



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

Middle School

Admission to Year 9 (13+)

2029 entry

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 three years 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 appropriate fee paid. Once your daughter is registered, you will automatically receive details of the admissions process at the appropriate time.

3 Taster day

Registered candidates are required to attend a taster day at St Helen's as part of the entrance process. This will take place early in the spring term of Year 6, before the assessment day.

4 Entrance assessment and interview

The entrance assessment will take place in January of a student's Year 6. 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.)

5 Offers and accepting a place

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

6 Scholarship process

The 13+ scholarship process will take place in February/March of a student's Year 8. For further details, please refer to the Scholarships pages in the Admissions section of the School website www.shsk.org.uk. Please note that deadlines are altered each year for the following year's entry.

7 Welcome to St Helen's

After accepting a place students are invited to the School on two occasions: the first in June 2029 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 2029 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 2029 entry

- Activities afternoon: 15 May 2026
- Year 9 entry Head's Breakfast: 5 September 2026
- Whole School Open Day: 3 October 2026
- Closing date for registration: 30 October 2026 although late entries may be considered
- Closing date for bursary applications: 30 October 2026
- Taster day: 8 January 2027
- Assessment day: 16 January 2027
- Outcome letters sent: 22 January 2027
- Closing date for acceptances: 1 March 2027
- Closing date for scholarship applications: February 2029
- Academic, art, drama, DT, music and sport scholarship assessments: February/March 2029
- Induction day: June 2029
- Intake afternoon: September 2029

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 use of fractions, decimals, ratios and percentages; basic area, perimeter and properties of shapes: data handling including graphs and averages; types of number – primes, multiples, factors, squares, cubes; number sequences; use of time; use of coordinates including reflection and rotation of shapes.

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: 30 minutes

Taster day/interview: Candidates will be invited to spend a taster day at St Helen's, taking part in some lessons and activities. Interviews will be held during this day.

Time: 15 minutes

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

Reference: St Helen's will ask for a reference for each candidate from the Headteacher of their current school.

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded by the Head to recognise excellence, ability and potential in one or more academic or co-curricular areas. **Scholarship assessments take place in Year 8. The closing date for applications is in February of Year 8.**

- **Academic scholarships** are awarded to external candidates following scholarship exam and interview in February/March of Year 8.
- 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 are updated each year for the following year and can be found in the Admissions section of 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.