

## **2020 Admissions - frequently asked questions:**

### **Please also read our 2020 Admissions Policy**

- **Is St Hilda's a girls' school?**  
St Hilda's started admitting boys as well as girls in 2015 and is now fully co-ed.
- **Do you take equal numbers of boys and girls?**  
Allocation is solely dependent on meeting the admissions criteria and we do not take gender into account.
- **I didn't register for your exam; can I still sit it?**  
It is too late now to sit the exam.
- **If I missed the exam, is there another way I can apply?**  
Our exam is not a "banding exam" so it not compulsory and you can still apply under the other routes, eg religion
- **My child sat the exam; will I find out before 31<sup>st</sup> October?**  
Results were emailed 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019.
- **I missed your open day in July but can I still come in for a visit?**  
We just hold the one open event in July. There may be an opportunity for a tour of school under certain circumstances.
- **Will I stand more chance if I put St Hilda's as my first preference?**  
St Hilda's operates an 'equal preference' system, meaning places are offered purely on the strength of how well children fit the admissions criteria. Schools cannot favour children who listed the school as their first choice, nor rule out those who placed it lower down their list. In fact, the local authority do not even tell us where St Hilda's was ranked in a child's preferences.
- **Should I apply to St Hilda's or my local authority?**  
Both – submit our application form direct to school and also enter your preferences with your local authority. The deadline for both is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.
- **Where can I get a copy of your application form?**  
Online here or collect a copy from St Hilda's reception (normal term-time opening times are 8am to 4.30 pm).
- **Is it ok to post my application form?**  
We always recommend you hand it in personally. If you do post, please check you have paid sufficient postage (as it may not be delivered to St Hilda's) or choose a trackable option.
- **The deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October is during St Hilda's half-term - will there be anyone in school to accept my application?**  
Reception will not be manned between 28<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November. We will accept applications handed in or received by post on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- **What happens if I apply too late?**  
It will still be accepted but will be treated as a Late Application, which could reduce your chance of gaining a place at St Hilda's.

- **Can I apply if I don't live in the Liverpool council area?**  
Yes you can enter St Hilda's as a preference with your own local authority.
- **Do you have "feeder schools"?**  
No – our children come from all over the region.
- **Do you give priority if a sibling is already at St Hilda's?**  
Applications from siblings of St Hilda's students are not given priority.
- **St Hilda's is a Church of England High School so can I only apply if I am an Anglican?**  
We accept applications for all religions or children with no religion – please see our policy for details of the application criteria.
- **I am Christian but not Anglican – do I apply under the Christian or Other World Faiths route?**  
Apply as a Christian – D1.
- **My church doesn't sign school admission forms; will it affect my application?**  
Unfortunately, we can only score if pages 5&6 are signed by a vicar/priest/minister/lay Eucharistic minister, deacon or church warden and the pages are stamped (or confirmed on a signed letterhead).
- **Are you normally oversubscribed?**  
Yes, in which case we use oversubscription tiebreaks (see policy). Last year we received 1,274 applications for 170 places.
- **What was the lowest successful Christian score last year?**  
For the past 3 years, the last child admitted under the Christian route scored 114 and it was subject to a tiebreaker. NB: scoring has been amended this year so the 2020 equivalent of that score is 106 (equivalent to 114 in previous years). St Hilda's will not know what the lowest successful 2020 Christian score is until March 2020.
- **When and how will I find out which school my child has been allocated?**  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 is National Offer Day and you will be notified by your council.
- **If I am allocated St Hilda's do I need to let you know if I am taking up the offer?**  
Yes, please indicate if you wish to accept or decline the offer (or accept the offer but intend appealing for another school).
- **Do children come in for a taster day if they are allocated St Hilda's?**  
All secondary schools have the same induction day – 2020 admission pupils will come in to school on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020.