



Guidance for entry at 13+

Forest School will offer a small number of fee-paying places for new entrants into Year 9 who meet the selection criteria for September 2025 entry.

Requirements for Entry in September 2025

Candidates should have reached the age of 13 before 1 September 2025.

Applications must be received by midday Monday 20 January 2025.

Parents are required to complete the online registration form via our website www.forest.org.uk and submit a non-returnable registration fee of £150 (overseas registrations are £200).

Selection Criteria

- Examination
- Interview – those candidates who perform strongly in the exam will be invited for interview.
- Reference – a written, confidential report from the candidate's current school

Interview

The interview will allow us to conduct a more holistic assessment of the pupil and to understand whether Forest would be the appropriate setting for them to grow and thrive. The interview will focus on personal development and will be conducted by a senior member of Forest staff lasting no more than 25 minutes.

Siblings

The competitive entry procedure to the School means that each child is assessed on his or her individual merits, relative to all other candidates applying in that particular year.

Whilst we appreciate the desire to keep families together, parents should be aware that there is therefore no guarantee or expectation that a sibling will be offered a place.



Key dates for 13+ entry September 2025

Open Morning

Saturday 21 September 2024

Closing Date for Registration

(Midday) Monday 20 January 2025

13+ Entrance Exam

Thursday 30 January 2025

13+ Fee-Paying Interviews

Monday 10 February 2025

Offers Emailed

Monday 24 February 2025

Deadline for Acceptance of Offer

(Midday) Monday 10 March 2025

Entrance Examination

Pupils applying for a place at Forest will be invited to an entrance exam on-site at Forest for approximately 2 hours and will take the form of digital and written tests.

We will provide a desktop computer for the applicant to access the digital test. They will also be supplied with scrap paper for working out and notes.

Part One (1 hour 30 minutes)

- Mathematics
- Non-Verbal reasoning
- Verbal reasoning
- English
- Puzzles and Problem-Solving
- Creative Comprehension

Mathematics (non-calculator - 20 minutes).

The maths test has two sections. The first section tests applicants' understanding of concepts from the National Curriculum, while the second section has more playful 'Maths Challenge Style' questions that test their ability to reason, problem solve with curriculum concepts, and adapt to unexpected situations.

Non-Verbal Reasoning (10 minutes).

Assesses the applicants' ability to identify patterns and think logically. This section will cover:

- Analysing visual information to problem solve.
- Identifying and continuing patterns.
- Visualising changes in 2D and 3D space.

Verbal Reasoning (10 minutes).

This section assesses applicants' ability to reason and solve problems with written information. This section will cover:

- Advanced vocabulary and use of language.
- Pattern spotting & making connections to identify rules.
- Thinking critically and using logic to make high-level deductions.

English (15 minutes).

The test assesses applicants' comprehension of a non-fiction text. It aligns with the National Curriculum and focuses on skills such as retrieval, drawing inferences, and understanding the meaning of words in context. Candidates should not be thrown by vocabulary they do not know as one of the things we are assessing is the ability to infer meaning from context.



Familiarisation material for Part One and a sample paper for Part Two of the entrance assessment can be found on our website: www.forest.org.uk/admissions-overview-13-entry/

The Maths, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Verbal Reasoning sections of the assessment are *adaptive*. This means that questions will get harder or easier as a child moves through the assessment. This ensures that each question is at the right level of difficulty for each student.

Please note, students will not be able to skip or go back to any questions. They will also be unable to change any of their answers.

Puzzles and Problem-Solving (15 minutes).

This section tests the applicants' ability to use words and numbers to solve multi-step problems. They will be provided with interactive resources to aid them during their problem-solving. The skills assessed include strategy, use of resources, trial and error and logical thinking.

Creative Comprehension (20 minutes).

The applicant will need to use information from a variety of different sources to answer questions about a bespoke and stimulating context. The information will be given to them in a range of engaging formats so no prior knowledge is needed, and they may have to look at several different sources at the same time to answer questions. The skills assessed include analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

Part Two (30 minutes)

A written, paper-based, assessment of written English.

There will be one question that will allow candidates the opportunity to write creatively in a short piece of non-fiction. Here, we are looking for original and accurate writing.

Candidates who do well write in an imaginative and engaging manner.

The English, Puzzles and Problem-Solving and Creative Comprehension sections are *non-adaptive*. This means that all students will see the same questions, although some will progress further through the questions than others.

Please note, students will have the ability to move backwards and forwards through questions, and will be able to change their answers.



FAQS

What about candidates eligible for extra time?

Candidates eligible for extra time will be asked to indicate their entitlement at the point of application to Forest School. This additional time will automatically be added to the timer visible on their screen for each section of their assessment.

Why is the entry assessment going to be online? Will this not put candidates not used to typing at a disadvantage? What type of device will candidates use?

Many secondary schools are now running online assessments, which is becoming common practice. There is no extended typing exercise required so typing ability will not impact on results. Putting the assessment online significantly reduces the risk of human error, leading to results we can trust.

The entry assessment can be taken on many different types of devices including iPads, PCs, laptops, and chrome books. The device used will not make any difference to a candidate's performance. Forest will provide a desktop computer on the day to the candidates. Please ensure that your child is comfortable using a desktop computer, including familiarity with a mouse and keyboard.

My child is an overseas applicant. Where will they take the assessment?

Your child is welcome to travel to sit the assessment at our school. If you would prefer your child to sit the assessment overseas, please contact our Admissions team to find out how to proceed. Candidates who are living overseas may take the assessment under exam conditions at their current school or at a test centre.

How much preparation does my child have to do for the entry assessment?

Candidates should look at the familiarisation materials provided on our website. Beyond that, our assessments will test knowledge based on the National Curriculum and candidates will need to know how to read an extended comprehension passage to answer questions on it.

These are all skills that your child will be developing in school, so they will not need any special tuition or intensive practice. Instead, they are encouraged to read widely and engage in activities that inspire curiosity for the wider world.

What is the purpose of this style of assessment?

The style of assessment is designed to discourage excessive tutoring and instead find a way to measure children's genuine intellectual curiosity, passion, and enjoyment for learning.

The new assessment aims to go beyond testing cognitive ability by seeking to discover a child's potential in creative and critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and problem-solving. With this forward-thinking approach, we aim to create a fair and holistic assessment process that engages a wide range of learners and is more reflective of the values and education that Forest so cherishes.

