



SELECTION POLICY

Admissions tests based on aptitude in the Performing Arts for Year Six

Rationale

Glenthorne High School selects 10% of its prospective Year 7 intake on aptitude in the Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music). Children who apply will be considered in all performing arts areas based on aptitude. Aptitude is considered to be the potential each pupil shows on the selection day(s). It will not take into account any prior achievement or learning the children may have had. There will be 24 places offered to the highest scoring pupils across Music, Drama and Dance.

Application

Pupils will be required to complete an online application that can be accessed through the school website. This will contain personal information and contact details. Applications must be completed in full by submitting an online application by the published deadline date. The last submission date will be published each year. Any applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Candidates will be able to specify the workshops they would like to attend. They are able to attend workshops in all three disciplines if they choose. All applications received by this date will be invited to attend the Selection Day held in October. Selection Day can be spread over a number of days (Maximum of three) to cater to the growing interest and uptake in this process. This will allow for a more accurate measurement of aptitude for each discipline. Applications will not be reviewed prior to the selection day(s).

Invitation to Selection Day

All fully completed applications received by the deadline date will be invited to the Selection Day. All candidates will be informed by email and are expected to attend the allocated time.

The Selection Day

The Selection Day will be run as a series of workshops that candidates attend. Workshops will be led and marked by subject specialists. An external moderator will be employed to ensure there is consistency and fairness in all parts of the process. Workshop plans will be written, agreed and discussed by the selection team prior to the day. All workshops will be designed in the same format but each workshop will have a different theme. The day will run the following format:

- Meeting for all staff involved in the selection process
- Registration in the Hub/Hall/Willow (allocation of groups, name labels and numbers)
- Workshops – each candidate will attend the workshops they specified on the application form.
- At the end of their session, pupils will be asked to evaluate their day at Glenthorne and present this as a small group. This task will be marked following the given marking scheme. Each pupil being awarded a mark out of twenty. This task will provide the mark that will be used should there be a tie break.
- Dismissal in the Hub/Hall/Willow
- Marking meeting to determine rank order and allocation of selection places.

Grouping and Workshops

The workshops are planned around approximately 25 pupils participating in each. Where the number of applications exceeds this, additional workshops will be co-ordinated. These workshops will all run simultaneously so as to not advantage/disadvantage any pupil. Extra days may be allocated to the Selection process as the number of applicants grows each year. Each discipline will, however, only take place on one day.

In each workshop and throughout the selection process pupils will be asked to work in small, large and mixed groups. All pupils will have the opportunity to work with a variety of other candidates and there will be a mixture of random allocation and specified groups.

Themes of workshops

It should be noted that the themes of each workshop will be changed annually so as not to advantage/disadvantage pupils.

Moderation and Marking

A marking code has been written and agreed across all of the art forms. All staff involved in the selection process will attend a marking meeting at the start of the day. Prior to the Selection Day there will be a standardisation meeting to ensure there is clarity and consistency with marking. All staff will attend this and practise sample marking. This provides consistency and fairness to the process. The marking criteria will be reviewed and edited each year according to recommendations made by the moderator in the latest report. In each workshop, pupils will be marked in 5 areas. These marks will be awarded for the aptitude displayed and progress made within the workshops on the day.

By the end of the selection process each pupil will be marked in the following way:

- Mark for Dance – out of 50
- Mark for Drama – out of 50
- Mark for Music – out of 50
- Mark for tie break task workshop – out of 20 (this mark is only considered in the event of a tie break)

From these marks each pupil will be allocated their strongest discipline mark and then placed in a rank order.

All workshops will be observed by the external moderator and selection co-ordinator to ensure consistency. Workshops will be filmed for internal moderation purposes and seen only by teachers and technicians directly involved in the selection process. It will not be possible to provide copies of the footage due to it containing the personal data of other candidates. These will be saved and stored under password protection after the selection day until 1st March in the following year.

Tie Break

All pupils will take part in a 'plenary' workshop, which will provide scores for a tiebreak. Where pupils score the same mark this mark will be considered. In the event of a tiebreak, pupils will be ranked following the criteria below:

- Highest ranked workshop score e.g. 50
- Plenary score out of 20

Should pupils still be tied after this, Arts subject leaders will determine the ranking between pupils in the marking meeting and moderation process.

The criteria for the plenary will be reviewed and edited each year according to recommendations made by the moderator in the latest report.

Rank order

Candidates awarded above 32 will be placed into a rank order, of which the top 24 will be offered a selected place. There will be a reserve list of pupils who do not make the initial 24 but who have scored above 32. Any candidate awarded below 32 will not be considered for a selected place.

Award of places

The awarding of places will be at the same time as the LA distributes allocation of secondary school places. Any appeals will be via the school and follow the same procedure as any other school appeal in Sutton. In the event of a place not being accepted, the reserve list will be referred to and further places will be awarded in order to maintain the 10% intake.

Letters to indicate selected aptitude

All parents/carers will be informed of the outcome of the selection day a week after the event. Included in these letters will be the outcome scores of all the workshops the individual pupils attended. It will also inform parents/carers of the process of rank order.

Independent Moderator

An external moderator will be employed on the day to oversee the selection process. The moderator will have an Arts Education background and will be required to have an understanding of the selection process, marking and then submit a report evaluating the day. The moderator will observe workshops across all disciplines.

Policy Date: **July 2025**

Review Date: **July 2026**