



Wimbledon College

Admissions Policy 2012

Wimbledon College is a voluntary aided Roman Catholic secondary school for boys in the trusteeship of the Society of Jesus¹. It is part of the provision of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Southwark and an apostolic work of the British Jesuit Province.

The school exists primarily to provide a Jesuit education for children of the Catholic community. Once it has met its historical and current obligation to boys of the Catholic community, Wimbledon College welcomes those who support the religious ethos of the school.

In September 2012, Wimbledon College will admit 199 boys² to Year 7 without regard for aptitude or ability. Once it has met this admissions number, the school will refuse places to further applicants because the school's accommodation and resources are limited.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available places, the governors will admit boys in the following order:

1. Catholic boys in public care ("looked after" children).
2. Catholic boys who have special circumstances which, in the judgement of the governors on the evidence submitted to them, make Wimbledon College particularly suitable for the boy.
3. Catholic boys who attend Mass every Sunday and Holyday.
4. Catholic boys who attend Mass less frequently than every Sunday and Holyday.

¹ The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) is a Religious Order of the Catholic Church founded in 1540. It has an international work in schools. The ethos and principles of Jesuit schools are set out in the document *The Characteristics of Jesuit Education* (1987).

² This number will include all boys, whether Catholic or not, who have Statements of Special Needs and are thereby admitted by law.

5. Catholic boys who do not attend Mass.
6. Other boys in public care (“looked after” children).
7. Other boys.

Tiebreaker Criteria

If the number of applicants in any one category of the first round exceeds the number of places available, priority will be given first to boys who will have a brother³ at Wimbledon College in September 2012 and then in order of distance⁴ from the boy’s home to Wimbledon College.

Parental Preference

Wimbledon College will consider every application for a place in accordance with the admissions criteria described in this document. Admissions decisions are made by the Governing Body.

Catholic Identity and Religious Practice

Catholic means being a baptised member of the Latin Rite (Roman Catholic) Church or of an Oriental Rite Catholic Church in communion with the Holy See⁵.

Catholic practice means attending liturgy⁶ on each Sunday⁷ and Holyday.

Parents wishing to be considered under the criteria of Catholic identity and practice need to complete the Wimbledon College Supplementary Information Form in addition to the Common Application Form for their Local Authority. The Supplementary Information Form enables the school to confirm religious practice by seeking a reference from a priest of the place where the boy regularly worships. If there is a valid reason why a boy has not attended Mass each Sunday and Holyday, the parent may explain the circumstances on the Supplementary Information Form and this will be considered by the governors. A baptismal certificate is also required.

³ Brothers include blood siblings, adopted children and siblings by marriage (step-brothers) who reside at the same address.

⁴ Distance will be measured by the Local Authority in a straight line from the boy’s home to the school.

⁵ The Oriental Rite Catholic Churches in communion with the Holy See are the Maronite and Italo-Albanian Catholic Churches; the Chaldean and Syro-Malabar Catholic Churches; the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, Syrian and Syro-Malankara Catholic Churches; the Melkite, Ukrainian, Ruthenian and Romanian Catholic Churches; the Greek Catholic Church, the Byzantine Catholics in former Yugoslavia, the Bulgarian, Slovak and Hungarian Catholic Churches and the Eastern Catholic Communities (Russian, Belarusian, Georgian and Albanian) without hierarchies.

⁶ The Catholic Church regards the liturgy as “the summit and the source of all worship and Christian life” (canon 897) and requires Catholics to “take an active part in the celebration of ... the Mass” (canon 898). For this reason, “on Sundays and other Holydays of obligation, the faithful are obliged to assist at Mass” (canon 1247) unless it is impossible to do so “for some ... grave reason.” (canon 1248).

⁷ Mass attendance on Sundays and Holydays includes the vigil Mass on the evening before the Sunday or Holyday.

Special Circumstances

Special circumstances include educational, medical, social and compassionate reasons why the application of one boy should be given precedence over others.

Other circumstances which may merit special consideration include the children of Crown servants, diplomats or armed forces personnel, those returning or moving to the UK from overseas, refugees and asylum seekers, and other social or family circumstances by which the child is adversely affected.

Each application made under the special circumstances category must include at least one letter from a relevant professional (such as a social worker, doctor, priest, primary school head teacher or educational psychologist) which sets out evidence in support of the application.

The application will need to demonstrate why a place specifically at Wimbledon College is in the child's best interests.

The governors will weigh each application on its individual merits, considering all and only the evidence submitted to them, also taking into consideration the ability of the school to meet individual needs and the overall balance of the school population. On the basis of the case presented to them, the governors will decide whether or not an application is eligible for admission under special circumstances.

Boys with Statements of Special Needs

The law requires the school to admit boys whose additional needs can be met by Wimbledon College and who have a Statement of Special Needs specifying Wimbledon College as the parents' preferred school.

Boys in Public Care

The law requires the school to give priority to the admission of boys in public care ("looked after" children). Catholic boys in public care are given first priority and non-Catholic boys in public care are admitted after places have been offered to Catholic boys but before other boys.

Applications for Year 7

Boys transferring from Y6 at primary school to Y7 at secondary school must do so through the London-wide co-ordinated admissions scheme. All applicants must submit the Common Application Form to the boy's Local Authority. Applicants wishing to be considered under the Catholic religious practice criteria will also need to submit the Wimbledon College Supplementary Information Form (to be returned to Wimbledon College).

The deadline for both forms is Friday 31st October 2011.

Boys already in Y7 at secondary school who wish to transfer to Y7 at Wimbledon College do so by following the procedure set out below for Y8-11.

Applications for Years 8 to 11 (In-Year Admissions)

Boys wishing to apply for a place in Y8-11 at Wimbledon College, or who are already in Y7 at a secondary school, do so by applying to their Local Authority and by completing the Wimbledon College Supplementary Information Form. This may be done at any time. If a place is available it will be given at the earliest opportunity. If the year group is full, a place will not be offered because the school's accommodation and resources are limited. Applications will be ranked according to the admissions criteria above. Parents have the right of independent appeal if a place is refused. Parents may also ask for their son to be placed on the waiting list.

Applications to the Sixth Form

Wimbledon College has a Sixth Form (Y12 and Y13) which runs in partnership with the Ursuline High School, Holy Cross School and Richard Challoner School. Pupils at each school are able to access certain courses at the other schools.

Pupils in Year 11 at Wimbledon College are eligible for a place in the Sixth Form if they meet Sixth Form general entry requirements and specific course requirements.

The Sixth Form welcomes applicants from other schools. Applicants must complete the Sixth Form application form and meet Sixth Form staff to establish whether the Sixth Form is able to offer an appropriate course of studies for the individual. On receiving the application form, Wimbledon College will seek a reference from the school currently attended by an external applicant.

Wimbledon College will admit at least 10 external applicants. More boys will be admitted if places are available once internal applications have been accommodated. It is expected that Y12 will consist of 165 boys.

All entrants to the Sixth Form must be UK or European Citizens or have right of access to public services.

The general entry requirements for Sixth Form are:

- for Level 3 courses - five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C
- for Level 2 courses - five or more GCSEs at grades A*-D

Additionally, individual courses have specific entry requirements which are published each year on the school's website. Boys will only be admitted to Sixth Form where there is a viable combination of courses for which they meet the course entry requirements.

If courses are oversubscribed, preference will be given in the following order:

1. Boys in public care ("looked after" children) who meet the entry requirements.
2. Boys currently at Wimbledon College who meet the entry requirements.
3. Catholic external applicants who meet the entry requirements.
4. Other external applicants who meet the entry requirements.
5. Boys currently at Wimbledon College who narrowly miss the entry requirements but for whom a viable course of studies can be arranged.

6. Catholic external applicants who narrowly miss the entry requirements but for whom a viable course of studies can be arranged.
7. Other external applicants who narrowly miss the entry requirements but for whom a viable course of studies can be arranged.

If courses are oversubscribed within any of the above categories, the uncapped Average Points Score (APS) at GCSE will be used to determine the order of admissions with the higher score being given preference.

We will not offer places to current Wimbledon College pupils or external applicants who fail to meet the entry requirements and for whom no reasonable programme of study can be arranged.

The Waiting List

Wimbledon College has a waiting list of boys who have not been offered a place but whose parents express the wish for them to take up a place should one become available. Applicants are ranked in the same order as the admissions criteria above. Parents are told what place their son has on the waiting list.

The waiting list for Y6 to Y7 transfers is operated by the London Borough of Merton on behalf of the school as part of the London-wide co-ordinated admissions system until the beginning of September. Thereafter, Wimbledon College operates the waiting list.

Parents who wish their child's name to be included on the Y7 waiting list after September must inform the school in writing or by email during the month of September. The waiting list is maintained for one school term. Parents wishing their son's name to remain on the waiting list after that time must inform the school in writing or by email before the beginning of each school term.

Boys who are placed at Wimbledon College under the statutory Local Authority fair access protocol ("hard to place pupils") will take precedence over boys already on the waiting list.

Boys (including new and late applications) are ranked on the waiting lists according to the admissions criteria. This means that a boy's place on the waiting list may go down as well as up.

Late Applications

Late applications will be considered by the governors and included in the admissions procedure at the point when they are received. Parents should be aware that Local Authorities have their own rules and procedures for late applications and may refuse to process some late applications.

Appeals

Parents of boys who are not offered a place at Wimbledon College have the statutory right of appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent panel. The decision of the appeal panel is final.

The Honesty of the Application

Any false or deliberately misleading information given on the Common Application Form or Wimbledon College Supplementary Information Form or in supporting papers, or any relevant information withheld, may lead to the withdrawal of a place, even after the child has started at the school.

Information and Assistance

Wimbledon College is committed to fairness and transparency in the way it operates its admissions procedures. Parents are invited to contact the school to discuss their situation and to obtain help in applying, especially if they are disabled or have difficulties of language or are unfamiliar with school admissions. Independent advice and assistance can also be obtained from the Local Authority.

Wimbledon College
approved by the Board of Governors (11th April 2011)
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