



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

Admissions Policy

March 2018

COGNITA

Long Close School is a co-education independent school for pupils aged 2-16.

Admissions to Early Years

Children are welcomed into the Nursery from 2 years of age. At Long Close we aim to ensure that our setting is a welcoming place where children can settle quickly and easily because due consideration has been given to the individual needs and circumstances of the child and their family. It is important that the child, parents and staff establish a strong working relationship in an environment in which the child can thrive, parents have confidence and staff are dedicated and committed.

Taster Session

Before an offer to attend our Early Years Setting can be made all children must attend a taster session, where the child can be observed by an Early Years Practitioner and parents and carers can share important information about their child. This informal observation allows us to assess the individual needs of each child, the strategies needed to promote a positive transition and the level of support they would need in our setting. If the child is under two years of age then one parent or carer must stay with them during this taster session.

As part of the admissions process and to support our strong and professional partnerships with other settings, we will contact the child's previous settling. It is normal to ask for a report from the pupil's present nursery and for parents to provide any special reports from outside agencies, such as their child's Progress Check aged 2.

Settling in sessions

Once a place has been offered and accepted settling in sessions, appropriate for the child's individual transition, will be arranged close to the actual start date in the school. This process will be unique for every child and some children may require more than one settling in session. This will give the child the opportunity to get used to our environment and familiarise themselves with staff. It also allow parents to ask questions and share important information about their child with the practitioners to assist with a smooth transition.

Children are able to start in Nursery at different points in the academic year in and children are encouraged to attend full time mornings and afternoons by the Summer Term before they start their Reception year.

Special Educational Needs

To enable your child to be given the best opportunity to make good progress and for us to meet your child's individual needs as a setting, we need to be made fully aware of any support your child is already receiving from other relevant agencies. This may include speech and language, occupational therapists etc. Sharing information regarding your child's progress and support structure, which is already in a place, will allow your child to be given the necessary interventions to meet their expected developmental milestones should they join our setting. Should you fail to inform us of any of your child's known special educational needs or to disclose any outside agency reports, once a place has been accepted, we reserve the right to remove the child from the setting.

In addition a place may not be offered if we feel we cannot meet the needs of the child or that they will not progress in the environment we offer, even if we made reasonable adjustments. If we already have numerous children attending the setting, that require support from our early years team, it may not be a suitable time for another child to join us who also requires additional special educational needs interventions for safety reasons.

Home Visit

We believe that home visits are essential to support a child's smooth transition into Nursery and aim to offer all children starting in our Nursery such a visit. Home visits are carried out by a Senior member of the Nursery Team and the child's key worker. They promote good relationships between the school and the family and to ensure all relevant information about the child can be made known. Home visits are very beneficial in building relationships between the School and parents as well as Practitioners and the child.

We endeavour to offer all families a home visit and parents will be encouraged to accept a home visit before the child is offered a place at the School. However sometimes, at busy times of the year, we may only be able to offer this service to those children we feel would benefit from more support during their transition to Nursery.

Transition from Nursery to Reception

Transition from Nursery (age 3-4) to Reception (age 4-5) is automatic for all pupils already attending Long Close Nursery, providing the School will be able to successfully meet all the child's needs, and that the child will be able to progress happily with the ordinary expectations of school life.

2. Admission to Junior School

From Year 1, LCS is a selective school. Pupils are admitted from a wide range of academic abilities, and those with known behavioural problems and concerns are generally refused. If parents do not reveal a history of behavioural problems or any other relevant information then they are deemed to be in breach of our parent contract and the place may be withdrawn. However, it is important to note that no child will be refused entry to the school based solely on their SEND requirements.

Children joining the Junior School normally spend a morning at the School among the peer group they would join if offered a place, during which reading, literacy, number skills and general readiness to learn are observed, as they engage in class activities. We hope that the pupil will have an exciting and inspiring morning, and that they will feel welcome and relaxed. It is normal to ask for a report from the pupil's present school, and for parents to provide any special reports from outside agencies. Parents will be asked about their child's general development and any identified special educational needs, prior to a place being offered. Places are not automatic; in some rare cases a place will not be offered if we judge that a pupil's need is such that they will not flourish in the environment which we offer. New pupils will be invited in to the school to meet their teacher during the Summer Term as part of our transition process.

Pupils are assessed using either a verbal reasoning exercise or a reading activity and mathematical test before entry. Pupils requiring learning support will be assessed as to their needs and whether these can be catered for within the Learning Support department.

3. Admission to Senior School

The school seeks students who will make a positive contribution to the school community. All senior students will be given a test for entry that is appropriate for their age and be interviewed by the Head/Deputy Head. It is normal to ask for a report from the pupil's present school, and for parents to provide any special reports from outside agencies. Parents will be asked about their child's general development and any identified special educational needs, prior to a place being offered. Places are not automatic; in some rare cases a place will not be offered if we judge that a pupil's need is such that they will not flourish in the environment which we offer. Transfer from the Junior School to the Senior School is automatic for all students already attending Long Close School. New students will be invited in to the school to meet their teacher during the Summer Term as part of our transition process.

4. Admissions Process (Nursery, Junior and Senior)

Enquiries

All enquiries and applications should be made to the Admissions Registrar. The Admissions Registrar will ensure that parents have all the information that is required.

Visits

Prospective parents are encouraged to visit to see the School in action and to meet the Head. There are open days throughout the year which are an opportunity to tour the School on an informal basis. Alternatively, parents might like to make an appointment for a personal tour which can be arranged by the Admissions Registrar.

Registration

Following a visit, parents wishing to register their child should complete a Registration Form and return it with a payment for the Registration Fee. The Registration Fee covers the cost of administering the registration process and procedure, and is non-refundable. Registration is an indication of interest, and is not a guarantee of a place. The School will respond by confirming that the child's name has been placed on the admission list for the relevant term and year. If the Year group is fully subscribed, they will be placed on a waiting list. A place is confirmed once a formal offer has been made by the School and a signed Acceptance Form and deposit have been received in return.

Waiting list

If no place is available, parents may place their child's name on the waiting list for the School. The School cannot guarantee when a place may become available.

Appeal

There is no appeal process relating to admissions to the School. The decision of the Head is final.

False information

Where the School has made an offer of a place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application, which has effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

6. Admissions Register

The School maintains an Admissions Register in line with regulatory requirements.

Once an offer has been made and accepted parents are required to pay an Acceptance Deposit which will be returned when pupils leave the school, providing the correct one academic term's notice has been given to the Head in writing.

Once the place has been accepted, should the decision be made not to take it up, a liability fee will be incurred if the school is notified less than three calendar months before the proposed start date. After entry procedures are completed, parents will be given a joiner's pack dealing with matters such as uniform list, consent forms and other general information about the school.

Before a child can start at Long Close a number of documents must be completed and returned along with a copy of the child's birth certificate. Parents must complete a Pupil Data Collection form, giving full details of their son/daughter's date of birth, full address and all contact numbers in case of an emergency plus any dietary requirements. A separate medical form will need to be completed for all pupils who require the administration of medication during the school day, i.e. those who suffer from allergies or other known

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medical conditions. These forms are kept in the school office. Please note that blanket permission forms will not cover non-prescription medication. All parents are requested to keep the school informed of any changes of address and telephone contact numbers.

Long Close has a sibling priority policy, subject to meeting all other admissions criteria. This Admissions Policy forms part of the Parent Contract and should be read in conjunction with those terms and conditions.

Admissions Policy

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Consultation	n/a

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