

ADMISSIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Reviewed : August 2025

Next review: August 2026

This policy will remain valid until the end of the academic year 2025-2026

Key documents, which inform this policy, include:

Education Act 2011

Equality Act 2010

The Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2014

General

Palmers Green High School is a girls' independent day school for pupils from ages 4 to 16. It was founded in 1905 by Miss Alice Hum. PGHS has been named Independent 11-16 Secondary School of the Year in The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2025.

The School may have up to 287 day pupils. The School Open Morning is normally held in May or June and interested parties can register for the event via the PGHS website. Further Working Open Mornings are held throughout the year. Details of all events are published on the Admissions pages on the School's website. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times. Please contact the School Admissions Office on 020 8886 1135 (Option 2) or email admissions@pghs.co.uk. If it is not possible to hold open events or arrange school visits because of circumstances beyond the School's control, then the School publishes on its website the alternative arrangements in place.

The Entry Procedure

Palmers Green High School selects pupils on the grounds of ability and aptitude. Entry into the School is normally at 4+ into the Prep Department, at 7+ into the Junior Department and at 11+ into the Senior School. Candidates should normally reach the ages of 4+, 7+ and 11+ respectively by September 1st of the year of entry. We may also have ad hoc places available at other ages. Please contact the Admissions Office for details.

With due regard to the Equality Act 2010, Palmers Green High School is committed to equal opportunities for all, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, ethnicity or social background - except with regard to Palmers Green High School being a single sex girls' school.

The Assessment Process

At all ages the aim of the process is to identify potential for learning. For entry into the School from

Reception to Year 6, candidates are invited for an individual assessment with one of the specialist primary teachers or Deputy Heads. Candidates for entry into Years 5 and 6 undergo timed tests, whilst tests for those in Year 4 and below are less formal. Those candidates who demonstrate academic potential in their assessment are invited to spend time in the School with their peers when there is then a more general assessment of ability and aptitude. All parents will be offered an appointment to meet with the Head.

For 11+ entry, candidates sit examinations in English, Maths and Reasoning, which are designed for their age group.* The Maths, English (Comprehension) and Reasoning (Non Verbal and Verbal) assessments are done via the ISEB Common Pre-test. English (Creative Writing) will continue to be a traditional written paper. The 11+ entrance examination is held in November. Parents should register their children for this exam before 1st November of the same year. Once candidates have sat the entrance exam, those who show promise are then invited for interview. The specific date for the 11+ entrance examination will be published on our website. The dates by which results will be communicated to families and the closing date for acceptances will be available from the Admissions Office. Candidates for entry into Years 8-10 sit papers in English (Creative Writing) as well as completing the CEM Select Entrance Assessments. Pupils have an interview with the Head or another member of senior staff and where feasible will spend a taster day at the school. Candidates applying from abroad are not able to sit the CEM Select Entrance Assessments remotely and therefore, these candidates may complete assessments in Mathematics and Science in place of the CEM Assessment (in addition to the English). All parents will be offered an appointment to meet with the Head.

No specific preparation for the entrance tests is needed, all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic and other abilities. Selection is based upon merit and, in addition to entrance tests and interviews at the School, references/reports from a candidate's current or previous school(s) will be requested and considered.

*From November 2025, pupils already in Year 6 at PGHS will not have to sit the 11+ Entrance Examination unless they wish to apply for a scholarship or bursary.

Sibling Policy

Most female siblings join us at Palmers Green High School. However, admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We welcome pupils with special educational needs and physical disabilities. Subject to being able to meet the additional needs appropriately, we do all we reasonably can to provide additional support. The ability of the School to meet any additional and special needs will be determined by the Head and SENCo. We strongly advise parents and carers of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to discuss their daughter's requirements with the School so that the

necessary provision and accommodations can be put in place prior to the formal assessment to ensure that the prospective pupil is not put at a substantial disadvantage compared

to a pupil who is not disadvantaged because of a disability. When a pupil has an Educational Psychologist, Specialist Assessor or medical report, this should be made available to support their request for special arrangements, for example for extra time.

We always discuss thoroughly with parents and if appropriate, the previous school and the pupil's professional advisers, suitable adjustments that can be reasonably made when their daughter is accepted as a pupil of the School.

There may be exceptional circumstances in which we are not able to offer a place for reasons relating to a child's disability. For example, if, despite reasonable adjustments, we feel that a prospective pupil is not going to be able to access the education offered, or that their health and safety or those of other pupils or staff may be put at risk, we may not be able to offer a place at the School.

Applications

The registration form can be downloaded from our website. This should be completed and sent together with the appropriate registration fee to the School, which is as follows:

Reception to Year 6	£120.00 inc.VAT
Year 7 to Year 11	£150.00 inc.VAT
Overseas applicants	£180.00 inc.VAT

Candidates will be called for assessment at an appropriate time. Upon the offer of a place, parents need to accept the offer in writing by the deadline given, enclosing their deposit, (£750 from Reception to Year 6 and £1000 from Year 7 to Year 11), which will be returned at the end of their daughter's career at PGHS subject to full and final settlement of the final account.

11+ Academic Scholarships and Subject Awards

At 11+ the School offers academic scholarships and subject awards worth up to 10% of the fees, for which internal and external candidates are equally eligible. The academic scholarships and subject awards may be awarded to candidates who perform well in the 11+ entrance examinations in Mathematics and English and at interview. All candidates sitting the entrance examination on the specified date will be considered for academic scholarships and subject awards.

Academic scholarships and subject awards may be offered to the candidate or candidates who have, in the opinion of the Head, achieved a high standard of attainment relative not only to the other candidates but also to the standards set by the School. If no candidate meets these requirements, then the School reserves the right to not offer any academic scholarships or subject awards.

Other Scholarships

At 11+ the School also offers scholarships in Art, Drama, Music and Sport, for which internal and external candidates are equally eligible. These scholarships are awarded to candidates who perform well on each stage of the assessment process, full details of which can be found on the PGHS website in the Admissions section. Once at the school, pupils are expected to adhere to the terms outlined when the scholarship is offered, which is reviewed annually. If no candidate meets the requirements, then the School reserves the right to not offer any scholarships.

Bursaries at Year 3+

A limited number of means-tested bursaries are available for entrance into the School from Year 3 onwards. Bursary forms are available from the School on request, and all parents wishing to be considered for a bursary should complete and **submit this form before their daughter sits the entrance examination**. In addition, they should indicate on the registration form that they wish to apply for a means-tested bursary.

Bursaries are means tested. Both parents are required to provide proof of their income and assets. The level of support varies according to parental need and the funds available. Before the offer of a bursary is confirmed, a member of staff and/or a member of the Governing Body may visit the family at their home.

Bursaries are reviewed annually and the School reserves the right to require parents to provide evidence of financial circumstances each year. Full details of bursaries can be found in the PGHS Financial Assistance Policy, which is available on request. The retention of a bursary, scholarship or subject award will be dependent on continuing merit and satisfactory behaviour as judged by the Head.

Overseas Applicants

Applications from families whose daughter(s) is/are about to relocate to the London area are welcomed provided that their daughter has permission to reside and study in the UK and that the parents have made appropriate guardianship arrangements if their main residence is overseas. Please note that Palmers Green High School does not have boarding facilities and all pupils are therefore day pupils. PGHS is not licensed to sponsor international pupils to come to the UK under the Child Student visa route.

Fluency in English

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Palmers Green High School, pupils must be proficient English speakers. Normally pupils should have been educated in the English medium before applying to the School. The School can advise parents regarding tuition in English as an Additional Language (EAL), but due to the compact nature of the School site any additional tuition which is arranged at the parent's own expense may have to take place offsite and outside school hours.

Religious Beliefs

The School welcomes applications from pupils of all faiths and no faith. PGHS was founded by a Quaker, but we do not give precedence to families belonging to the Society of Friends, nor do we select for entry on the basis of religious belief. We offer the opportunity for others to practise their own faiths within the confines of the School where practicable. However, parents should be aware that all pupils are expected to attend the annual Founder's Day Service and the Carol Service, which are both held in St John's Church, Palmers Green.

School's Contractual Terms & Conditions

A copy of the School's Terms and Conditions is available from the School Office and on the website. The document covers School policy on behaviour, including misbehaviour and exclusions. Parents whose daughter is offered a place at PGHS will also be sent a copy of these in their offer pack and before they sign the acceptance form. In addition, detailed information about routine matters, such as school uniform and jewellery, is given in the School Regulations.

Data Protection

Applicants' details will be held on file with due regard to data protection legislation and the School's Privacy Notice and Retention of Records policy.

Complaints

We hope that parents and prospective pupils find our Admissions policy to be helpful and informative. We are always prepared to have further discussions to clarify any particular points.

Please note that the School's Complaints Policy is not available for use by parents of prospective pupils.