

Roche School Policy for school placement at 7+ and 8+.

The vast majority of Roche School pupils make the transition to secondary school at the end of Year 6 after sitting the 11+ examinations in the January of their final year. Since we currently do not educate children beyond this point, we focus on our Upper School pupils in order to ensure that they gain the best possible offers from a wide range of senior schools. Throughout Years 5 and 6 in particular, a designated 11+ team work with the children in order to prepare them for examinations and interviews. Extra classes are also given along with continued guidance and support to parents.

Some selective London day schools also offer entry points at 7+ and 8+ and we are sometimes asked by parents if we would recommend a transfer at this earlier stage. Such schools include Colet Court, King's College Junior School, Dulwich College and Putney High. In these cases, pupils sit an exam in Year 2 or Year 3 depending on the school - details can be found on the websites of the schools concerned.

If you are considering entry into such a school at 7 or 8+ we ask you to bear in mind the following:

- Firstly, it is recommended that you consult your child's class teacher in order to ascertain suitability. Pupils are assessed three times each year in English and Maths at The Roche School and your class teacher will know whether the pupil is progressing at a suitably competitive level.
- Your child will need to interview well and be ready for the cut and thrust of an environment which is usually single-sex and very competitive. Some children may be better off remaining in a more nurturing environment which remains co-educational. If your child is not ready for a highly-selective environment at the age of 7 or 8, it does not necessarily disqualify them from entering such a school at 11 or 13+.
- Academically, the Roche School is committed to attaining *the same high levels* adhered to at these schools: in other words, your child's academic performance will not suffer by being at a non-selective school since our setting system provides an infrastructure which allows the most able to work at a very high level.

Finally, Top set work in Years 2 and 3 corresponds to the level of the 7+ and 8+ plus examinations but we cannot offer practice or timed papers during the course of the school day. Our examination practice takes place in Years 5 and 6 when all pupils are prepared for schools together. Therefore, any exam practice for 7 and 8 plus exams – particularly in terms of working on timed papers - should either take place at home or with a tutor. Bear in mind, however, that many young children will not enjoy working with a tutor after a busy school day and that if you have to force the issue too much, the choice of 7 or 8 plus entry is probably not the right one.

Throughout the course of the year, Dr Roche offers extra classes in the morning for a range of year groups. Anyone wishing to see Dr Roche for extra Maths or English may contact the school office and be accommodated (subject to space).

Mrs V Adams
Headmistress

