

**ABERCORN SCHOOL
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**



APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

When should I apply?

As early as possible. Siblings are given priority but after that places are offered in order of receipt of the application. Applications for the Nursery are best made soon after birth.

How can I apply?

By completing and submitting by email, fax, or through the post the registration form found in the Further Information section.

Is there a registration fee and deposit?

The registration fee of £195 is payable upon registration. There is a deposit of £4500 which is needed in order to secure the place when offered out to you. The acceptance deposit will be repaid during the first week of the term after the pupil leaves Abercorn. This deposit should not be taken to be payment in advance of school fees. Please refer to our Terms and Conditions section C) 13.

How can I arrange to see the school?

Call us on 020 7286 4785 or email us on admin@abercornschool.com to arrange an individual tour.

Is financial assistance available?

Yes for our existing pupils whose parents may be in need.

Do you offer sibling discounts?

No because we feel it is only fair to treat all parents equally.

Why is the fee for a 4 year old the same as that for a 13 year old?

The cost of educating a child is roughly the same whatever the age. Obviously there is always the need for a classroom with the appropriate furniture, light, and heat etc. Younger children require a higher staff to pupil ratio which is compensated by the extra costs incurred in supplying the older pupils with the appropriate specialist textbooks and equipment.

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

How are decisions made?

The Senior Management Team consists of the High Mistress, the Head of the the Preparatory School, the Head of the Infant Department, the Deputy Head of the Middle School, and the Directors of Study for the Preparatory and Infant School. This team meets at least weekly to discuss matters relating to the smooth operation of the school as well as questions of future strategy.

Is there a Board of Directors?

Yes there is. There is a non-executive Chairman, Mr. Walter Balmford. The rest of the Board consists of members of the Greystoke family, including two Solicitors, two MBAs, and a director who is also involved in the management of our sister school in New York. The Senior Management Team reports to the Board of Directors.

THE ABERCORN PROGRAMME

What curriculum does the School offer?

The curriculum is based loosely on the expectations of the National Curriculum, but is also aware of the needs of the senior schools. Hence we aim to have children who are attaining significantly ahead of the national targets, as well as offering subjects not required by the government – e.g., Latin. The curriculum is also heavily influenced by the International Primary Years Programme, which aims to develop enquiring learners with a global outlook in a cross-curricular teaching environment.

Where do Abercorn’s teachers come from?

Most are British, but there are representatives from around the world, including Europe, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

What are Abercorn’s class sizes?

Our maximum number of pupils is 20 per class.

What is the staff-pupil ratio?

The staff-pupil ratio through the school as a whole is 1:9. Obviously it will be higher than that in the early years and lower at the more senior end.

Does Abercorn offer after-school sports and activities?

Yes there is a wide variety. Depending on pupil’s ages, there are clubs in chess, drama, cooking, extra sport, choir, Taekwondo—to name a few. There is also a Homework Club and a Late Room.

Can Abercorn cater for a child with special needs?

It depends upon the nature of the needs, and each case is considered carefully. Due to the listed and historical nature of our buildings we have been unable to make many adjustments to the access. Therefore the premises would not be suitable for many of the physically disabled although we have had some who have thrived with us. When considering the cases of children with specific learning difficulties, our criteria are the answers to the following: will the child flourish in our school and will the child impede the learning of the others in the class? For more information request our special needs policy.

THE ABERCORN COMMUNITY**Who attends Abercorn?**

Our children are mainly from the areas within a three mile radius of the school.

How many students attend Abercorn?

The number varies a bit from year to year but is usually just under 400.

How does the School help with the transition of new students?

Contact details of other pupils in the class are given, and parents are encouraged to arrange play dates as soon as possible. We arrange for the new pupil to visit the school before starting to meet the class teacher, and if school is in session, the children. The first few days we assign a “buddy” to mentor the new comer. Meanwhile the Friends of Abercorn class representative will be in contact with the parents to welcome them as well. Everyone usually settles in very quickly!

What percentage of the pupils is from overseas?

Approximately two-thirds of our pupils are British, although in some cases it is only one parent that is British, the other having some other nationality. The rest are from varying parts of the world, with approximately 25% from North America.

Does Abercorn offer bussing?

Not from home, although we can provide an introduction to a bus service that provides door to door service. There is, however, an Abercorn internal bus service that operates from St. John’s Wood to Marylebone in the morning and does the return trip at the end of the school day.

Is there much parental involvement?

Every parent is automatically a member of the Friends of Abercorn. This organisation is very active in the school, providing many social events for parents and pupils as well as assisting with school activities such as sports days and plays. It also interacts actively with the local community. Individual parents are welcome to come on class trips and are invited to come into the classroom if there is something they wish to share with the class: something unique to the family’s culture or perhaps a description of a profession.