

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2025-2027

Selection Process

Admission to NDSOPA is determined through an audition process. As a selective school, we welcome students who have a passion for all aspects of Performing Arts. All pupils are required to pursue a full academic program alongside their performing arts training.

NDSOPA fully complies with the Equality Act 2010, particularly in relation to supporting Protected Characteristics. All curricula and activities for pupils and staff are designed to support the following protected characteristics as outlined in Section 4 of the Equality Act 2010:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Application Procedure

Prospective pupils and their parents are encouraged to visit the school during one of our open evenings or attend a performance. This provides an opportunity to experience our school environment, view examples of academic work, and meet our friendly staff.

For more information or an informal discussion, you may contact the main school office at 0151 259 0807 and ask to speak with the Registrar.

If, after reviewing our Prospectus and visiting the school, you believe NDSOPA is the right fit for your child, please email us at enquiries@ndsopa.org to schedule an audition.

The audition process is designed to be a positive and enjoyable experience. Prospective pupils will participate in short classes in Ballet, Jazz, and vocal training and will be asked to prepare a monologue that we will provide in advance. A brief written task will also be required. We will be looking for:

- A genuine interest and enjoyment in Performing Arts
- A strong work ethic

- A positive attitude toward learning
- Potential in all performing arts subjects

Fees

For detailed information on fees, please refer to our Prospectus or contact the school office via email at office@ndsopa.org.

Important Notes

If a student wishes to transfer from NDSOPA to another school, one full terms notice is required in writing. This ensures a smooth transition, and fees will remain applicable during this period.

Assessing Out

NDSOPA conducts an annual review of pupils' progress during the Spring Term. Any pupil who is not meeting the school's performance, academic, or value expectations may be given notice to leave at the end of the Summer Term. In exceptional cases, NDSOPA reserves the right to reconsider the position of any pupil who does not meet the overall expectations of the school curriculum at the end of any academic year.

Transfer and Induction

NDSOPA is committed to ensuring a smooth transition for pupils from their previous schools. An entry pack containing detailed information, such as term dates and uniform requirements, will be sent to pupils and parents prior to entry in the Summer Term. Induction booklets are reviewed annually and provided to pupils, and tutors and staff will discuss key issues with pupils upon arrival. Staff are available to offer assistance and advice to parents as needed.

After a place has been offered, parents must submit an acceptance form along with the required deposit. Parents are requested to confirm their acceptance within one month of receiving the offer. All places in Years 4-11 are offered subject to a satisfactory reference from the pupil's current school. Additionally, parents will be asked to provide information about their child to help the school prepare for the child's entry. Parents must also confirm on the registration form that they agree to the School's Terms and Conditions, Rules, and Regulations.

Pupils with Disabilities

NDSOPA has an Equal Opportunities and Disability Policy designed to ensure, wherever possible, equal access to the curriculum for all pupils, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, religion, socio economic background, race, nationality, ethnic origin, or sensory or physical disability.

It is essential that parents inform the School on the application form if a prospective pupil has specific educational needs or is considered disabled under the Equality Act 2010, as this may require special assistance or reasonable adjustments under the Act.

Admission Numbers

As a selective school, places are offered on the basis of a successful audition and assessment. NDSOPA admits a maximum of **15 pupils per year group**. Where the number of applicants exceeds available places, pupils who have met the entry criteria will be placed on a waiting list.

The waiting list will be held in order of audition/assessment performance and reviewed annually. If a place becomes available, the next pupil on the waiting list will be offered entry.

Admission Outside Normal Age Group

Parents may request admission for their child outside of their normal age group. Such requests must be made in writing to the Principal at the time of application and include supporting evidence. Each case will be considered individually, taking into account the best interests of the child, including their academic, social, and emotional development.

In-Year Admissions

Applications for admission outside the normal admissions round (in-year admissions) should be made directly to the school. Parents should contact the school office or by email at enquiries@ndsopa.org. If a place is available and your child meets the entry criteria, an audition will be arranged. Where a year group is full, your child will be placed on a waiting list.

Appeals Process

Parents whose application for a place is unsuccessful have the right to appeal. Appeals should be submitted in writing to the Chair of Governors via the school office. An independent panel will hear appeals in line with statutory guidance. The school's Appeals Timetable is published on the NDSOPA website.

Reviewer responsible:	Nazene Langfield
Date of authorisation:	Nov 20, 2024
Reviewed by:	Nazene Langfield
Last amended:	August 2025
Date of next review	August 2026