



## **The Perse Pelican, Perse Prep and Perse Upper Policy Statement on School Selection Procedures**

Selection in all three schools is based on merit, and applicants need to demonstrate their potential to succeed in an academic environment. We also look for children who will take full advantage of the educational and extra-curricular opportunities we offer. In reviewing an application we take account of a pupil's age, prior schooling and any other relevant factors. Places are awarded to children who meet our admissions criteria, and where there are more successful applicants than places available the school will rank applicants according to their post-screening profile. Offers can only be made for the number of places we have available.

The fact that a child is not offered a place does not necessarily imply any final or long term judgement on his/her potential. It may merely mean that applications have outnumbered the available places. We also recognise that some children develop later than others, that birth dates can be very significant (e.g. for young children born late in the academic year) and that some children may be less forthcoming than others during the selection process. We make our judgements on the best evidence available to us.

We try to take decisions in the child's best interest because it can be counterproductive to admit a child to an academic environment where s/he will struggle to keep up with peers and as a consequence lose self confidence.

Once in the Perse system it is assumed that pupils will transfer from one Perse school to the next. Our curriculum and pastoral care systems are carefully designed to prepare children for the next stage in a Perse education and staff at the Upper, Prep and Pelican work closely to co-ordinate their teaching. As such, once a pupil has gained admission to a Perse school, s/he does not usually sit an entry test for the next stage in a Perse education. This means that for pupils already within the Perse system there is no entry test for the Prep at 7 or for the Upper at aged 11. Instead, transfer between Perse schools is based on continuous assessment and the day to day monitoring of a child's development. The overwhelming majority of Perse pupils will therefore pass through the Perse system without sitting further admissions tests as we have sufficient information obtained from classroom observations and assessment data to indicate their suitability for the next stage of a Perse education. In a small minority of cases, continuous assessment may raise doubts about a child's suitability to the Perse system. In these cases any concerns will be raised by teachers in the summer of Year 1 (for the Pelican) and Year 5 (for the Prep). Parents will be given advice on how to support their child and specific targets will be set. Progress will be checked during the autumn term of Year 2 at The Pelican and at the same time for Year 6 Prep pupils, and if concerns remain then the Pelican or Prep Head will advise against automatic transfer and suggest alternative educational arrangements, or require the child to sit the 7+ or 11+ external admissions test to the Prep/Upper.

In general we find that the overwhelming majority of Pelican pupils progress to the Prep, but if this is not to be the case we ask that parents inform the Pelican Head as soon as possible in Year 2. (This allows us to calculate how many places can be offered to external applicants to the Prep at 7+.) Parents are required to give the school one term's notice of

any pupil withdrawal, or pay fees in lieu of notice.

### **Means Tested Bursaries at the Prep**

Means tested bursaries are available to provide financial support for families who could not otherwise afford a Perse Prep education. These bursaries range from 5% to 100% of the full fee. Detailed means testing criteria exist, and parents in need of financial support are advised to contact the School Accountant, Sheila Holmes, to discuss eligibility. The contact details are: e-mail: [accountant@perse.co.uk](mailto:accountant@perse.co.uk); direct line: 01223 403892.

### **Selection into the Pelican School**

The closing date for applications each year is **December 31<sup>st</sup>**. We recognise that selection of young children is particularly difficult, and we are keen to undertake it as sensitively and fairly as possible. Young children are diverse in their development, culture, language, abilities and life experiences, all of which we recognise will influence the child's status and needs at any particular time. Before the age of three however, most children will already have gained a wide range of competencies, the nature and extent of which we seek to explore. We need to do all we can to ensure that we are recruiting a potentially cohesive group, both socially and academically.

The methods used are designed to be non-intrusive and non-stressful for the children (who are generally organised in groups of no more than six). The Head can give parents further details at their preliminary visit to the School, but the following broad information may also be useful.

At 3+ entrance procedures are normally carried out during one visit in mid-February. Parents may submit any special information which they believe to be relevant in connection with their child's application; the school recognises that (unlike at later stages) it cannot rely on a reference from a previous school.

We are mindful of the difference it makes at this stage in a child's life of being born early or later within an academic year. This factor is considered carefully and places are awarded to children whose birthdays fall throughout the year.

Once we have chosen the 32 children to whom we will offer Nursery places, they are listed according to their dates of birth. The two groups, Younger and Older, comprise the older and younger cohorts of the successful candidates. The cut off date for qualification for the order or younger group is not fixed; it varies annually, and depends on the ages of the successful children.

At the Reception entry point we offer at least 4 places each year, again reflecting the number of vacancies which exist in that year group.

We seek to monitor the course of physical, language, cognitive and socio-emotional development, and we are keen not to use methods which result in children being coached or crammed with knowledge. We are looking for positive attitudes towards learning – in particular an enthusiasm for knowledge, a keenness to solve problems and a confidence in their own ability to be successful learners. We want to see the children co-operate and exist/work/play harmoniously alongside others. We note whether or not they are curious, show attention skills, persistence, initiative and responsibility. We aim to assess a broad range of personal, physical/motor, linguistic/literacy and mathematical skills.

Details of admissions procedures for the Prep and Upper can be found at [www.perse.co.uk](http://www.perse.co.uk).