



**George
Heriot's
School**
Founded 1628

Entry Procedures

George Heriot's School admits children from the ages of 4–18. Whilst the majority of new pupils to the School have no direct connection with Heriot's, priority is understandably given to Foundationers and siblings. Our Nursery caters for children in their pre-school year. The main entries for session 2026-27 are Primary One, Primary Six, Primary Seven and Senior One; we are delighted to consider applications for a number of places in other years. The closing date for applications for the Junior School is 15 November 2025 and for the Senior School is 1 December 2025; late applications will be accepted provided there are vacancies. All applicants with specific educational needs will be treated sensitively and the input of our Support for Learning Department will be sought. Should you be offered and accept a place for your child at George Heriot's School, you will be asked to pay an acceptance fee.

Primary One

Entry to Primary One is by assessment, which lasts approximately 30 minutes. Every effort is made to ensure that children are relaxed and enjoy the experience. Assessments take place in the January prior to the session of entry.

Primary Two, Three, Four and Five

Although we do not take new classes at these stages we are generally able to offer a small number of places in each year group. Assessments for Primary Two take place in January whilst those for Primaries Three, Four and Five take place in November.

Primary Six and Seven

We take in new classes at Primary Six and Primary Seven. The assessments take place in November. Children are asked to complete assessments covering English, Maths and Reasoning. They also spend time working with each other on group tasks and have a short group interview.

Senior One

The entrance assessment is held in January. Children spend the day with us, sitting assessments which cover English, Maths and Problem Solving. The children have a chance to meet one another, take part in some fun activities and meet members of the teaching staff and Senior School Leadership Team, during the day.

Many candidates arrive a little apprehensively, but, by and large, they enjoy the day!

Senior Two–Senior Six

We welcome applications for S3 and S5 and are normally able to offer a few places in S2. We do not take new pupils in to S4. All applicants will be tested in English, Maths and a Reasoning. They will also meet with members of staff to discuss curricular requirements. Entry to S6 is by interview with the Head of Senior School and a member of the Pastoral Care Department.

For Entry in Session 2026 – 2027

Important dates

For the convenience of parents, dates are agreed each year by most Edinburgh independent schools for the posting of offers of places at certain important stages. Similarly, for the convenience of the schools as well as of parents, 'reply-by' dates are also agreed, and parents are asked to adhere to them. The timing of entrance assessments has also been arranged in order to avoid, as far as possible, clashes for pupils applying to more than one school.

The main dates are listed below. Recent experience has shown that an increasing number of parents are making application outwith the 'traditional' times, perhaps indicating that they are not aware of the existence of these arrangements. Application is, of course, welcome at any time but it is undoubtedly in the best interest of everyone that it be made well in advance of the planned testing dates. For entry to P1-P7 in August 2026 we ask that application be made no later than 15 November 2025 and for entry to S1-S6 in August 2026 we ask that application be made no later than 1 December 2025. Nursery places are allocated on a first come, first served basis, with some sibling priority, in the September of the year before entry.

Junior School

(Main intakes at Nursery, P1, P6 and P7 places may be available in other years – further information is available from the Admissions Office)

Entrance Assessments

P1	Saturday 17 January 2026 (additional weekday dates may be available by agreement)
P2	By individual appointment during January 2026
P3-5	Wednesday 12 & Thursday 19 November 2025
P6	Thursday 13 November & Thursday 20 November 2025
P7	Tuesday 11 November & Tuesday 18 November 2025

Main posting of offers and Reply by dates

P1 posting of offers	Monday 2 February (by post), Tuesday 3 February (by email) 2026
Reply by	Monday 23 February 2026
P2–P7 posting of offers	w/c Monday 8 December 2025 followed by an email the day after
Reply by	Monday 23 February 2026

Senior School

Entrance Assessments

S1	Wednesday 14 January 2026
S2–S5	Wednesday 3 December 2025
S6	By Interview in January 2026 onwards

Main posting of offers and Reply by dates

S1–S5 posting of offers	Thursday 5 February (by post), Friday 6 February (by email) 2026
S1–S5 Reply by	Thursday 26 February 2026
S6 posting of offers	After Interview
S6 Reply by	Thursday 26 February 2026

Assistance with Fees

Heriot's offers two routes by which assistance with the payment of fees can be given.

The Foundation

The Foundation is able to provide supported education including assistance with fees to the sons and daughters of widows or widowers. Places under the Foundation are awarded at the discretion of the Governors to prospective pupils entering the school from Primary Six upwards, who meet the qualifying financial and residential criteria, and who have fulfilled the entrance requirements. The residence criteria requires prospective pupils to have been resident in the EH, FK, or KY postcode areas for at least five years prior to the date of the application. The Governors also consider applications for prospective pupils who do not themselves meet the residence criteria but one of whose parents has had a significant and long standing connection with the City of Edinburgh. Foundation places can also be awarded to current pupils from Primary Six upwards, whose families meet the financial criteria. Applications should be made by 1 December each year for the following session, although parents of current pupils may apply out with this period if their circumstances change. The level of assistance is determined on the basis of individual circumstances. All awards are made at the discretion of the Principal and the Governors. All Foundation awards are subject to annual renewal for which an updated financial assessment is required. The pupil's effort, attitude and behaviour will also be taken into account as part of the renewal process. For further information please contact the Admissions Office.

Heriot Bursaries

Financial assistance towards payment of school fees can be given to pupils of families meeting the qualifying financial criteria – and who have fulfilled the School's academic entrance requirements. Heriot Bursaries are available for pupils entering Primary Six upwards; Heriot Bursaries are also available for existing pupils from Primary Six upwards whose families meet the qualifying financial criteria. All Heriot Bursaries are awarded annually and families are welcome to re-apply for the following session.

The amount of a Heriot Bursary award is assessed on the basis of individual circumstances. All awards are made at the discretion of the Principal and the Governors, and are subject to satisfactory behaviour and continuing effort.

Applications should be made by 1 December each year for the following session, although parents of current pupils may apply out with this period if their circumstances change. For further information please contact the Admissions Office.

Qualifying Financial Criteria

In order to qualify for Finance Assistance awards, total gross household income must not exceed the qualifying limit set by the Governors each year. Currently, this limit is:

Foundation Applicants	No qualifying limit
Heriot Bursary Applicants	£72,000 per annum

Any change will be published on our website.

In assessing eligibility for Financial Assistance, account is also taken of available capital assets.

Fee Remission For Siblings

For families who joined the school from Session 2018-19 onwards, there is fee remission of 25 % for fourth and subsequent children when four children are at the School (P1–S6) at any one time. New pupils who already have two siblings in school, who joined prior to Session 2018-19, will continue to be eligible for the third child sibling remission of 25 %. No fourth child or other remission is available for children in the Nursery.

Scholarships

Academic Scholarships

No application is required for an Academic Scholarship. One Scholarship award of half fees may be made to the top performing pupil entering Senior One from outside Heriot's. One Scholarship award of half fees may also be made to the P7 Dux joining Senior One. Scholarships may also be awarded to other candidates entering Senior One, external and internal; these awards will normally take the form of an appropriate prize and will carry no fee remission.

Expressive Arts Awards

Application may be made for special skills awards in Music, Art & Design and Drama by parents of pupils entering Heriot's from other schools. These are available to pupils from S1 onwards, who meet the relevant criteria in each subject. External awards will be 10 % of the annual fee and a maximum of one award will be made in each discipline each year. One internal scholarship may also be awarded in each discipline annually in the form of an appropriate prize. Further details of the basis upon which these awards are offered may be obtained from the School.