

Entry process

1 Visit the School

You are welcome to visit us at any time in the years preceding your daughter's application to St Helen's, however, we recommend that your first visit takes place at least one year prior to entry. Please see the Visit us section of our website www.shsk.org.uk.

2 Registration

Candidates should be registered by the appropriate deadline, although late applications may be considered. A registration form should be completed online and the appropriate fee paid. Once your daughter is registered, you will automatically receive details about the entrance assessment by email.

3 Entrance assessment and taster day

The entrance assessment will take place at St Helen's in the autumn term of the year prior to entry. A taster day will take place before the assessments, and will take the form of a normal day with lessons and an opportunity to meet students already at St Helen's. A reference will be requested directly from your daughter's current school before the assessment date. Parents are required to notify their daughter's school that a request will be coming.

The entrance assessments comprise a series of online assessments in English, Mathematics, verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning, puzzles and problem-solving, and creative comprehension, alongside short written papers in Mathematics and English. (See entry requirements for further details.)

4 Offers and accepting a place

Parents will be notified of the outcome of the assessment within ten days of the assessment day. Parents are asked to accept the place as soon as possible as there could be important implications for those on our waiting list.

5 Scholarship process

The 13+ scholarship process will take place in February/March of Year 8. For further details and deadlines for 2027 entry, please refer to the Scholarships pages in the Admissions section of the School website www.shsk.org.uk.

6 Welcome to St Helen's

After accepting a place students are invited to the School on two occasions: the first in June when they will attend an induction day with team activities and the opportunity to get to know their form group and form tutor; the second in September which is an intake afternoon the day before the beginning of term.



**Further information overleaf.
Scan the QR code to go to our website.**

Key dates for 2027 entry

- Activities afternoon: 15 May 2026
- Year 9 entry Head's Breakfast: 25 September 2026
- Whole School Open Day: 3 October 2026
- Closing date for registrations and bursary applications: 9 October 2026
- Taster day: 16 October 2026
- Entrance assessment: 6 November 2026
- Outcome letters sent: 13 November 2026
- Closing date for acceptances: 4 January 2027
- Closing date for scholarship applications: 12 February 2027
- Drama scholarship auditions: 23 February 2027
- Academic scholarship exam: 26 February 2027
- Academic, art, DT and music scholarship assessments: w/c 8 March 2027 by invitation
- Sports scholarship assessment: 15 March 2027
- Scholarship decisions sent out: 19 March 2027
- Induction afternoon: 22 June 2027
- Intake afternoon: 3 September 2027

Entry requirements

Candidates will be required to take a series of online assessments in English, Mathematics, verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning, puzzles and problem-solving, and creative comprehension, in addition to short written papers in Mathematics and English. They will also be required to attend a taster day in advance of the entrance assessments at which each candidate will meet individually with the Head as well as taking part in a discussions group with a senior member of staff. A confidential reference will also be requested from the candidate's current school. Each of these will be taken into account by the Head and a team of staff in order to determine a candidate's suitability for a place at St Helen's.

Online assessments are designed to identify academic potential, reasoning ability, and problem-solving skills across six key areas:

Mathematics: assesses numerical fluency, mathematical understanding, and problem-solving skills. Topics may include arithmetic, fractions, percentages, geometry, measurement, and applied reasoning.

English: evaluates reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and the ability to interpret and analyse written texts.

Verbal reasoning: measures logical thinking and reasoning using language. Candidates may complete tasks involving word relationships, patterns, sequences, codes, and deductive thinking.

Non-verbal reasoning: assesses visual and spatial reasoning through questions involving shapes, patterns, rotations, similarities, and sequences.

Puzzles and problem-solving: encourages flexible thinking and the application of logic to unfamiliar challenges. Questions often involve multi-step reasoning and strategic problem-solving.

Creative comprehension: tests the ability to interpret, analyse, and combine information presented in different formats, such as written passages, diagrams, charts, maps, or images.

Assessment papers will be set as follows:

English: The writing paper will require students to write a short piece of prose in response to a prompt and some stimulus material. The stimulus material will give a range of views on a topic; candidates will be asked to respond to these views and give their own opinion, within a set non-fiction form of writing.

We value control of structure (both of paragraphs and also of the overall arc of the piece), effective crafting of language, and clear completion of the task set. We credit ambitious vocabulary and punctuation where it is effectively used, but simple and controlled

pieces of writing can equally evidence skilful crafting. As such, the best responses are often well-planned as well as well-written, and planning will be actively encouraged in the assessment. We do assess accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar, but only as part of a broader assessment of control of language, structure and ideas. We encourage candidates to be ambitious, even if that means they make errors, rather than 'playing safe'. Pre-prepared pieces often stand out as such and can disadvantage students by not fulfilling the task set; we would thus advise candidates against pre-preparing whole pieces of writing.

Time: 30 minutes

Mathematics: The written Mathematics paper will consist of a few short questions to test accurate mental arithmetic and some longer problem-solving questions. Candidates may need to give explanations and reasoning for these questions and marks will be given for correct and methodical working that leads to their answer.

Subject material may include: proportional reasoning and calculations including the use of fractions, decimals, ratios and percentages; rounding to decimal places and significant figures and estimating answers by rounding; area, perimeter and properties of 2D shapes including proportional reasoning with similar shapes; conversions including foreign currency and measures; angle geometry; use of coordinates including reflection, rotation and translations of shapes; simplifying algebraic expressions including brackets and powers; substituting into or rearranging formulae; solving algebraic equations including brackets and unknowns on both sides; simple probability.

Some questions will involve situations designed to identify students with a particular aptitude for mathematics.

Candidates will need to have a pen, pencil, eraser and ruler. Calculators may not be used.

Time: 35 minutes

There is no formal syllabus and we regret that past assessment papers cannot be made available.

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded by the Head to recognise excellence, ability and potential in one or more academic or co-curricular areas.

- **Academic scholarships** are awarded to external candidates following scholarship exam and interview in February/March 2027.
- Current students who have displayed both a very high standard of academic achievement, effort and potential since joining St Helen's and an interest in the co-curricular academic life of the School will be invited to attend a scholarship exam and interview in spring term of Year 8.
- **Scholarships in art, drama, DT, music and sport** are available at 13+. All internal and external candidates must return application forms to the Admissions Office by the closing date. In drama and music, all candidates are auditioned and musicians should currently be of Grade 6 standard in at least one instrument. In art, DT and sport, candidates are required to attend a workshop activity. For art and DT, candidates will also be required to submit an art portfolio. In some areas, depending on the number of applicants, there may be some shortlisting before invitation to assessments or auditions. In sport, applicants should be of a high level of performance (eg county representation or equivalent) in at least one of St Helen's competitive or performance activities.

Further details, application forms and closing dates for entry can be found on the School website, www.shsk.org.uk

Bursaries

Bursaries are available from 20% to 100% of the fees. Further details, application forms and closing dates can be found on the School website, www.shsk.org.uk.