

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

### **GENERAL**

Aldro is an independent school for boys aged 7 to 13. The school has 230 pupils, 60 of whom are boarders. Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your child will visit Aldro School. We hold a number of Open Events which give a general introduction to the school. Details are published on our web site. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times. Please contact our Admissions Secretary, Mrs Spall on 01483409020 or email on [hmsec@aldro.org](mailto:hmsec@aldro.org) to arrange a visit.

### **THE ENTRY PROCEDURE**

Aldro is a selective school. Our selection process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from our balanced and well rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the school. Although we have a range of academic abilities, the selection process includes academic entry tests designed to ensure that the boys to whom places are offered will thrive here.

Applicants for admission should register by December of the year preceding the desired year of admission. (The registration form is included in the prospectus).

### **EQUAL TREATMENT**

Our aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Generous bursaries are offered in order to make it possible for as many as possible who meet the school's admission criteria to attend the school. See the school's Bursary Policy below.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

We do not discriminate in any way regarding entry. We welcome pupils with special educational needs, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with physical disabilities provided that our site can cope with them. However, we advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with Aldro before he sits the entrance exam so that we can make adequate provision for him and ensure that they are the sort of boys who will be able to thrive here. A Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report is important to support an application for a boy with learning difficulties or disabilities.

We will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he becomes a pupil at the school.

## **THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

The aim of the process is to identify well-rounded boys who will clearly thrive at Aldro and benefit from the outstanding all-round education on offer, both inside and outside the classroom.

We expect all our prospective pupils to take some entrance tests to ensure that they will be able to cope with the academic demands and to assess their strengths and weaknesses. The core tests for all are English, Maths and a Reasoning exercise; older prospective pupils may also be expected to sit tests in Science and French. No preparation is necessary for the entrance tests which are designed to reflect the expectations of the National Curriculum and how it relates to independent preparatory schools.

In addition to the formal tests, we also expect to receive a report from the prospective pupil's current school. This not only will paint a broader picture of a boy's abilities and interests than we can glean from our entrance test, but also serves as an important "safety net" in case the boy significantly under-performs on the test day itself – which can be an issue with younger candidates. We do not formally interview the boys on the test day, but there will be an opportunity for informal discussions with each boy in the course of the day.

## **SIBLING POLICY**

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

## **BURSARIES**

Our bursary programme is generous and is designed to make it possible for as many as possible of those who meet Aldro's entry criteria to take up a place here. We offer several means tested awards annually to entrants at the usual points of entry, where the parents have indicated on the registration form that they require financial support. Bursaries are means-tested in accordance with the criteria published on the school's web site. Both parents are required to provide proof of their income and assets. The level of support varies according to parental need. Some of the Aldro Bursaries are set aside for candidates who approach the school via the Joint Educational Trust (JET); and in line with the school's Christian foundation, some are earmarked for the sons of people in full-time Christian work.

Bursaries are always offered for 12 months at a time. The family is required to provide fresh information about its circumstances for every year that their child attends the school. Levels of support may vary with fluctuations in income.

Our Bursary Policy can be obtained from the Bursar.

### **OVERSEAS APPLICANTS**

We welcome overseas pupils, who can study at Aldro as a boarder provided that he has a relative or legal guardian living in the UK with whom he can stay for some weekends.

### **FLUENCY IN ENGLISH**

There is an expectation that all pupils at Aldro will have a reasonable working knowledge and understanding of English, although additional help with English as an additional language is provided for boys who require it. There is an additional charge for this one-to-one tuition.

### **RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**

Although Aldro has a Christian Foundation, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and we offer places for boys from other religious backgrounds. However, all pupils are expected to attend the morning chapel service that doubles as our morning assembly. There is scope for boys from other religious backgrounds to practise their own faiths; however, parents should be aware that normal school commitments should be honoured and that there is compulsory Saturday morning school for all pupils in Years 4 and above.

### **SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Copies are on the School's website and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

### **COMPLAINTS**

We hope that you do not have any complaints about our admissions process; copies of the School's complaints procedure can be sent to you on request.