



WESTMINSTER UNDER SCHOOL

11+ ENTRY
FURTHER INFORMATION 2025



11+ key dates for September 2025

2024

Open days at Westminster Under School

Tuesday 21 May
Saturday 21 September

Application deadline

SEND reports, initial bursary forms and music scholarship applications by 12.00pm on Monday 30 September

ISEB Common Pre-tests

Monday 25 November

Invitations sent for boys to sit additional written papers

By the end of the day on Thursday 12 December

2025

Additional written papers

Saturday 11 January

Auditions for music scholarship

Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 January

Invitations to final interviews

By the end of the day on Thursday 23 January

Final interviews

Week commencing Monday 27 January

Bursary home visits

Week commencing Monday 3 February

Offers sent

By the end of the day on Tuesday 25 February

Acceptances to be received by the School

By 12.00pm on Wednesday 5 March

Entry at 11+ to Westminster

Registration



Parents who wish to register their sons for entry in Year 7 (11+) should complete the online registration form, which can be found in the Admissions section of the School website: www.westminsterunder.org.uk/admissions. The deadline for September 2025 entry is 12.00pm on **Monday 30 September 2024**, including fully completed SEND reports and bursary applications. In line with our Admissions Policy, late applications cannot be accepted.

11+ entrance assessments

ISEB Common Pre-Tests



Due to the increasing number of boys applying for 11+ entry, in line with other schools, we now make use of an electronic assessment in the admissions process. These are set by the ISEB (Independent Schools Examination Board) and are called the Common Pre-Tests. They are used by many senior schools.

Boys who have registered will be invited to the School to sit these electronic assessments on Monday 25 November at Westminster Under School or at your son's present school at any point until Monday 9 December. The tests will consist of papers in mathematics, English, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning **and can only be taken once for all schools applied for.**

Tests can be taken at the boy's current school or another authorised venue. **Parents will need to confirm this with them directly and where possible should contact our Registrar, Alycia Lee (wusregistrar@westminster.org.uk), to inform her of this arrangement.** Parents must now register their sons directly with the ISEB at <https://iseb.eva.tech/guardian/applicants>. For more information please visit the ISEB website at <https://www.iseb.co.uk/families-hub/>

Written papers



Approximately 100 boys are selected for the next stage in the admissions process. They will be invited back to the School on Saturday 11 January 2025 to take additional written papers in mathematics and English, and these papers can only be taken here at Westminster Under School.

Mathematics

We expect all boys sitting the 11+ mathematics test to have completed the standard programme of study contained within the National Curriculum at Key Stage 2, or its equivalent. We would also expect that these boys are able to achieve Level 5 in their Key Stage 2 SATs or their equivalent. We are particularly interested in the boys' ability to apply the mathematics they have learnt in the context of problem solving.

English

Boys will be tested on their reading and writing skills, though the precise nature of these assessments will vary from year to year. Examples might include comprehensions, descriptive writing activities, short reviews and invitations to continue a passage in the voice of the author. We are particularly interested in boys with a history of wide-ranging and ambitious reading – in particular those with a developing awareness of *how* great writers use language for effect. Boys will be expected to demonstrate a skilful use of a wide vocabulary and show that they are able to write both fluently and accurately.



Interview and place offers



Based on the results of the written papers, we will invite approximately 60 boys back for interview, during the week commencing Monday 27 January 2025. They will be interviewed by members of senior staff. This is a chance for us to get to know the boys and their interests.

Special educational needs and disability (SEND) admissions

Parents should inform the Admissions Department about a candidate's particular needs, providing any reports from suitably qualified professionals. The School is happy to make reasonable adjustments to the admissions process to enable SEND pupils to participate fully and to the best of their abilities. Extra time will be available if required. The Head of Learning Development (SENCO) works closely with the Admissions team to make decisions about any access arrangements requested for entrance exams. The regulations set out by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) are used to determine whether or not a prospective pupil should be allowed any concessions in the entrance exams.

English as an additional language (EAL)



The School accepts pupils whose first language is not English, and indeed many boys speak two or three languages fluently, but lessons move at a fast pace and a pupil who does not speak good English could struggle. Proficiency in

English will be assessed to ensure an applicant has the minimum necessary skills.



Music scholarships



A number of awards of up to 10% remission of current academic tuition fees with free instrumental tuition are offered annually for boys at 11 years of age who show outstanding potential in at least one instrument.

The standard expected of candidates will be from Grade 5 onwards and, though not essential, some skill on a second instrument should be encouraged. Orchestral instruments are preferred. Award holders will be expected to play a full and lively part in the musical life of the School.

Candidates will be required to play two contrasting pieces on their principal instrument and one piece on their second, to read at sight and to attempt a few ear tests. Choristers are also invited to sing. An accompanist will be provided by the School, so we ask that candidates do not bring their own. Plenty of time is allocated for rehearsal.

Candidates for music awards must sit the School's entrance examinations in January. Instrumental auditions will also be held in January whilst choral auditions will be held upon commencement at the Under School in September. The closing date for entries to these awards is Monday 30 September 2024 but the Director of Music will be pleased to meet prospective candidates beforehand by arrangement.

Our future



We are pleased to confirm that from September 2026, Westminster Under School will be admitting girls alongside boys at 7+ (Year 3) and 11+ (Year 7). Additionally we will open a new Reception to Year 2 pre-prep, with entry at 4+ (Reception) beginning for boys and girls also in 2026. Westminster School will admit girls at 13+ (Year 9) in September 2028, with both Schools being fully co-educational by September 2030.

Building for the future



We have also acquired a new building in Chapter Street, which is currently being renovated. We will move into this building in September 2025. Adrian House will then be renovated and will be ready for the 2026 entries.

After-school clubs



These clubs include activities such as fencing, judo, karate, bridge, chess, table tennis, LAMDA, clay making and film making. Clubs finish between 4.45 and 5.45pm.



Games



Our main sports are football and cricket but as the boys move through the School they will have the opportunity to compete in other sports such as athletics, basketball, cross country running, fives, hockey, rowing, rugby, swimming and tennis. Games takes place twice a week and PE once a week on Vincent Square or at the sports centre.

School fees



Current fees are always published on the School's website. The fees for 2024/2025 will be published in July 2024.

School hours



The School gates open at 8.00am. Boys are expected to arrive at the side gate in Douglas Street, between 8.00 and 8.15am. Registration is at 8.20am.

Year 7 and 8 boys finish at 4.30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays after games and at 4.00pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Homework

Years 7 and 8: Between 60 to 90 minutes per night (two or three subjects).

Door-to-door transport



There is no official School transport: however, the following services are available and are currently used by pupils. This transport is arranged by the parents directly with the operators:

- Taxis – there are two external taxi providers who take several boys from School
- **West London Minibus Route 1**
W2 to W8 – SW7 – SW3 – WUS
- **West London Minibus Route 2**
W10 – W11 – W2 – WUS

Public transport

Pimlico Tube Station, on the Victoria Line, is a five minute walk away. Victoria and St James's Park on the District and Circle lines are approximately a ten minute walk away.

Academic bursaries



The purpose of a bursary is to give financial support to a child who has the academic ability to benefit from a Westminster education but whose parents would not be able to afford the fees either wholly or in part without unacceptable hardship.

Only boys applying for entry into Year 7 are eligible to apply for bursaries. The School does not provide financial support for boys entering Year 3 or Year 4.

Every child who enters Westminster Under School must win their place on academic merit. This is determined by examination and interview.

Bursaries are available where the parents and children fall into one of the following categories:

- British citizens in possession of a British passport (The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) **at the time of applying for a bursary**;
- Citizens of the EEA or Switzerland, as defined by the UKVI, in possession of an EEA or Swiss passport or ID, who live in London. See website: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/eu-eea-commonwealth>

Parents should consult the UKVI website for a detailed explanation of the criteria established by the United Kingdom. These criteria are used by the School. Parents who qualify under the above criteria must also live in London. The expectation is that their child will commute from home to School each day, with a maximum journey time of one hour door-to-door.

- Bursaries are not available to children of parents who are in the UK on a visa (general, student, child, business, special, or medical) or entering the UK under Tier 2 or Tier 4 of the UKVI Points Based System.
- Bursaries are not available to children of parents who live outside London and beyond daily commuting range to School, defined as a maximum journey time of one hour door-to-door.

There are no exact financial criteria for bursaries but in judging a family's needs, all income, essential expenditure, and all assets in savings, investments and property will be assessed. Where, for example, a home is considered to be too large, in an expensive area or where excess equity could be released, a family may be expected to downsize or remortgage as necessary to release funds. Parents who own a second home do not qualify as they would be expected to release equity in order to meet fees. It is also expected that savings in shares, ISAs, and other investments will be released. The School will then assess what level of bursary (between 10% and 100% of the fees) is needed. If in doubt of eligibility for a bursary, parents are encouraged to apply.

The bursary process

There are three stages to the bursary assessments:

- 1 Parents' passports**
Photocopies or scans of both parents' passports must be provided as evidence of eligibility to apply for a bursary on grounds of nationality. If eligible, the next stage is Part A.
- 2 This must be completed by the October deadline**
The purpose of the initial assessment is for parents to provide a brief summary of their financial circumstances so that the School can establish whether a bursary is likely to be needed. It is essential that the Part A Form is completed by the 11 October deadline, as late applications cannot be accepted. Any relevant background information should be included in the 'Additional Comments' section of the Part A Form.

For applications from single parents, the following information regarding the child's circumstances must be provided:

- a Where is the other parent now?
- b Has the child's other parent remained in contact?
- c If not, when did their contact cease?
- d Does the child's other parent contribute financially for the child?
- e If not, when did they cease contributing?

3 Part B (In Depth Assessment)

If your son is called back to the second round of tests, you will receive an email which will include a link for the Part B Forms. All information will need to be uploaded electronically by the date given. The intention of the School is to make a full assessment of a family's financial circumstances and needs. Part B will ask for several pieces of information and supporting evidence. It is essential that the Part B Form is completed in full and that copies of all supporting documents required are provided.

For a full list of the documents needed, please visit our website: www.westminster.org.uk/admissions/bursaries

All bursary awards are decided by the Master of the Under School and the Head Master of Westminster School on the advice of the Bursar. It is not possible to give a forecast of the level of any bursary award in advance.

Specific guidance for parents

For more in-depth information, please visit our website: www.westminster.org.uk/admissions/bursary or contact the Bursar at bursar@westminster.org.uk or on **020 7963 1028**.



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|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Westminster Under School | 5 Dean's Yard |
| 2 Vincent Square Playing Fields | 6 Westminster School |
| 3 Sports Centre, Greycoat Street | 7 Millicent Fawcett Hall |
| 4 St Stephen's Church | 8 Smith Square |



WESTMINSTER UNDER SCHOOL

Starting at Westminster

Boys may enter Westminster Under School at ages 7, 8 and 11. They can enter Westminster School at 13 and both boys and girls may enter the School at age 16. Please contact the Registrar for more information.

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