



THE
DOON
SCHOOL

Prospective Parents

A guide to what we are looking for from our candidates and how the admissions process works.



THE
DOON
SCHOOL

Our Mission

- To attract and develop **exceptional boys** and teachers
- from **all backgrounds**
- to serve a **meritocratic** India.



What we are looking for in prospective pupils:

- General proficiency in English and Mathematics.
- Curiosity, enthusiasm and a desire to learn.
- Great contribution to a classroom, team, house and society.
- A willingness to question what they know and look beyond themselves.



What we are NOT looking for:

- Trained parrots who have been at the receiving end of tutors to help them 'crack' the admissions test and interviews.
- All the practice you need is online and parents should invest their time rather than their money to help their child prepare for admission.
- If you think your child needs a tutor to get into The Doon School then it indicates you might like to consider choosing another school.



Admissions timeline:

- September 24th 2017 is testing day at 5 centers
- Interviews are in the last week of October and first week of November.
- Offers will be made in the third week of November.
- Financial aid applications will be reviewed in early December.



Admissions tests:

- English, Mathematics, Reasoning & Case Study. No Hindi test. A Hindi placement test will be done on arrival to ascertain the level of proficiency in the language.
- We are looking for evidence of how boys think and whether they are able to express their thoughts clearly.
- Opportunities will be provided for boys to show their understanding and creativity and whether they can apply what they know to new situations.



English

- Are they able to read and follow instructions?
- Can they choose appropriate task based language?
- Can they express themselves clearly?
- Do they have a sense of logic, cause and effect, willingness to take a risk, some spark of creativity?
- Are they able to engage with what they read?



Preparation:

- For Class 7
 - [BBC Bitesize website for KS2](#)
 - Cambridge Examinations (International) [Primary Checkpoint](#)
- For Class 8
 - [BBC Bitesize website for KS3](#)
 - Cambridge Examinations (International) [Checkpoint and Secondary 1](#)

Preparation : BBC Bitesize website for KS2

The image shows a screenshot of the BBC Bitesize website for Key Stage 2 (KS2). The page has a blue background with white bubbles. At the top left, there is a dark blue banner with the text "KS2 Bitesize" in white. Below this, on the left side, is a vertical navigation menu with icons and text: a home icon for "Home", a book icon for "English", a calculator icon for "Maths", and a beaker icon for "Science". Below the menu is the text "More Bitesize" and the BBC logo. The main content area features three large, rounded square buttons: a green one for "English" with a cartoon fish holding a book, an orange one for "Maths" with a cartoon fish holding a calculator, and a purple one for "Science" with a cartoon fish holding a beaker. Below these buttons is a yellow section titled "Find an activity here" containing five activity cards: "Spelling" (with a picture of a woman and a speech bubble saying "Foxes"), "Microorganisms" (with a picture of a globe and the text "Miles"), "Angles" (with a diagram of a triangle showing angles of 60, 180, and 30 degrees), "Story Planning" (with the text "Trapped!"), and "Light" (with a picture of a woman and the text "S/a"). At the bottom, there are two more yellow sections: "Games" and "BBC Links", with the "BBC Links" section containing a link for "KS3 Bitesize".

Preparation: BBC Bitesize website for KS2

The screenshot shows the BBC Bitesize website interface for KS2 English Writing. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'English', 'Maths', and 'Science'. The main content area is titled 'Writing' and includes a breadcrumb trail 'Home > English > Writing'. Below this, there is a definition of writing and three sections: 'Argument', 'Explanation', and 'Instructions'. Each section has a representative image and a set of four interactive buttons: 'Play', 'Read', 'Watch', and 'Quiz'.

KS2 Bitesize

Home > English > Writing

Writing

Writing is an important part of communicating with others. You need to write in a way your reader can easily understand what you are trying to tell them.

Argument

Play Read Watch Quiz

Explanation

Play Read Quiz

Instructions

Play Read Watch Quiz

Preparation: BBC Bitesize website for KS2

The screenshot shows the BBC Bitesize website interface for KS2. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'English', 'Maths', and 'Science'. The main content area is titled 'What's needed?' and explains that many instructions involve putting things together, such as a recipe or a model. Below the text is an illustration of a table assembly project with labels: 'Table top', 'Table legs', 'Screws', and 'Screwdriver'. The page also features a breadcrumb trail 'Home > English > Writing > Instructions', a page number 'Page: 1 2 3 4 5', and 'Previous' and 'Next' navigation buttons.

KS2 Bitesize

Home > English > Writing > Instructions

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 Previous Next

What's needed?

Print

Many instructions involve putting things together, for example, a recipe has ingredients and a model has lots of parts. It's useful to list all the things the reader will need or require, including any tools, at the start of the instructions.

Table top

Table legs

Screws

Screwdriver



Mathematics:

- Do they understand numbers, angles, proportion and shape?
- Can they turn a visual representation into words?
- Can they spot patterns and make connections?
- Can they represent and interpret data?

Preparation: BBC Bitesize website for KS2

The screenshot shows the BBC Bitesize website interface for KS2. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'English', 'Maths', and 'Science'. The main content area is titled 'Adding up angles' and includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Maths > Shape, space & measures > Angles'. The page number is 1 of 6. A list of bullet points explains that the three angles in a triangle sum to 180 degrees and that all angles at a point sum to 360 degrees. Three diagrams illustrate these concepts: a triangle with angles 60, 60, and 60 degrees; a triangle with angles 65, 45, and 70 degrees; and two intersecting lines forming four angles of 110, 70, 70, and 110 degrees.

KS2 Bitesize

Home > Maths > Shape, space & measures > Angles

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Previous Next

Adding up angles Print

- The three angles inside a triangle always add up to **180°**. This is shown by **a** and **b** in the example.
- All angles at a point always add up to **360°**. This is shown by **c** in the example.

a **b** **c**

Preparation: BBC Bitesize website for KS2



The image shows a screenshot of the BBC Bitesize website for KS2. The page is titled "KS2 Bitesize" and features a navigation menu on the left with icons for Home, English, Maths, and Science. The main content area is titled "Angles - Quiz" and contains three questions. The first question asks for the number of degrees in one full turn, with options 180, 90, and 360. The second question asks for the direction you are facing after turning 90 degrees clockwise from north, with options East, South, and West. The third question asks for the letter that looks like the capital letter M rotated 180 degrees, with options E, W, and M. The correct answers are 360, East, and W.

KS2 Bitesize

Home > Maths > Shape, space & measures > Angles

Angles - Quiz

- How many degrees are there in one full turn?
 180
 90
 360
- Imagine you're facing north. You turn clockwise through 90 degrees. Which direction are you facing now?
 East
 South
 West
- Imagine the capital letter M. What letter does it look like when it's rotated 180 degrees?
 E
 W
 M



Reasoning and Case Study

- Can they read an article and understand the order of events?
- Can they distinguish fact from opinion and judgment?
- Can they recognise the roles and responsibilities of people involved?
- Can they justify their own view?
- Do they have a sense of ethics and empathy?



P is for Plagiarism: Kolkata Schools Warn Students

KOLKATA: If you have to teach them well, you better start young. Taking this oft-repeated advice to heart, a number of schools in the city have started to instruct pupils about what constitutes plagiarism, and are also taking steps to guard against this malpractice by installing anti-plagiarism software.

Anti-plagiarism steps have, so far, been taken mostly at institutes of higher learning, most notably by the IITs and IIMs, where the copy-pasting of PhD theses has been a vexed issue. Now that schoolkids are also becoming increasingly dependent on the internet for homework or project work, the problem has started early.

At The Heritage School, students have strictly been asked to adhere to the rules. "We have told them that they should read the relevant information two or three times and then express the idea in their own words," said principal Seema Sapru. "The students have been asked to try to integrate information from several sentences into one sentence in their own words. If information is taken from the public domain, such as websites, it has to be recorded — including the date on which each website has been accessed. URLs should be mentioned. The same rules are to be followed for copying passages from CD-ROMs, DVDs, emails and journals."

What happens if a student is suspected to have been dishonest? The final decision is to be taken by the principal. "The matter will be investigated and the student given a chance to reply to the accusations. If found guilty, parents will be informed and appropriate action taken. If a student plagiarises, s/he will be suitably penalised for the entire assignment," the principal said. The school has subscribed to the Turnitin software to check for plagiarism.



Reasoning and Case Study

Examples of what we might ask students to think about:

- **Plagiarism is the act of taking another person's work and claiming it as your own.** What is wrong with doing this? What harm can be caused by plagiarising? Is copying someone's answer and submitting it different from copying a INR 2000 note and using it?
- **Schools are now asking students to submit their work electronically so that it can be checked against a global database of work.** Is this fair? Do you think that all students have the same understanding of what is right and wrong? Where do our ideas of what is right and wrong come from?
- **Students in schools and universities are being caught cheating, copying and plagiarising.** What do you think is a suitable consequence for someone found to be plagiarising in school? Under what circumstances should a student should be asked to leave a school for plagiarism? What about an employee at work? Is it something that a person should lose their job over? Are there some people who need to be more honest than others because of their jobs?



THE
DOON
SCHOOL

Supporting Documentation

- School reports
- Representational certificates & evidence



School Reports: what to look for

- Schools report in all sorts of ways.
- Evidence of student engagement in the classroom and of consistent practice and improvement.
- Evidence of having an impact at school.
- Correspondence between the scores in our tests and their English and Maths scores in school.
- STAs and ECAs come through the reports.



Representational certificates

- Evidence of competing at district, state or national level.
- We are not looking for piles of participation certificates and models that boys made with their robotics activity.



Group Discussion

- A conversation with a group of 4 boys.
- Looking for boys who can listen to others, share an opinion and find out what others think i.e. teamwork
- Demonstrate critical reasoning.
- Recognition of divergent views.
- Prepared to make a guess and apply what they know to something unfamiliar.
- Not afraid of being wrong or to ask questions



What we asked last year:

- What they had learned from what they have read.
- Why do we read?
- To read out loud and talk about the material. How does it relate to an 11 year old boy in India?
- To make an estimate of some area or volume of an object in the room.



What we asked last year:

- To draw a map of the world or India.
- To stop before they had finished and to make improvements to another child's work.
- Comment on what the other child had done well and what they had done to improve it.
- What they enjoy doing with their time.



Allocating a place:

- A weighting of 70% will be allocated to the admissions tests and the school reports.
- A weighting of 30% will be allocated to the group discussion.
- Cut-offs will be fixed after re-marking those on the boundary.
- The final result will be a pass to the interview and an offer of a place.
- We will not be publishing the results because a range of 2% may have 30 boys in it.
- Hence the school will not be negotiating with 30 sets of parents who believe that their son deserves a place more than others.



What we are looking for in parents

- We are looking for parents who are going to make good partners in their son's educational journey; we are going to be in this together for six years.
- We are interested in parents who want their sons to have a complete educational experience; this is not like being at home, it is not a day school and we are not providing an à la carte service where you choose what you think is best.



What we are looking for in parents

- To help you decide whether this school might be a good fit we like to ask these questions that we have borrowed from Tony Little's book *An Intelligent Persons Guide to Education*. Tony Little was the head of Eton College from 2002 to 2015.
- If you answer yes to any of the first five then maybe we are not the school for you. If you can answer yes to all of the second five then we are likely to have a much easier working relationship.



What we are looking for in parents:

- Do you believe your child is almost perfect?
- Do you like rules and regulations until your child breaks them?
- Are you happy gossiping about the school to anyone, but reluctant to talk to the head?
- Do you go off the deep end when someone criticises your child?
- Are you an expert because you went to school?



What we are looking for in parents:

- Do you believe your child is almost perfect?
- Do you like rules and regulations until your child breaks them?
- Are you happy gossiping about the school to anyone, but reluctant to talk to the head?
- Do you go off the deep end when someone criticises your child?
- Are you an expert because you went to school?



What we are looking for in parents:

- Do you believe your child is almost perfect?
- Do you like rules and regulations until your child breaks them?
- Are you happy gossiping about the school to anyone, but reluctant to talk to the head?
- Do you go off the deep end when someone criticises your child?
- Are you an expert because you went to school?



What we are looking for in parents:

- Are you prepared to work with the school and pull your weight?
- Can you strike a balance between being a Velcro parent and a ghost?
- Can you support your child and support the school through difficult times?
- Can you suppress your frustrated ambitions and let your child be himself?
- Will you deflect rumour and find out the facts from the school?