

Hillview School – F.A.Q

What is Hillview's catchment area?

Places are offered by distance and in the last few years, catchment has ranged from 7 to 16 miles. Most people who put Hillview as their first choice are offered a place – sometimes that means waiting until second round offers or going through the appeals process. For more information see Hillview Website: Admissions.

What if my child is the only one coming from her primary school?

Students can be placed in classes with people they know from different schools or who are coming from similar geographical areas and all students are supported through the buddy and mentor system.

My child is not particularly keen on the Performing or Visual Arts – is this the school for them?

Yes! Many of our students pick Hillview purely for the academic rigour and ethos – there is no requirement to be involved in Performing or Visual Arts subjects outside the curriculum. That said, we feel that the enjoyment, creativity and confidence they gain from these lessons has a positive impact on all our students.

Do you have scholarship places?

We offer 10% of places a year to students who show an aptitude for Dance, Drama, Music or Visual Arts.

Students need to apply for one discipline and places are decided via an informal, independently adjudicated workshop in October. Application forms are available on the Hillview Website:

Admissions – **the deadline for applications for admission in September 2026 is Monday 6 October 2025, with auditions taking place on Friday 10 October 2025.**

How many students are there at Hillview?

There are approximately 1,550 students in the school and 236 places in Year 7.

How many students are there in each class?

Class sizes are approximately 29/30. Mentor (registration) Groups have approximately 27/28 students.

Do you stream students?

We avoid wholesale streaming of students as this approach is very rigid and risks forcing students onto a path that may prove unsuitable. We provide mixed ability teaching for Foundation subjects. We do however set in Maths and English - we find that setting in these subjects allows us to be very precise about ensuring pace and challenge is appropriate.

Which GCSE subjects are students required to take?

All students will take GCSEs in English Language and Literature, Maths and Science (Triple or Combined). Students then select four (or three if taking Triple Science) other optional subjects and we require that **one** of these is a Humanities subject *or* a Language. Where appropriate, we encourage students to select both.

How good are Hillview examination results?

We are very proud of the academic achievements of our students. More detailed information is available on our school website.

What SEN support is available?

SEN support varies depending on the needs of the child. There is generally less out of class intervention at secondary school as encouraging independence is key, but a wide range of support is available. If your child is offered a place at Hillview, we work closely with the primary school and parents to ensure we understand their needs and can meet them.