



SEDBERGH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Admissions Policy	
Version	2022.1
Effective from	April 2024
Extent of Policy	Sedbergh International Summer School
Policy Owner	Gemma Newton
Review by	March 2025
Frequency of Audit	Annual
Circulation	Parents (by request)
Publication	Website

General

Sedbergh International Summer School (“the Summer School”) is a co-educational, independent residential summer school for international pupils between the ages of 8 and 17.

There are a huge number of summer schools in the UK and we understand that parents may seek additional information when making their choice. We are happy to answer email or website enquiries or speak on the phone to answer any questions. We also welcome parents who wish to visit the summer school location during the year if they wish to see the environment, school and boarding house settings before deciding, or parents of current summer school pupils who wish to visit while the course is running. We also provide a summer school brochure and update the website on a regular basis.

Juniors and Seniors

The Summer School splits the pupils into Juniors (aged 8-12) and Seniors (aged 13-17). Juniors and Seniors have separate bedrooms, bedtimes and English lessons, but can go on activities and spend free time and meals together. On excursions, all pupils stay with their English groups and Seniors only will have free time for shopping – Juniors will stay go to shops in small groups with staff members.

On some occasions, we may admit a Junior-aged student to the Senior course. This is done on a case-by-case basis and in special circumstances (e.g. a Junior will turn 13 during or soon after the

summer course). We may still ask the student to stay in a Junior bedroom if there is not enough space in a Senior bedroom.

English Plus Course

The main focus of the Summer School is its General English summer course of up to 20 hours of English sessions per week. We do not ask for any prior English knowledge to join the course, however it is recommended that students understand some English as this will help them enjoy activities. Prior to arrival, students will be tested to place them in the correct English class. Results are graded by the Director of Studies (DOS) and Assistant DOS only and are used only to help group pupils – they do not inform the end-of-course report. The end-of-course report is written regarding the students' overall effort and progress made during the course. The 2024 English Curriculum and Expected Learning Outcomes documents will be available nearer to the beginning of the course so parents and students can see what they will be learning.

IELTS Preparation Course (not running in 2024)

The Summer School provided its first IELTS preparation course in 2019, which consists of the same amount of English lessons per week as the general English course, as well as the official examination. It is recommended for students aged 15 and above who want to take the IELTS exam in the future and would like some practice, or for students aged 17 who are due to apply for a UK university. The results are valid for 2 years after the results publication date. Registration for the examination is organised by the school and the student needs only to bring their valid photo ID and a signed parental consent form. We do not ask for a specific English ability for this course, and the examination is aimed at providing an accurate measure of the student's current English; there is no pass or fail mark. However, our exam preparation course is aimed at speakers of English with at least an Intermediate level.

LIRA Course

LIRA is a bespoke, transformative, 2-week development programme for 15-17 year olds, running from 09th – 22nd July, combining personal coaching, experiential learning and fun excursions to support pupils as they examine the attributes and develop the necessary skills to become effective leaders of the future. Designed as a progressive curriculum that continuously stretches the pupils as they develop their self-awareness, self-confidence, initiative and resilience whilst improving their critical thinking, communication and teamworking skills, pupils are provided with a safe and supportive environment in which they can nurture these attributes. The programme is taught through a combination of one-to-one coaching, group sessions, practical workshops and excursions, supported by a range of outdoor activities which provide pupils with the opportunity to practice the different behaviours learned throughout the programme.

Social Inclusion

The Summer School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or social background.

Special Needs

The Summer School does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The Summer School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, providing we can offer them many support that they require and cater for any additional needs and that our sites can accommodate them. If the Summer School – which is a short-term course with mostly temporary staff – does not feel it can provide adequate support for a disability or need, we may recommend

a more suitable summer school provider to the family. If we can provide adequate support, every effort will be made to do so and any changes will be discussed in detail with the families involved.

Before arriving on the course, it is essential that the Summer School are made aware of any pupil's disability or need, as from a Safeguarding perspective we must be prepared to accommodate them. Doctors' notes may be required for severe allergies which result in the need for an EpiPen, for example. The issued medical form must be completed and returned to iss@sedberghschool.org before any student can attend the Summer School, and any follow-up questions that arise from the form must be answered in full. Failure to do so may result in refusal to accept a student.

Religious Beliefs

The Summer School welcomes students of all religions and those with no religion. Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School are both Church of England schools with some religious ceremonies. However, the Summer School does not hold religious ceremonies. Students may be asked to visit religious buildings (chapels, cathedrals, churches) during excursions and are expected to be respectful when doing so, despite their own beliefs. They will not be asked to perform any religious acts.

Parents should be aware that there is compulsory Saturday morning school during the summer course. This is because we have city excursions on Wednesdays to avoid heavy traffic and weekend crowds, so Wednesday's English lessons are moved to Saturdays.

Should any students need or wish to make arrangements for prayer, Ramadan or adjust their diets for religious regions, parents are asked to communicate this with the Summer School staff on registration and this will be accommodated as far as possible.

The Summer School's Terms & Conditions

Copies of the Summer School's Terms & Conditions are shared with parents on registration and are available on the Summer School's website.

Complaints

Parents may wish to discuss elements of their child's course with the Course Director in order to make changes (e.g. changing their child's English group or bedroom, providing additional pocket money, etc.), which can be done via phone or email at any time. If the issue cannot be solved in this way, the Summer School's Complaints Procedure is available on our website and can be sent to parents on request.