



# Wimbledon College

## Admissions Policy 2010

Wimbledon College is a voluntary aided Roman Catholic secondary school for boys in the trusteeship of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits)<sup>1</sup>. It is part of the provision of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Southwark and an apostolic work of the Society of Jesus.

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

In September 2010, Wimbledon College will admit 199 boys into 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.

### **Admissions criteria**

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places, the governors will apply the following criteria of selection in the order stated:

1. Catholic boys in public care ("looked after" children).
2. Boys who are baptised and practising Catholics.<sup>2</sup>
3. Other boys in public care ("looked after" children).
4. Other boys.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 the Jesuit approach to education are set out in the document *The Characteristics of Jesuit Education* (1987).

<sup>2</sup> Catholics include Latin Rite Catholics (Roman Catholics) and Oriental Rite Catholics in communion with the See of Rome: 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, Belarussian, Georgian and Albanian) without hierarchies.

## Oversubscription criteria

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

1. 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.
2. Boys who are currently pupils at one of the following primary schools in the Archdiocese of Southwark and the Deanery of Merton<sup>3</sup>:
  - Sacred Heart RC Primary School, New Malden
  - St John Fisher RC Primary School, Morden
  - St Mary's RC Primary School, Wimbledon
  - Ss Peter and Paul RC Primary School, Mitcham
  - St Teresa's RC Primary School, Morden
  - St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School, Mitcham

## Tie-breaker criteria

If the number of places available is oversubscribed in any one of the oversubscription categories, priority will be given to:

1. Boys who will have a brother<sup>4</sup> at Wimbledon College at the time of admission (September 2010).
2. Boys who live nearest to Wimbledon College. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the boy's home to the school.<sup>5</sup>

## Religious practice

Catholic practice means being baptised and attending liturgy on Sundays<sup>6</sup> and Holydays.

A baptismal certificate is required for those wishing to be considered as Catholic applicants.

The supplementary information form is used by Wimbledon College to assess whether an applicant meets the school's admissions criteria. If you choose not to submit the supplementary information form, Wimbledon College is unable to assess your application and will be unable to offer your son a place.

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<sup>3</sup> The schools listed will be given equal consideration.

<sup>4</sup> Brothers include blood siblings, adopted children and siblings by marriage (step-brothers) who reside at the same address.

<sup>5</sup> The distance is measured by the London Borough of Merton on behalf of Wimbledon College using a standard system for all schools.

<sup>6</sup> Mass attendance on Sundays and Holydays includes the vigil Mass on the Saturday evening or the day before the Holyday.

This form enables the school to confirm religious practice by seeking a reference from a priest of the place where the boy regularly worships.

## **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.

## **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 and forces personnel, those returning or moving to the UK from overseas, refugees and asylum seekers, and social or family circumstances in 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 headteacher or educational psychologist) which sets out evidence in support of the application to be considered under special circumstances.

The application and supporting evidence will need to set out the particular reasons why Wimbledon College is the most suitable school for the boy and the difficulties that would be caused if he had to attend another school.

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 educational 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 Educational 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 before other boys after places have been offered to baptised and practising Catholics.

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009.

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 to Years 8 to 11**

Boys wishing to apply for a place in Y8-11 at Wimbledon College, or who are already in Y7 at secondary school, do so 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. Parents may appeal the decision and may ask for their son to be placed on the waiting list.

During 2010, a new co-ordinated system of admissions is to be introduced by the local authority and will require an application to be made to the boy's local authority as well as to Wimbledon College.

## **Applications to the Sixth Form**

Pupils in Year 11 at Wimbledon College are eligible for a place in the Sixth Form if they meet Sixth Form entry 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 Wimbledon College and its consortium partners are 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.

In September 2010, Wimbledon College will admit at least 10 external applicants; more if places are available after internal applications have been accommodated. It is expected that Y12 will consist of 160 boys.

For those wishing to take Level 3 qualifications (A Level, Pre-U and equivalent), the general entry requirement for Sixth Form is five or more GCSEs at grades A\* to C. The specific entry requirement for each course is listed in the Sixth Form prospectus.

For those wishing to take Level 2 qualifications (BTEC2 and equivalent), the general entry requirement is five or more GCSEs at grade D or above.

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. baptised and practising 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. baptised and practising 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

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.

Further enquiries should be directed to the Head of Sixth Form. A Sixth Form prospectus is available.

## **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. Parents are told both what their place on the list is and whether they have a realistic chance of obtaining a place.

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 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.

Boys (including new and late applications) are ranked on the waiting lists according to the admissions criteria.

## **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 panel is final.

## **Honesty of the application**

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 obtain help in applying, especially if they are disabled or have difficulties of language or are not familiar with the admissions process.

Wimbledon College  
Admissions Policy 2010 adopted by the Governing Body on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
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