 11.4 Copies of all key documentation for the successful visa application are held by the School until one year after the pupil leaves.

12. Complaints

- 12.1 More House School follows a three stage complaints procedure for pupils currently on roll with the school.
- 12.2 Any prospective parent or guardian wishing to raise a complaint, should follow the process for Stage 1 of the procedure (see Complaints Policy) by contacting the Head of Admissions in the first instance. If the parent is not satisfied by the response from the Head of Admissions or if the complaint warrants a more formal process, then the parent should contact the Head via a <u>Formal Complaints Proforma</u>. The completion of the <u>Formal Complaints Proforma</u> will invoke the formal complaints procedure. The Head will decide, after considering the content of the <u>Formal Complaints Proforma</u>, the

appropriate course of action to take.

12.3 If the matter is still unresolved or if the complaint is concerning the Head, then the parent should refer to Stage 3 and contact the Clerk to the Governors at clerk@morehousemail.org.uk who has been appointed by the Governing Board to organise a Complaints Panel to hear the complaint.

13. Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Governors each year. Whenever changes to the admissions process are proposed, the Governing Board will consult on these changes.