

Private School Parent Interview Question Checklist

◆ About Your Child

- Tell us about your child.
- What three words would you use to describe your child?
- What are your child's greatest strengths?
- What are their areas for growth or challenge?
- How does your child approach learning?
- How does your child handle frustration or failure?
- How does your child interact with peers and adults?
- Is your child more of a leader or a team player?
- What motivates your child?
- How does your child respond to structure and expectations?
- In what type of classroom or environment does your child thrive?
- What has been your child's favorite school experience so far?
- Has your child had any behavioral or social challenges?
- Has your child ever received extra support (tutoring, therapy, etc.)?

◆ About Your Family

- What values are most important to your family?
- How does your family spend time together?
- How do you support your child's education at home?
- What are your expectations for your child's education?
- How do you handle discipline at home?
- How do you approach screen time, homework, and academic pressure?
- Do you have other children? What schools do they attend?
- What does success look like to your family?
- How do you handle conflict or difficult situations as a family?
- How involved do you plan to be in the school community?

◆ About Your Parenting Style

- How would you describe your parenting approach?
- How do you support your child's independence?
- How do you encourage curiosity or creativity at home?
- How do you handle it when your child is disappointed or doesn't succeed?
- Tell us about a moment when you felt proud as a parent.
- Tell us about a moment when parenting felt hard—how did you respond?

Private School Parent Interview Question Checklist

◆ About Your Interest in the School

- Why are you applying to this school?
- What makes our school a good fit for your child?
- What stood out to you when researching our school?
- What are you hoping your child gains from our community?
- Are you applying to other schools? If so, which ones—and how are you deciding?
- What questions do you still have about our school?

◆ About Your Child's School History (for older applicants or transfers)

- What has your child's school experience been like so far?
- Why are you considering a change?
- What has worked well at your current/previous school?
- What are you looking for in a new learning environment?

◆ Situational / Open-Ended

- Tell us about a time your child had to solve a problem on their own.
- Describe a recent conflict with your child and how it was resolved.
- What's something your child has taught you?
- What makes your child different from their peers?
- Describe a moment when your child showed leadership or empathy.
- Tell us about a time when your child took a risk or tried something new.

◆ For Boarding School Applicants (optional section)

- Has your child ever been away from home before?
- How does your child handle being in unfamiliar environments?
- How does your child manage their daily routine?
- What are your expectations for residential life?
- How do you plan to support your child while they live away from home?

Tips: Always Expect Follow-Up Questions

Admissions staff often ask follow-up questions to better understand your values, test consistency, and hear real examples. Be ready to go deeper.

- Use real examples to support your answers and show thoughtful reflection.
- Be specific, not perfect. Authenticity matters more than polish.
- Pause if needed. Taking a moment shows thoughtfulness.
- Know your child. Speak honestly about their strengths, growth, and personality.

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◆ Questions You Can Ask the School

Admissions & Process:

- How will my child be evaluated?
- What qualities are you looking for in students and families?

Academics:

- What are the school's academic requirements?
- How is course placement determined?
- What support is available if a student struggles?
- How are grades and feedback communicated to parents?
- When does high school/college counseling begin?

School Life & Student Support:

- How are new students integrated into school life?
- Who supports students socially and emotionally?
- What is your approach to discipline?
- How much homework is given each night?
- What is your philosophy on balancing academic and social growth?
- How do you help students develop communication skills?

Extracurriculars & Enrichment:

- What unique programs or enrichment opportunities are available?
- How do you encourage intellectual curiosity and creativity?
- What sports, clubs, and leadership opportunities exist?
- How do you support students interested in arts, athletics, or STEM competitions?

Parent-School Communication:

- How do you keep parents informed throughout the year?
- Who should we contact if we have concerns?
- What's the role of the advisor or homeroom teacher?
- How are parents involved in school life and events?

Graduation & Outcomes:

- Where do your graduates go after leaving this school?
- How do you support families through the high school or college placement process?

Private School Student Interview Question Checklist

Early Childhood & Kindergarten (Ages 4–6)

These interviews focus on readiness, basic knowledge, and social behavior.

Personal & Family Basics

- Can you tell me your full name?
- How old are you? When is your birthday?
- What are your parents' names?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters?
- What's your address or phone number?

Behavior & Readiness

- Can you follow directions (e.g., stack blocks, sort colors)?
- What shapes, letters, or numbers do you know?
- What do you like to do at school?
- What's your favorite color, animal, or toy?
- Can you draw a picture or describe what you drew?

Social Development

- Who is your best friend?
- What games do you like to play?
- What do you do when you're upset or frustrated?
- Do you like working by yourself or with friends?

Parent-Child Interaction

- What do you like to do with your mommy or daddy?
- What do your parents do for work?
- What did you do last weekend?

Academic Questions

- Can you count to 10 (or 20)?
- What number comes after 6? Before 4?
- 2 plus 3 is?
- Can you name these shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle)?
- Can you spell "BIG"
- Can you write a word with three letters?
- Can you write your name?

Private School Student Interview Question Checklist

Elementary School (Grades 1–5)

Interviews here assess early academic curiosity, basic self-reflection, and school readiness.

General & Personal

- Tell me about yourself.
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What's your favorite book or movie?
- What makes you happy? What makes you frustrated?

Academic

- What subject do you like the most and why?
- What's a subject you find hard?
- Tell me about a game or project you enjoyed.
- How do you stay organized with homework?

Social & Emotional

- Who is your best friend? Why?
- Have you ever had a conflict with a friend? What did you do?
- What do you do when something is hard at school?

Aspirations & School Fit

- Why do you want to come to this school?
- What are you excited to learn here?
- What do you hope your new teacher will be like?
- Do you have any questions for me?

Private School Student Interview Question Checklist

Middle School (Grades 6–8)

Focus shifts to self-awareness, learning habits, and growing independence.

Personality & Reflection

- How would your friends describe you?
- What are you most proud of?
- What's something unique about you?
- What do you want to get better at?

Academic

- What's your favorite subject and why?
- What's a recent school challenge you've faced?
- How do you approach homework or time management?
- Describe your ideal school day.

Social & Leadership

- Tell me about a group project you worked on.
- Have you had to solve a conflict with a friend or teammate?
- What do you like to do after school?

Future Fit

- What do you hope to accomplish at this school?
- What kind of community are you looking for?
- Why did you choose to apply here?

Private School Student Interview Question Checklist

High School (Grades 9–12)

High school interviews focus on academic motivation, critical thinking, goals, and contribution to community.

Personal & Character

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What do you do for fun outside of school?
- Who inspires you and why?

Academic & Extracurricular

- What is your favorite class and why?
- What class do you find the hardest, and how do you manage?
- What are your academic goals for high school?
- What extracurricular activities are most important to you?

Problem Solving & Critical Thinking

- Tell me about a time you faced a challenge. What did you learn?
- What would you do if you saw someone being treated unfairly?
- How do you handle group projects or team disagreements?
- What would you change about your current school?

Aspirations & Fit

- Why do you want to attend this school?
- What can you contribute to our school community?
- What do you hope to gain from this experience?
- Do you have any questions about our programs or community?