



## Admissions Policy

Oporto British School is an independent school, delivering its taught curriculum in all subjects apart from Modern Foreign Languages and Portuguese History/Studies in English. Representing an international independent school, the OBS Admissions Committee maintains the right to use its judgment and experience with regard to admissions arrangements and offers of places in the school. In making such decisions, the school will assess a prospective pupil's ability to access the school curriculum, to contribute fully to the life of our community, and to be best served by what the school offers.

Decisions regarding offers of places are made by the Admissions Committee, chaired by the Headmaster. The Admissions Committee will review and consider all applications for places at OBS, irrespective of ethnicity, gender or religion.

The school generally has two classes in each year group in Primary, and three smaller forms in each year group in Secondary. The school is committed to maintaining a balance between year group sizes and also to ensuring that class sizes do not become so large as to reduce the overall quality of the educational experience for all concerned. Set against this, all offers of places are at the Headmaster's discretion; in cases where there are more applicants than there are available spaces, the Admissions Committee will consider a range of factors when prioritising offers of places, which include (in no order) whether the applicant:

- ✓ has demonstrated an affinity with our core values
- ✓ has English as a first language
- ✓ has a sibling in the school
- ✓ holds a British passport
- ✓ has for some time attended a school where the teaching language is English
- ✓ has demonstrated particular academic or other talent
- ✓ is the child of a former pupil at OBS

### Our Admissions Process:

The school recruits throughout the school year and recommends that interested parents complete the registration process as soon as possible if the application is for a vacancy during the current academic year, and as early as possible in the year preceding intended entry if for September entry. Applications for September entry must be completed by 15 June of the academic year preceding entry. Parents are asked to contact us via our web site in order to arrange a visit to the school and should register online via the Admissions Page of our web site.

When a formal application has been received, the applicant will be interviewed and assessed by a member of the teaching staff appropriate to his or her age, who is a member of the Admissions Committee. The Committee will also consider reports and assessment data from an applicant's previous school. After Form 5 (UK Year 6) we may also ask that applicants sit an adaptive cognitive reasoning assessment appropriate to their age.

As English is the language of instruction in all but Modern Foreign Languages and Portuguese History, we also consider an applicant's current or foreseeable ability to access our curriculum, and to thrive in the OBS English-speaking environment, as a fundamental aspect of our admissions process.



# OPORTO BRITISH SCHOOL

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OBS will confirm an offer of a place, or not, within a week of the assessment and interview during term time, and as soon as the Admissions Committee has had the opportunity to convene if during school holidays. Final enrolment is dependent on the school having received:

- ✓ school references and reports (where applicable)
- ✓ medical information
- ✓ updated parent or local legal guardian contact information effective first day of school
- ✓ proof of identity
- ✓ payment of appropriate fees
- ✓ financial clearance from the student's immediately preceding school

Offers are generally made to cover the full duration of an applicant's schooling, in the hope that he or she will be happy and fulfilled at OBS and will make a positive contribution to the life of the school. However, if we have any concerns about a pupil's suitability for progression into the following year group, or into the Secondary Section (including the transition from IGCSE to IB), these will have been raised with parents by the respective Heads of Primary/ Secondary during the year. The Headmaster reserves the right for a child to repeat an academic year and/ or not to offer a place in the following academic year based upon academic and / or pastoral concerns.

**Last reviewed February 2022**