



Wimbledon College

Information for Parents of Applicants
who have not been offered a place

2010

Unsuccessful Applications

We are sorry not to be able to offer your son a place at Wimbledon College.

We are a very oversubscribed school. 571 parents applied for a place at Wimbledon College this year. 450 of these were baptised and practising Catholics with priests' references.

We have 199 places in Y7.

As a Catholic school our admissions criteria reflect our priority of providing places for families of the Catholic community which built and continues to fund the school.

Our admissions criteria are scrutinised each year and are published on our website. Decisions about admissions this year have been made strictly in accordance with these published criteria.

We are required to give parents a detailed explanation of why we are unable to offer their child a place. This formal statement of explanation is printed below. An Appeal Panel will take this explanation and the justification for it into account in upholding or rejecting any appeal you might make.

Choice or Preference?

It is unfortunate that parents have been led to believe that they have a free choice of a state secondary school. In fact they do not. What you do have is the right to express a *preference* and for that preference to be taken into consideration by the school(s) to which you apply.

If a school is oversubscribed, as is Wimbledon College, there needs to be transparent and straightforward criteria for deciding the priority of admissions - who will get in and who will not. These criteria are the school's published Admissions Policy.

Appeals

You have the right to appeal against the school's decision not to offer your son a place.

You must lodge your appeal by writing to the Registrar at Wimbledon College within 15 days of receiving notice that your son has not been offered a place.

The deadline for lodging your appeal is **Friday 26th March 2010**.

The appeal is heard by an independent panel provided by the Archdiocese of Southwark (Wimbledon College is not a diocesan school). The three panel members and the clerk have no connection with Wimbledon College.

In 2010, appeals will be heard on **Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th April**.

If you choose to appeal, further information about the appeal hearing will be sent to you nearer the time.

Please bear in mind that, if you appeal, you will need to prove to the panel that the school has wrongly applied its published admissions criteria in your son's case.

Further Information and Contact

If you have any questions or concerns about the admissions process, please contact our Registrar for admissions, who will be happy to help:

Mrs Valerie Turpin
registrar@wimbledoncollege.org.uk
020 8879 9355 (*direct line and voicemail*)
020 8946 2533 (*school switchboard*)

You can also find detailed information and our Admissions Policy on the school's website:
wimbledoncollege.org.uk

Detailed Statement of the Governing Body explaining why a place has not been offered

1. Your son was not offered a place at Wimbledon College because all the places in Year 7 are already allocated according to the school's published Admissions Policy.
2. Some boys will not have been offered a place because they did not provide a valid baptismal certificate to support their assertion of baptism, or because their nominated priest did not confirm Catholic religious practice according to the criteria of the published Admissions Policy.
3. This year 450 applications were received from baptised and practising Catholics. We are not able to offer a place to every Catholic boy who applies.
4. If your son is not a Catholic, he will not have been offered a place as we receive more applications from Catholics than there are places. Wimbledon College exists primarily to provide 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 other Christians and those who support the religious ethos of the school. However, at present, the number of applications of Catholic boys far exceeds the number of places available.
5. One of the admissions criteria which is used as a "tie-breaker" when the number of applicants exceeds the number of places is the distance from the boy's home to Wimbledon College measured in a straight line. The distance is measured by the Local Authority (the London Borough of Merton). Your son may not have been offered a place because boys living closer to the school were offered places before you, according to the published Admissions Policy. This includes many baptised and practising Catholics.
6. The admissions number for Year 7 is 196 boys. This number is calculated in accordance with the Department for Children, Families and Schools (DCFS) assessment of the accommodation of the school.
7. In the view of the Governing Body, the admissions number of Wimbledon College accurately reflects the space and resources of the school. Indeed, the admissions number reflects the maximum number of pupils consonant with good teaching and good order.

8. 196 places allows for seven teaching groups of 28 pupils. To admit above this number places a severe strain on existing classes or requires another teaching group to be created. Either action inevitably means that the education and safety of pupils admitted within the admissions number is prejudiced.
9. Teaching rooms are currently used and used well above the recommended rate of 80% occupancy.
10. Teaching space at Wimbledon College is extremely restricted:
 - of the 37 general classrooms (for maths, English, history, French, etc.), only one meets the building regulation requirement for a class of 30 pupils (60m²) and 31 fall below the requirement for a class of 25 pupils (51m²)
 - of the 9 science laboratories, six meet the requirements for classes of 30 pupils (90m²), two fall below the requirement for classes of 30 pupils and one falls below the requirements for classes of 25 pupils (77m²)
 - of the design and technology and drama rooms, all four fall below the requirement for classes of 20 pupils (112m²); classes routinely have 26 pupils in them
 - of the two art rooms, neither meets the requirement for classes of 30 pupils (90m²)
11. Of the 37 general classrooms, 24 (65%) are in Victorian buildings which are Grade II listed and in a Conservation Area which places severe restrictions on the possibility of adaptation.
12. Most classrooms cannot take more than 26 pupils and many cannot take even this number. At present, desks are already crammed into rooms in a way that is not conducive to good learning and good order.
13. The presence of two boys in wheelchairs (2009) and two non-ambulant boys means that the space occupied plus an attendant carer reduces any classroom by two places.
14. There are some 16 learning support teachers and assistants who attend classes with pupils with special educational needs. Their presence in a room also reduces the number of pupils by one.
15. In some rooms (such as design and technology workshops, science laboratories and the swimming pool) there are limits on numbers for safety reasons. These limits are reviewed each year by the Governing Body as part of its health and safety responsibilities. For example, the maximum teaching group size for the swimming pool is 20 boys. The admission of additional pupils means that pupils will be timetabled for swimming less often than the curriculum requires.
16. It is also part of the school's good practice to ensure slightly smaller teaching groups for less able boys or boys with specific learning difficulties. With a finite limit on teaching rooms and staff, this becomes impossible when the admissions number is exceeded leading to a reduction in the quality of education provided to some of the most needy boys.