

Admissions

ARE THERE 'FEEDER PRIMARY SCHOOLS' WHOSE PUPILS TAKE PRIORITY?

No, this system does not operate in the London Borough of Hounslow. We take students from a large number of primary schools and from across west London.

ARE ANY PLACES OFFERED ACCORDING TO DISTANCE FROM THE SCHOOL?

Yes. However, those families that express a preference for a single-sex school will be considered before families that live close to the school.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO NOT GET OFFERED A PLACE, BUT WE WANT OUR SON/WARD TO JOIN THE SCHOOL?

You can make an appeal for a place. Most families that remain patient do end up with a place with us prior to the start of the Autumn Term.

Transition Information

WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN NOW AND WHEN MY SON/WARD STARTS IN SEPTEMBER?

As soon as you receive your offer of a place (March next year), we will write to you to explain the transition process. This will include an initial meeting at school in March or April, and an Induction Day at school in July. Students will spend the day with us and there will be a parent/carer meeting on the same evening.

In addition, our staff will visit your son/ward at his primary school or make a telephone call to speak to your son/ward's teachers. There will also be an area of the school website dedicated to all of our transition activities.

MY SON/WARD IS NERVOUS OF CHANGE. HOW WILL YOU SUPPORT HIM?

Most of the nervousness will result from not knowing us or our school. This is totally natural and why we provide opportunities for school visits and for transition activities. In addition, at the start of the Autumn Term, we set aside two full days for our new Year 7 - with very limited other students on site - so that they can familiarise themselves with the school. In our experience our boys very quickly love being at Isleworth & Syon School.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD FIND OUT WHAT FORM AND HOUSE THEY ARE IN AND WHO WILL BE THEIR TUTOR?

This will take place when they spend the induction day with us in early July. It takes time to carefully allocate the boys to tutor groups hence the reason for the allocation being in July.

HOW WILL YOU GATHER UP ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT MY SON/WARD, AHEAD OF HIM STARTING SCHOOL?

We will get basic information from the local authority when a place is allocated. We will also ask you to complete a series of online forms so that we can populate our database. We will also speak to your son/ward's primary school for specific educational information.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ADMISSION PROCESS BEFORE MY SON/WARD STARTS SCHOOL?

Please do email us at admissions@isleworthsyon.org with any queries.

Uniform & Equipment

WHAT IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM?

Please do visit our school website for further information about our uniform and appearance policy.

WHERE CAN I GET THE UNIFORM?

We have a school shop on site which is open all year-round and will also be open during the summer holidays. You can purchase a badged blazer in the shop or purchase the badge only, should you wish to buy your own blazer. You will need to buy a school tie and the two sports tops from us. Everything else can be purchased from other retailers, although we do stock a full range of PE/Games kit and other items of clothing and equipment. We also have a 'New to You' range that you can access.

WILL ALL YEAR 7S NEED BOOTS AND SHIN PADS FOR GAMES, OR IS IT JUST FOR TEAM PLAYERS?

All students will require boots and trainers, as well as a mouthguard.

WHAT STATIONERY AND EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED?

All students will require their own equipment. A full list is on the website. The school shop stocks all the required equipment, so should your son/ward need any replacement items you can purchase them online and your child can pick the items up at school.

SEN

IF MY CHILD HAS A SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS SUPPORT PLAN IN PLACE, WILL INFORMATION BE FORWARDED TO YOU BEFORE HE STARTS SCHOOL?

We hope that this will be the case, but we do depend on the primary schools for this. As soon as we receive information, we will pass it on to class teachers. If you are especially concerned, you can contact our SENDCo by emailing the school.

IF I SUSPECT MY SON/WARD HAS AN UNDIAGNOSED NEED WILL THIS BE TESTED AT SCHOOL?

This depends on the possible need and the current educational progress of your child. We will liaise with all primary schools and take any information from parent/carers as well as the student themselves.

General

WHAT SIZES ARE THE CLASSES?

We aim to keep all classes at a maximum of 30. Some practical subjects will have fewer students in them, in order to maximise learning opportunities.

ARE THE BOYS SET BY ABILITY IN ANY SUBJECTS?

We carefully arrange classes to be in mixed-ability groups. Setting takes place in mathematics in Year 7 (only after we get to know them) and as the students move through the school other subjects will set the students according to the specific requirements of the year group.

DO THE BOYS LEARN BOTH FRENCH AND SPANISH?

No. Year 7 students will study either French or Spanish. When we conduct our first transition meeting with you, we will discuss if there is a best option for your son/ward. It is not based purely on student choice.

HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT STUDENTS THAT ARE GIFTED OR TALENTED?

We firstly identify these students across the school; we call them Higher Potential Learners. We then support them in lessons, by providing stimulating questions, stretching activities and by signposting additional reading or research. Local, regional, national and international competitions are entered or signposted and we use small group activities (e.g. debating club; 'I&S Inspires' - a series of inspirational talks; high-level sport and arts provision) to further support these students.

WHAT IS THE FOOD LIKE AT SCHOOL?

We work with a company called The Pantry. The catering team is led by a chef and all the food is prepared on-site in our newly refurbished kitchen. It is of exceptional quality and food is available at breakfast, break and lunchtime and through the day for Sixth Form students and staff. You can see the menus on the school website.

WHAT IF MY SON/WARD WANTS PACKED LUNCHES ON SOME DAYS AND TO USE THE CANTEEN ON OTHER DAYS?

This is no problem at all. Students are free to bring their own packed lunches or to use The Pantry as they wish.

HOW DO STUDENTS PAY FOR FOOD?

We use a cashless system, called SCOPAY. Parent/carers can credit money to an individual student account. Daily spending limits can also be set. The student simply uses a biometric indicator (currently a fingerprint) that is read at the till and accounts get debited this way. Students therefore have no need to carry cash.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL POLICY ON MOBILE PHONES?

Students are allowed to carry a mobile whilst at school. However, whilst on the premises, mobiles are not to be seen, used or heard. Many parents/carers do prefer their child to have a phone for the purposes of making contact outside the school day.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE SCHOOL POLICIES?

All of the relevant policies are on the school website.

MY CHILD FORGOT TO TAKE SOMETHING TO SCHOOL. AM I ABLE TO DROP ITEMS AT SCHOOL?

Yes, feel free to come to reception where an arrangement will be made to get the items to your son/ward. Please make sure that you do not message your own son/ward as mobiles cannot be used during the school day.

CAN MY SON/WARD CYCLE TO SCHOOL AND IF SO, WHAT ARE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR KEEPING HIS CYCLE SAFE?

Yes, he can. We would ask you to take responsibility for ensuring that the cycle is roadworthy and that he wears a cycle helmet. Once at school bikes can be left in the bike shed which is locked during the school day. However, he will need a lock as when they are opened at the beginning and end of the day they are not staffed.

IF I NEED TO PICK UP MY CHILD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Please ensure that the school is aware that this is the case. You can do this through the usual school communication channels.

HOW CAN I KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING AT SCHOOL?

Please do look at the school website, follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) and/or Facebook and watch out for email communications. The best way to see what is going on across the whole school is to read The Isleworthian - a weekly online newsletter published during term-time.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME?

This is one of the key features of the school and one area that sets us apart from local schools. Our students thrive on the exceptional programme of activities that covers drama, music, sport and a wide range of clubs. The termly programme once confirmed is published on the school website.

WHAT ARE COLOURS TIES AND FLASHES?

These are one of the rewards that we use to celebrate our students' achievements and contributions. They cover six categories: academic; arts; citizenship; progress; school and sport. Flashes can be sewn onto blazers and ties are awarded from Year 9 and both are worn with pride.

WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS THE ARTS AND CREATIVE SUBJECTS?

We will always value and support the arts, as we know how important they are to the development of young people. It is no coincidence that several of our students have left school and pursued successful careers in arts-based industries. In addition, we host Hounslow's very successful Music School on Wednesday evenings.

WHY IS YOUR SPORTING PROVISION SO SUCCESSFUL?

We believe in the power of sport to develop the whole person, for health and well-being and so we ensure that the provision is extensive. We offer opportunities after school, and we are the only local comprehensive school with a full Saturday morning programme of sport with fixtures against local schools and independent schools.

WHAT ABOUT EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES AND OVERSEAS TRIPS FOR STUDENTS?

Exchanges have become much more of a rarity in the past decade or so, and of course the pandemic curtailed many school trips. However, we have a strong partnership with a French school in Pontarlier and look forward to the resumption of exchanges. We also try to offer an annual ski trip and other excursions to France and Spain.

I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION THAT IS NOT ANSWERED HERE.

Feel free to send us an email at admissions@isleworthsyon.org.