

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Entry to Year 7 in September 2026

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Please read these FAQs alongside the key dates on our website, Admissions Policy (2026), and the Illustrative Test Questions documents on the Tiffin School website. In case of any conflict between these documents, the Admissions Policy will always take precedence.

General Process Information

Where will I find the Tiffin School Admissions Policy?

Click [here](#) to link to the Admissions Policy 2026. It is also available in the Admissions section on the [Tiffin School website](#). Please read it carefully.

How many students will gain a place in September 2026?

In September 2026, the intake for Year 7 will be 186 students. The students will be spread across six forms of 31 students each.

What do I need to do to get a place in Year 7 at Tiffin School?

Tiffin School is a selective school for boys with places in Year 7 determined by performance in a two stage entrance test. The first step is for parents/guardians to register their child/ward for the Tiffin School entrance tests in the summer term of Year 5. The registration is via our Admissions Portal powered by Applica, where a parent registers and then completes the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for their son. The link to the Admissions Portal is on the Tiffin School website. There is a firm deadline for when the registration window closes. For Year 7 entry in September 2026, the registration is open from midday on Tuesday, 4th June 2025 to 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 3 September 2025. Please read the rest of these FAQs for more information about how the admissions process works. There is no limit to the number of boys who can apply.

What is the Priority Area?

Please read the Admissions Policy for entry in September 2026 for full details. This is only a summary.

All applicants who live within 10km of Tiffin School, measured as a straight line, live in the Priority Area. Since introducing the Priority Area (previously the Inner Priority Area), places have only been offered to those who live within 10km of the School.

Kingston Schools Admissions (part of Kingston local authority) will verify your address and measure the distances using their computerised Geographical Information System (GIS), using the permanent place of residence as supplied by the home local authority as part of the Pan-London Co-ordinated Admissions System. The permanent place of residence must be the address where the boy is living at the time of submission of the common application form to your local authority, on the closing date of 31 October 2025. Evidence that it is your permanent place of residence will be required by your local authority.

Tiffin School does not have access to the system (GIS) used by Kingston Schools Admissions and cannot tell you in advance what the exact distance between your home and Tiffin School will be and whether you are inside or outside the Priority Area. You can use publicly available online tools to estimate the distance, however, the calculations provided by Kingston Schools Admissions will be the ones used by Tiffin School.

If you change address after 31 October 2025, please contact your local authority to discuss this. Please do not contact Tiffin School as we will be unable to help you.

How will I know whether to put Tiffin School on my Common Application Form?

After the Stage One Tests, which are a sifting process, we will let you know whether your son has been invited to the Stage Two Tests. No scores will be given at this time. If he has been invited to the Stage Two Tests, and you wish to apply for a place at Tiffin School, you should put Tiffin School on your Common Application Form as one of your preferences. The Common Application Form is available online from your home local authority.

If your son is NOT invited to the Stage Two Tests and you have named Tiffin School on your common application form, your application to Tiffin School will be ineligible (and you will have wasted one of your choices), but your other choices of school will not be affected.

Does it matter if I put another school ahead of Tiffin School on my order of preference list on the Common Application Form?

Yes, it is very important! The essential rule is to put down the schools according to your true order of preference. Your order of preference is confidential to the Local Authority. No school will know it. If the school you put ahead of Tiffin School can offer you a place, you will be offered that school regardless of how well your son does in the Tiffin School tests, and Tiffin School will not consider you for a place. Similarly, if you put Tiffin School first in order of preference, but we cannot offer your son a place, he will be offered a place at the next school for which he meets the entrance criteria.

When will I receive an offer of a school place?

Your offer of a secondary school place will be sent by your local authority on the evening of Monday 2 March 2026 (National Offer Day). You will also be able to log on to the eAdmissions website www.eadmissions.org.uk to view the outcome on the evening of 2 March 2026. You will also receive a follow-up welcome email from Tiffin School. For further details, check with your local authority. A further round of offers for students at the top of our waitlist is expected at the end of March.

Registering: Tiffin School Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

Completing the SIF is the first step of registering your child for the Tiffin School entrance tests. Your child will only be considered for a place at Tiffin School if he has taken both the Stage One and Stage Two Tests at Tiffin School. The first step of this process is for a parent or guardian to register the student to take the Stage One Tests in English and Maths at Tiffin School. These tests are sometimes referred to as the Tiffin School 11+ tests.

How do I register my son for the Stage One Tests for Tiffin School?

For a place at Tiffin School in Year 7, September 2026, you must visit the [Tiffin School website](#) and click the link to our Admissions Portal powered by Applica. The link will be live from early June 2025 until the SIF deadline. The steps are as below:

- Register for a Parent / Guardian account and verify your email address to set up an account on the Admissions Portal.
- Add your child's details to your account on the Admissions Portal and complete the Supplementary Information Form / Registration Form (SIF). If the SIF is completed and submitted before the SIF deadline, your son is registered to take the Tiffin School Stage One Tests.
- You can add more than one child to your Parent / Guardian account.
- If you have previously registered on our Admissions Portal for a Tiffin School 6th form place or a Year 7 place in a previous year, you will need to use a different email address to set up a new Parent account.
- You will find the link on the Admissions page of the [Tiffin School website](#).

When can I register my son for the Stage One Test?

The registration is open from midday on Tuesday, 4 June 2025, to 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 3 September 2025. You must have submitted your completed application (including all supporting documents) before the deadline for it to be considered. However, those wishing to participate in the Sporting Aptitude Assessment or Music Aptitude Assessment need to have registered by the earlier deadline of 9:00 am on Monday, 7th July 2025.

How do I register twin boys or siblings in the same year group?

You should register each boy separately, under the same parent account on our Admissions Portal. We try to organise the logistics so that both boys have their tests on the same day.

How do I find out if my son is eligible for additional funding for Pupil Premium (PP) or Free School Meals (FSM)?

Special admissions criteria apply to children whose families are eligible for Pupil Premium or Free School Meals funding. You should speak to your son's primary school, who will be able to help you answer this question.

What should I do if my son is outside of the normal age range for admission to Year 7?

Boys joining Year 7 in September 2026 will normally have been born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 inclusive. Applications for boys outside that age group will be considered according to the individual circumstances of each case. These parents/carers should write to the Year 7 Admissions Department at Tiffin School (Year7Admissions@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk) before registering for the tests. Tiffin School may consult with the boy's current primary school and consider the factors outlined in the government guidance for school admissions authorities [here](#) before making a decision. Boys can only sit any part of Tiffin School's Test Procedure once and will not be eligible to sit the test again.

When is the registration deadline?

You will not be able to register for the Stage One Tests after the deadline of 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 3 September 2025. We must also have received all supplementary paperwork (such as evidence of special needs or Pupil Premium/FSM funding eligibility) by this deadline. There is an earlier deadline for those wishing to participate in the Sporting Aptitude Assessment or Music Aptitude Assessment.

How will I know if I have registered online successfully?

You will be able to see confirmation on our Admissions Portal when you submit the registration form. The system will not allow you to submit the form until you have completed all the required fields. If you have any concerns, please contact the Year 7 Admissions Department at Year7Admissions@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk.

What information and documents do I need to register my son for the Stage One tests?

You will need to provide contact details of a parent/guardian as well as your son's details (full name, date of birth, current primary school), including any minor medical issues and special educational needs, and disabilities. We also ask if your son is eligible for funding for Free School Meals and ask you to upload a recent photograph.

The Stage One and Two English and Maths Tests - practicalities

When are the Tests?

The Stage One Tests are scheduled for Thursday, 3 October 2025. Candidates may be asked to sit the tests in either the morning or afternoon slot. Any changes to these dates will be published on the school website. The Stage Two Tests will be in mid-November 2025 for those invited.

What are the Stage One Tests like?

The Stage One Tests are in English and Maths. All answers will be marked on an answer sheet called an OMR that is marked by a computer. The tests are typically between 40 to 60 minutes each with a break in between.

How does my son answer the Stage One Tests on OMR sheets?

For the English paper, your son will choose his answer from some options.

For the maths paper, the answers may be similar to those above, or they may be numerical.

Our OMR formats are currently being reviewed, and we will update this FAQ document in late May 2025 with the final formats.

What are the Stage Two Tests like?

The Stage Two Tests assess English and maths and are similar in length to the Stage One Tests. They require written answers, and some questions on the English paper will require longer written answers. Answers are marked by experienced English and maths teachers.

What topics will the admissions tests cover?

When setting the admissions tests in English and maths, Tiffin School assumes that those sitting the tests will have completed the National Curriculum in [English](#) and [Maths](#) for Year 5 students. Tiffin School does not expect students to have covered topics beyond this.

However, the admissions tests will include some questions in unfamiliar formats that will provide boys with the opportunity to demonstrate their adaptability. The tests are different each year and are aimed at identifying boys who enjoy and are confident in reading, writing, thinking creatively, working with numbers, and problem-solving.

Should I get my son tutored for the Stage One and Stage Two tests?

Tiffin School cannot provide any guidance on this. We ensure that the questions on the tests do not require knowledge beyond that of Year 5 of the National Curriculum in English and maths. Boys who are curious, enjoy reading widely, and enjoy puzzles and problem solving tend to enjoy our tests. Some practice of working independently for an hour at a time may be helpful.

Are there past papers for my son to practice?

Tiffin School does not publish its past papers. We have, however, published some illustrative Stage One and Stage Two questions on our website for you and your son to go through so you can get a feel for the format and level of difficulty of the questions in the Stage One and Stage Two tests.

The papers change significantly from year to year; changes usually include the number of questions on each paper, the time allocated for the different papers, and the types of questions assessed. Every year, completely new papers are written.

There are many past 11+ papers from other selective schools and other sources freely available on the internet. Although some exam paper practice may be helpful, we do not recommend any particular papers or providers.

Do all applicants need to sit the admissions tests at Tiffin School?

Yes. There is no provision to sit the tests at any other location.

When will I know the outcome of the Stage One and Stage Two Tests?

We aim to email you the outcome of the Stage One Tests on or around 15 October 2025. Please wait for the email.

You will not know the result of the Stage Two tests till after National Offer Day in early March 2026. If you have not been offered a place at Tiffin School, you will be sent your results and scores by email soon after National Offer Day.

Do you make allowances for age?

For all the English and maths tests, the raw scores are standardised and age-weighted where appropriate.

If my son is invited to the Stage Two Tests, does that mean that he will have a place at Tiffin?

No, it means that you may keep Tiffin School on your Common Application Form as one of your preferences. All those who take the Stage Two Tests will be ranked on their

'Combined Score'. Those in the Priority Area will be ranked by score above those who live outside of the 10 km Priority Area.

The Combined Score will be comprised of 50% English and 50% maths. The English component will be the Stage Two English score; the maths component will combine the scores from the Stage One and the Stage Two Tests in the ratio 2:3. Only those who are not offered a place will be sent their Combined Score details.

What if my son has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)?

If your son has an EHCP (formerly a 'Statement of Special Educational Needs'), there are separate processes to be followed, and you should speak first with your local authority case worker who administers the process. Your son will still need to take the Stage One and Stage Two entrance tests, and you should still register him through the online SIF form. You will also need to provide us with information so that we can adjust testing arrangements if necessary.

What if my son has special needs or special medical requirements that I would like to be taken into account for the Stage One and Stage Two Tests?

The online registration form asks you to provide details of any special educational needs or requirements your son may have. You must tell us if your son has any disability, such as impaired sight or hearing, which may disadvantage him in the context of an examination.

It is also important that you let us know if your son has been formally identified as dyslexic or as having dyspraxia and receives help at primary school, or has any other condition that we ought to be aware of. You will need to provide appropriate professional evidence and ask your son's primary school to complete an additional form well in advance of the examination and by the deadline of 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 3 September 2025. Letting us know will not disadvantage your child in any way. [Link to further guidance](#).

Can my son bring his medication with him (e.g. adrenaline auto-injector, inhaler, cough sweets, etc) to the tests?

Your son may bring his usual medication with him to the test venue. It is important to provide details of his medical requirements on the registration form so that we can make sure the staff in the testing room are aware. If necessary, he can have his medication on his desk.

What should my son bring with him to the tests?

- An ordinary HB pencil (not propelling)
- a rubber
- a pencil sharpener
- a printout of the information slip showing his individual arrangements, we will email it to you
- a SMALL drink and a nut-free snack (optional)
- a reading book for the breaks (optional)

All information will be in the email we send regarding the test day arrangements.

What should my child wear on the test day?

Your child should wear comfortable clothes. Some boys wear 'home clothes', others wear their school uniform. Coats are advised as you may need to queue.

Why is the collection time approximate?

Our priority is to ensure all students are settled and can do their best in the tests. If this means waiting while a small issue is sorted out, we do. Sometimes breaks can take longer than we plan, depending on how quickly we can ensure all boys have had a chance to go to the toilet.

What if my son is unwell or not fit to take the tests on the day?

Do not send him to take the test. Email Year7admissions@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk on the day, they will then arrange another date.

What if my son becomes ill during the test?

We will make arrangements for him to take time to recover, but the test he is in the middle of will have to be completed. We will phone you to collect him and bring him back on another day to take the other test paper if it has not been started.

What if my son wants to go to the toilet during the test?

We offer lots of opportunities for boys to use the toilets before each test. If his request is urgent, he will be allowed to go to the toilet. Do not give him lots to drink during his break - a small drink is sufficient! The test timing will NOT be adjusted for the time missed by going to the toilet.

What happens while the boys are waiting to start the tests?

When we are waiting for everyone to arrive, boys have puzzles to do and can talk softly to others in the room. They can also read a book if they have one with them. Everyone is offered several opportunities to go to the toilet.

Why can't I arrange to meet my son outside the school gate?

Tiffin School is on a busy road, and there is not a lot of pavement space outside the gates. Please wait in the designated area until your son comes to you. He will be directed to the right area. Do not try to meet him elsewhere. Please follow the instructions given to you by the prefects and staff.

What happens if I am late collecting my son?

Initially, your son will wait at the arranged collection point in the playground, supervised by staff and prefects. If you are very late, we will have moved to the Main Reception area. The office staff will phone you to ensure you are on your way. Please make sure your phone is charged and not on silent.

What if I want my son to make his own way home?

Boys are not allowed to make their own way home unless they can show a member of staff a letter from their parent or guardian that gives permission.

I have lost my instructions

Details will be emailed, so check your email first. If you do not have the information you need, email the Admissions Department at Year7admissions@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk.

Where can I park?

Preferably walk, cycle, or use public transport to avoid traffic congestion. If you do come by car, please use the public car parks in Kingston. PLEASE CHECK IN ADVANCE HOW TO GET TO TIFFIN SCHOOL TO TAKE THE TESTS, ALLOWING SUFFICIENT TIME FOR TRAFFIC, PREFERABLY BY DOING A TRIAL JOURNEY AT RUSH HOUR. OUR POSTCODE IS KT2 6RL. There is no parking at the School. DO NOT park at the school gates to drop off or pick up children.

I have a question that isn't covered here; what should I do?

If your query relates to the entrance tests or any aspect of admission to Tiffin School, you should email Year7admissions@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

The Sporting Aptitude Assessment and Music Aptitude Assessment

In 2024, Tiffin School introduced a new Sporting Aptitude Assessment and a new Music Aptitude Assessment. Up to 10% of places in September 2026 will be awarded to boys who demonstrate aptitude in Sport (5%) or Music (5%). The Aptitude Assessments are tests that aim to identify these boys. Boys will still need to perform to a required level in the Stage One and Two English and maths tests in the Autumn to be eligible for one of these sporting or music aptitude places.

How will achieving a high score in the Sporting or Music Assessments help my son in terms of admission to Tiffin School?

Boys who are ranked (i.e. meet the thresholds required) in the aptitude assessments will have a lower cutoff score applied to them in their Stage One and Two English and maths tests. This means that if a boy is exceptional at Sports or Music (as determined by our assessments), we will apply slightly lower thresholds (compared to other boys) for him to progress to the Stage Two Tests and for being made an offer of a place at Tiffin School.

Does my son have to attend the Sporting Aptitude Assessment and the Music Aptitude Assessment?

No, this is optional. Only up to 10% of places are allocated by this route. Most places will be awarded to applicants who have only sat the English and maths tests. Only register your son for the Sporting Aptitude Assessment and/or the Music Aptitude Assessment if you think he has a particular aptitude for sport or music.

How and when do I register my son for the Sporting Aptitude Assessment and/or Music Aptitude Assessment?

There is no separate registration form. When you register online for the Stage One Tests, simply indicate in the relevant question that you wish your son to also attend the Sporting Aptitude Assessment and/or Music Aptitude Assessment. This will be a specific question on the online supplementary information form.

Please note that those wishing to participate in the Sporting Aptitude Assessment or Music Aptitude Assessment need to have registered by the Early SIF Deadline of 9:00 am on Monday 7th July 2025. After this date, the relevant questions will be removed from the form, and you will only be able to register for the Stage One Tests.

Can a student living outside of our Priority Area apply to take the Sporting and Music Aptitude Tests?

Those living outside our Priority Area can apply but will not be invited to the Sporting or Music Aptitude Tests, as the Tiffin Admissions Policy 2026 states that students need to be living within the 10km Priority Area to be considered for the sporting and music aptitude places.

We will use the address provided to Tiffin School on the SIF to determine eligibility for the aptitude assessments. If, at a later date (after the assessments have taken place), your local council determines that your son lives at a different address, we will cancel any aptitude assessment results for boys determined to be living outside the 10km Priority Area.

We are unable to arrange sporting or music aptitude assessments for students who change address to move into the Priority Area after the early SIF deadline. Please apply through the normal process that applies to most of our places.

When will the Sporting Aptitude Assessment take place?

This is currently scheduled for Tuesday, 15th July and Wednesday, 16th July 2025.

What will the Sporting Aptitude Assessment be like?

The Sporting Aptitude Assessment will be in two parts, both of which will take place on the same day in July 2025. The first part of the Sporting Aptitude Assessment will include an assessment of cardiovascular endurance and will involve running continuously for 8 minutes after a short warm-up session. Candidates who perform well during this first part will be invited to remain for the second part, during which they will have the opportunity to display their aptitude for sport through a variety of further assessments. The activities in the second part include assessments for agility, hand-eye coordination, power, and speed. Candidates who remain for the second part will be awarded a score for each of the five elements of the aptitude assessment. Please note that for more than half of the sporting aptitude applicants, they will be going home after the endurance run. Please explain this to your son so that he is not upset on the day. Even if your son is not successful in the Sporting Aptitude Assessment, we look forward to seeing him do his best at the English and maths tests in October.

How will I be told whether my son has been invited to remain for the second part of the Sporting Aptitude Assessment?

Parents will be given further details nearer the time of the assessment. Parents will be requested to stay close to Tiffin School after they have dropped off their son for the first part and wait for an email with the result of the first part. Parents will then either collect their son after the first part (approximately one hour long) or return later after the second part.

How can my son prepare for the Sporting Aptitude Assessment?

The Sporting Aptitude Assessment is not sport specific. No specific preparation, skills, or coaching is required to participate. Applicants are encouraged to participate in sport and exercise in whatever contexts they can. You may want to check if your son can run continuously for 8 minutes (part one of the sporting aptitude assessment) before applying for the Sporting Aptitude Assessment.

When will the Music Aptitude Assessment take place?

The first part, for all candidates, will take place on Wednesday, 9th July 2025. The second part, for those invited back, will take place on Friday, 11th July 2025.

What will the Music Aptitude Assessment be like?

During the first part of the Music Aptitude Assessment, applicants complete a written assessment. Applicants listen to a range of pitches, melodies, rhythms, and textures and identify the differences between them. Their answers are recorded on an answer sheet with a multiple-choice format.

Candidates who perform well during this first part will be invited for the second part, which will be held on a different day. During the second part of the music aptitude assessment, applicants meet their examiner 1-1 and will hear a number of rhythmic and melodic patterns, each played twice by the examiner. Immediately after hearing, the applicant is requested to clap or sing the pattern they have heard. This section of the assessment will last for approximately 10 minutes.

How can my son prepare for the Music Aptitude Assessment?

The Music Aptitude Assessment does not require knowledge of any musical instrument or type of music. No specific preparation, skills, or coaching is required to participate.

How will I be told whether my son has been invited to remain for the second part of the Music Aptitude Assessment?

Parents will receive an email detailing the outcome of the first part, and inviting successful applicants to the second part of the music assessment. You should receive the email on the morning of Thursday, 10th July.

Will you make allowances for age in the Sports and Music Aptitude Assessments?

The scores or thresholds will be age-weighted where a clear link between age and performance is identified.

Will you make allowances in the Sports and Music Aptitude Assessments for boys with special needs or special medical requirements?

Yes, where appropriate. The supplementary information form asks for details of any special educational needs and/or disabilities your son may have. Many of the reasonable adjustments made for the English and maths tests will not be appropriate for the Sporting and Music Aptitude Assessments; for instance, we will not give students extra time in these Assessments. Parents are asked to be explicit about any needs or requirements that are relevant to the Sporting or Music Aptitude Assessments when answering these questions in the supplementary information form.

We are disheartened that he has not been invited to Part Two of the Sporting or Music Aptitude assessment. What can I do?

Please do not be disheartened if your son is not invited to Part Two of the Aptitude Assessments, as only up to 10% of places are allocated based on the Sporting and Music Aptitude Assessments. Your son should aim to do his best in the Stage One and Stage Two English and maths Tests to be held in Autumn 2026, as most of the places are offered based on these test scores.

Tiffin School expects all its students to commit to high standards of endeavour in both academic studies and sport and music, regardless of their relative ability. Tiffin students are all expected to represent the school when chosen to do so in sport, music, and many other areas. Performance in the aptitude assessments and entrance tests will not alter this expectation or impact team selection decisions, and similarly, there will be no greater or lesser expectation placed on boys who have received a place based on Sporting or Music Aptitude.

What happens if my son is ill or injured on the day of the Sporting or Music Aptitude Assessments?

You should not bring your son to the assessment if he is unwell on the day. We are not able to reschedule the Sporting or Music Aptitude Assessments. Your son can take the Stage One Tests in October and apply through the regular process.

What if my son gets injured during the Sporting Aptitude assessment?

Tiffin School staff spend a great amount of time and effort in planning and risk assessing the activities in the sporting aptitude assessment. The assessment activities are managed and supervised by experienced Tiffin School teachers and an external independent adjudicator. You will understand that physical exercise, by its very nature, carries with it certain inherent risks, including but not limited to physical injury, strain, discomfort, and even the possibility of serious injury. By sending your son for the Sporting Aptitude Assessment, you are agreeing to your son voluntarily participating in the Sporting Aptitude Assessment organised by Tiffin School. Parents are required to assume all risks and responsibility for any resulting injuries or other medical incidents.

If your son is injured during the assessment and is therefore not able to complete the Sporting Aptitude Assessment, we will try our best to reschedule the Assessment, however, this may not always be possible. Your son should take the Stage One Tests in October and apply through the regular process.

What are the expectations for students who get a place based on Sporting Aptitude or Music Aptitude?

Tiffin expects all its students to commit to high standards of endeavour in both academic studies and sport and music, regardless of their relative ability. Tiffin students are all expected to represent the school when chosen to do so in sport, music, and many other areas. Performance in the aptitude assessments and entrance tests will not alter this expectation or impact team selection decisions, and similarly, there will be no greater

expectation placed on boys who have received a place based on Sporting or Music Aptitude.

Can I send copies of my son's sporting and/or music achievements to be considered as part of the Sporting or Music Aptitude Tests?

No! Please do not send achievement certificates, photos of cups won, or reports from sporting and music associations, as these will not be considered as part of any assessment.

Tiffin School reserves the right to update or amend the Frequently Asked Questions in line with government guidelines. We encourage parents to check the school website for updates about the entrance tests.