



WESTMINSTER
UNDER SCHOOL



ADMISSION
INFORMATION PACK



KEY DATES

OPEN EVENTS

Small group tours during the week giving you a chance to visit the school

westminsterunder.org.uk/admissions/open-days



ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Children come to school to sit the assessments

PLACE OFFERS

Thursday 15th January 2026

Emails are sent to all applicants advising them of the outcome of the assessments

PLACE ACCEPTANCE

Tuesday 27th January 2026

The final deadline for accepting the place offers. (Acceptances are able to be received prior to this)

2025

2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Tuesday 30th September 2025

Online applications to be fully completed

FURTHER ASSESSEMENTS AND INTERVIEWS

Wednesday 14th January 2026

The children selected from the entrance assessments are invited in to participate in classroom based activities and an interview with the Master

PLACE OFFER HOLDER TOURS

Week Commencing

19th January 2026

A chance for those families who hold offers to revisit the school

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

REGISTRATION

westminsterunder.org.uk/admissions/8-entry



Parents who wish to register their child for the September 2026 8+ entry should complete the online registration form, which can be found in the Admissions section of the school website. The deadline for applications for entry in September 2026 is 30th September 2025.

WHAT IS LIFE LIKE AT WESTMINSTER?

Days are busy and the children must have an intrinsic love of learning - they will be exposed to so many new things in a safe, supportive and intellectually challenging environment.

Having able children means that there is also plenty of time for reading, discovery, music, art, drama and sport. Parents regularly say that discussions in the car and at home around the dinner table are endlessly interesting, with ideas and learning at school being at the centre of wider family discussions.

We are in no way an exam factory - if children have strengths in specific areas they are challenged by widening the curriculum rather than just simply giving them work. For example, pupils regularly enter national competitions in a variety of subjects. We do not encourage Year 4 pupils to do, for example, Year 8 work!

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

We look for potential in the children and for children who have natural ability and will therefore thrive here. Our challenge is to find that potential, rather than simply select intensely-tutored children, and whose natural ability will grow with the challenges a Westminster education provides. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not "cram" your child, or have them specifically tutored. This can detract from the freshness, spontaneity and eagerness to learn which are some of the qualities we are looking for. All children for the 8+ entrance assessments will sit tests in

Mathematics, English, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning. There is no creative writing task in the first round of tests.

Pupils will be placed in small groups within classrooms and there will be at least two members of staff who will help them and be with them for the duration of the exams. There will be breaks in between the papers, allowing the children to use the bathrooms and to have a snack.

Further information regarding the tests will be made available to parents once the application deadline has passed.

MATHEMATICS

westminsterunder.org.uk/academic-life/curriculum



It will be assumed that pupils have completed a programme of study that follows the National Curriculum. Pupils should have a sound understanding of place-value, a grasp of the four arithmetic operations and the ability to apply them in problem solving.

They should have a range of mental calculating strategies (for example, doubling and division for the 2,4,5 and 10 times tables, and to be able to deduce other results from these). They should also have a practical experience of measurement and shape. They should understand the concept of fractions at a basic level.

ENGLISH

westminsterunder.org.uk/academic-life/curriculum



Writing

Pupils should be able to express themselves in an age-appropriate way. In the second stage of assessments, we will require children to write in a form that should be familiar to any pupil who has followed the Key Stage 1 and 2 programme of study, or equivalent, checking for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Reading

Your child will most likely be reading aloud to others as well as to themselves regularly. They should be able to discuss the stories, their meaning and any new vocabulary encountered.

REASONING

There will be tests in Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning, which are designed to test thinking skills. The children do not need to do any preparation for Verbal and Non-Verbal, although familiarisation with these type of papers may increase confidence for those that have not had previous experience with them. There are a number of examples of reasoning books available online or from a wide number of bookshops.

A teacher will be on hand to offer some support and prompt your child if they require it during the tasks on the assessment day. Most children finish the assessment day having enjoyed the challenge of these papers.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY AND INTERVIEW

Based on the results of the Entrance Assessment, we will invite approximately 100 children back for some classroom activities and an interview. This will take place on Wednesday 14th January 2026.

The children will enjoy a morning similar to a typical Under School morning. They will be settled in with games before they start their assessment. The morning will include an outside play break on Vincent Square, a snack and drink and before they finish they are invited to stay for lunch.

They will be interviewed in small groups of children by experienced members of staff where they will be encouraged to talk about themselves, discussing their genuine interests and enthusiasms. We are looking for children who have a spark, passion and a love of learning. Quiet or shy children are equally effective in talking about the topics that fascinate them.

This is a chance for us to get to know the children. We aim to make both days as normal and as comfortable as possible with friendly teachers encouraging and supporting the children.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) ADMISSIONS

westminsterunder.org.uk/academic-life/learning-enrichment



Parents should inform the Admissions Department about a pupil'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.

All decisions relating to SEND matters are made with regard to the provision of reasonable adjustments as set out in the Equalities Act 2010. For more information please visit the School Policies section of the website.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

The School accepts pupils whose first language is not English, and many children already at the Under School speak two or three languages fluently, but lessons move at a fast pace and a pupil who does not speak good English could struggle, so proficiency in English will be assessed to ensure an applicant has the minimum necessary skills.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TRANSFER TO WESTMINSTER SCHOOL OR OTHER SENIOR SCHOOLS

westminsterunder.org.uk/admissions/future-schools



For children who enter WUS in Years 3 and 4, entry to Westminster School is not automatic and progress must be maintained, which is detailed on our website. The School continues to support children going to a range of top senior schools when they leave us, including Westminster, Eton and Winchester.

OUR FUTURE

www.westminsterunder.org.uk/co-education-and-pre-prep



Both Schools will be fully co-educational by 2030 with our first cohort of pupils joining us in September 2026.

SCHOOL FEES

westminsterunder.org.uk/admissions/school-fees



The School fees for the academic year 2024/2025 are:

Years 3 & 4

£10,350 per term

Years 5-8

£10,609 per term

Years 9-11 Day Pupils

£14,749 per term

Years 9-11 Boarding Pupils

£15,894 per term

The fees for the 2025/2026 academic year will be released in July 2025.

SCHOOL HOURS

westminsterunder.org.uk/school-life/the-school-day



The School gates open from 8.00 am and pupils should arrive at School, between 8.00 am and 8.15 am. Registration is at 8.20 am.

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 finish their lessons at 3.15 pm every day. Children attending clubs will go to theirs at 3.20 pm. Those not attending clubs will be brought to the school gates for collection at 3.20 pm.

HOMEWORK

Year 3: 20 minutes per night, plus reading

Year 4: 30 minutes per night, plus reading

Year 5: 50 – 60 minutes per night
(two subjects)

Year 6: 60 minutes per night
(usually two subjects)

Year 7: 60-90 minutes per night
(two or three subjects)

Year 8: 90 – 105 minutes per night
(three subjects)

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS: “EXTRAS”

westminsterunder.org.uk/extra-curricular



These clubs include activities such as Fencing, Karate, Bridge, Chess, Indoor Cricket, Climbing, Table Tennis, LAMDA, Clay, Film-Making and Swimming. We know these as “Extras”.

GAMES

westminsterunder.org.uk/extra-curricular/sport



Our main sports are football and cricket, but as the children move through the school they will have the opportunity to compete in other sports such as athletics, basketball, cross-country running, hockey, Fives, rugby, swimming and tennis.

Games takes place twice a week on Vincent Square or at our beautiful Art Deco Sports Centre on the side of Vincent Square.

Pupils also have PE and swimming each week, with swimming taking place for pupils in Years 3-5 at the Queen Mother Sports Centre on Vauxhall Bridge Road.

TRANSPORT

We are developing a School bus service and hope to begin this in September 2025. We will be able to give further information in the Election term.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Pimlico Tube Station, on the Victoria Line, is less than 5 minutes walk away. Victoria and St James's Park, on the District and Circle Lines are approximately a 10 minute walk away.

