

ADMISSION POLICY FOR ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2025



Bishop Challoner
Catholic Secondary School

Introduction

Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and instrument of government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

The governing body is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The governing body has set its admission number at 180 pupils to year 7 in the school year which begins in September 2025.

The governing body will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's Published Admissions Number ("PAN").

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan are dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

Oversubscription Criteria

At any time where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.

1. Baptised Catholic looked after and previously looked after children. (see notes 2&3)
2. Baptised Catholic children who attend a feeder Catholic primary school, St. Anne's and St. Bede's in Basingstoke and St. John the Baptist in Andover. (see notes 3&4)
3. Baptised Catholic children who are resident in the North West Hampshire Pastoral Area, comprising parishes of St. Joseph's (Basingstoke), St. Bede's (Basingstoke), Holy Ghost (Basingstoke), St. Michael's (Tadley), The Sacred Heart (Hook) and St. John the Baptist (Andover) (see notes 3 & 12)
4. Other baptised Catholic children. (see note 3)
5. Other looked after and previously looked after children. (see note 2)
6. Catholic Catechumens. (see note 5)
7. Members of an Eastern Christian Church. (see note 6)
8. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion. (see note 7)
9. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader. (see note 8)
10. Any other children.

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Within each of the Over Subscription Criteria's listed above, the following sub categories will be applied where applicable.

- a) Siblings - The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each Over Subscription Criteria (see note 9).
- b) Children of members of staff employed by the Governing Body who will have been in post for at least two years prior to the child being admitted to the school will increase the priority of an application within each Over Subscription Criteria. (see note 10).

All applications are ranked by distance within each Over Subscription Criteria and Sub Category.

- c) Distances are calculated using Hampshire County Councils geographical mapping system on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the ordnance survey point of the child's home address (including the community entrance to flats) and the ordnance survey point of the main entrance of the school. In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

Application Procedures and Timetable

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round, you must complete a Common Application Form available from the local authority in which you live. You are also requested to complete the **Supplementary Information Form** attached to this policy if you wish to apply under oversubscription criteria 1 to 4 or 6 to 9. The Supplementary Information Form should be returned to the Admissions Clerk at Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School by 31 October 2024.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 3 March 2025 or the next working day, by Hampshire County Council on our behalf. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

If you do not provide the information required in the SIF and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child will not be placed in criteria 1 to 4 or 6 to 9, and this is likely to affect your child's chance of being offered a place.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 31st October 2024.

For in-year applications you must complete an in-year application via Hampshire County Council and submit the Supplementary Information Form to Admissions Clerk at Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School.

Late Applications

Late applications received after 31 October 2024 and before 3 March 2025 will be considered on 13 March 2025 together with any unsuccessful on-time applicants, for any available places. This includes places declined by successful on-time applicants between 3 and 12 March. Priority will be given in accordance with the school's published admission criteria. All applicants who are not offered a place and are not successful with a higher preference school will be added to the waiting list when it is established on 14 March 2025. Late applications received on or after 3 March will be considered from 14 March 2025, onwards in date order.

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Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to the Admissions Clerk at Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School at the same time as the admission application is made. The governing body will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the headteacher, including the headteacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, as appropriate.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and **not** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held open until 31 July 2026 unless applicants request in writing to remain on the list.

Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

In-Year Applications

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Applications should be made via Hampshire County Council and Supplementary Information Forms submitted to the Admissions Clerk at Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School.

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied.

If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above).

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, within a maximum of 15 school days of receipt, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the governing body) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion with the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their parish priest who can consult with the diocesan Catholic Academies and Schools Office if they need further guidance.

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4. For the purposes of this admission policy, attendance at a feeder primary school includes those who were prevented from attending a feeder school due to oversubscription of Catholics and whose application to attend was unsuccessful, normally evidenced by a letter of rejection from the feeder primary school.
5. 'Catechumen' means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens. A Catechumen is a person who receives instruction in the Christian religion in order to be baptised.
6. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
7. "Children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

8. "Children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at 6 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:
 - A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
 - A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

9. Siblings (brother or sister) includes:
 - (i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
 - (ii) the child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.
10. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.
11. To demonstrate an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the governing body will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest.
12. For the purposes of this policy, parish boundaries are as set out on the school website <https://www.bcs.hants.sch.uk/parents/admissions-2> A paper copy is available on request.
13. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF"). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.