



The King's (The Cathedral) School

Year 12 Admissions Policy 2026

Introduction

The King's (The Cathedral) School is its own admissions authority and as such is responsible for setting the criteria for admission and their interpretation; however, at all times it will act in accordance with the School Admissions Code published by the Department for Education.

The policy was last determined by the Governing Body on 11 September 2025.

Year 12 Admission Criteria

Pupils may be admitted to the Sixth Form if they have obtained the relevant academic entry requirements. To qualify for entry to The King's School Sixth Form, all students need to meet the following criteria:

To have passed at least seven full subjects at grades 9 - 5 in their GCSE examinations (or equivalent) including three at grade 6 or above. Please note that an individual subject cannot count for more than two GCSEs.

A-Level Entry Requirements	
2026 Main Entry Requirements	7 x 9-5 full subjects including 3 at grade 6 or above
Strongly Recommended Subject Specific Requirements	
Art	9 - 6 in Art
Separate Route to Biology, Chemistry, Physics	9 - 7 in at least two of the separate sciences including the science to be studied 9 - 6 in Maths
Combined Route to Biology, Chemistry, Physics	9 - 7 in both Combined Science grades 9 - 6 in Maths
Business Studies	9 - 6 in Business Studies or 9 - 6 in English Language and Maths
Classical Civilisation	9 - 6 in Classical Civilisation or Latin or 9 - 6 in English Language or English Literature
Computer Science	9 - 6 in Computer Science or 9 - 6 in Maths
Economics	9 - 6 in Business Studies or 9 - 6 in English Language and Maths
English Language and Literature	9 - 6 in English Language or English Literature
English Literature	9 - 6 in English Literature

French	9 - 6 in French
Geography	9 - 6 in Geography
German	9 - 6 in German
History	9 - 6 in History
Maths	9 - 7 in Maths on a higher paper
Maths (Further)	9 - 8 in Maths on a higher paper
Music	9 - 6 in Music
Physical Education	9 - 6 in Physical Education
Product Design	9 - 6 in a Design and Technology subject
Psychology	9 - 6 in Psychology or 9 - 6 in English Language and Maths
Religious Studies	9 - 6 in Religious Studies
Textiles	9 - 6 in a Design and Technology subject
Theatre Studies	9 - 6 in Theatre Studies

Please note that the minimum academic entry requirements above will need to be met to obtain an offer of a place in Year 12 (subject to oversubscription criteria if needed). Meeting those requirements will entitle the applicant to a place, but will not guarantee a particular combination of courses. Applicants should enquire from the School as to which particular combinations of courses will be available and they will be subject to change at the School's discretion.

Applications from students attending other schools will be accepted from **Wednesday 1 October 2025**. The closing date for applications will be **Friday 5 December 2025**. A copy of our internal assessment criteria will be sent to the applicant's current Headteacher, so that staff in their own School will have the opportunity to comment on the applicant's predicted GCSE performance.

What happens if The King's School Sixth Form is oversubscribed?

The Governors published admission number (PAN) will be 190. In the first instance, priority will be given to students currently attending Year 11 at The King's School. After that, places will be offered to applicants from outside the School who satisfy the above criteria.

In the event of oversubscription, offers will be made to external applicants on the basis of the availability of the group of subjects required by the applicant.

The Board of Governors will give priority to students who meet the minimum entry criteria above. As with other points of entry to schools, highest priority in oversubscription criteria for sixth form places **must** be given to looked after children and previously looked after children who meet the academic entry criteria.

That is, 'Looked After Children' or a child who was previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. A Looked After Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority in England, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority

in England in the exercise of their social services functions, or (c) who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted only.

After that, reference will be made to the applicant's predicted and actual GCSE grades already achieved. This information will be obtained from the applicant's current school. Offers will be made to candidates with the highest predicted/actual grades.

If the School has more applications than places available, unsuccessful parents may elect to place their child's name on a waiting list. Pupils will be placed on the waiting list in strict order according to the oversubscription arrangements determined above. If a place becomes available at the School, places will be allocated according to these arrangements.

The waiting list will be held from the allocation of places date until the end of October in Year 12. Applicants must inform the School on GCSE Results Day that they wish to remain on the waiting list by telephoning the School, 01733 751541.

Exceptional Circumstances

If parents/carers would like to request for their application to be considered on the basis of exceptional circumstances, this should be stated **at the time of application**, on the application form. In addition, parents should write to the Registrar to seek consideration of the request. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. serious illness), parents/carers may request that governors consider offering their child a place with fewer than seven passes, if they show the potential to access The King's School curriculum. The Admissions Committee will convene a panel to consider the application and will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of:

- the parent's/carer's views;
- information about the child's academic development from their current school;
- the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- the range of subjects the child has studied, and wishes to study;
- any examined and non-examined assessments completed at GCSE;
- how much of the GCSE course has been completed;
- the Headteacher's views.

If parents/carers have concerns about the outcome of this decision, they may appeal to an independent admissions panel.

In exceptional circumstances, parents/carers may request that a student be offered the opportunity to study a subject at A Level that they have not studied before. The Headteacher will consider such a request taking into account:

- the parent's/carer's/student's views;
- information about the student's academic profile in similar subjects;
- the range of subjects the student has studied at GCSE, and wishes to study at A-Level;
- the view of the relevant Head of Department;
- The Headteacher's decision about whether to offer this option is final.

Out of Cohort Applications

Parents/carers may seek a place for their child out of their normal age group by adding that request to their completed Admissions Form. In addition, parents should write to the Registrar to request consideration of the request. The Admissions Committee will convene a panel to consider the request and will make a decision on the

basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of:

- the parent's/carer's views;
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- The Headteacher's views.

If the Admissions Committee does not agree to this request to be admitted out of cohort, there is no right of appeal against that decision.

A request to repeat Year 12 would not normally be successful, other than in exceptional circumstances e.g. long-term or serious illness.

Admissions Appeals

If parents/carers have concerns about the decision to refuse their son/daughter a place, they have the right to appeal to an independent appeals panel. The deadline for lodging an appeal will be 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful. If parents/carers wish to make an appeal, they should do so in writing. The School's Registrar should be contacted in the first instance and can provide the necessary forms for setting out the grounds for the appeal.

Withdrawing Offers

Once offered, places will not be withdrawn except in the following cases:

- Where the place was offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example, a false claim to residence at an address which effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim);
- Where the place was offered under co-ordination by the local authority in error;
- Where a parent has not accepted the offer of the place and does not respond to a reminder letter from the School within a reasonable time (defined as 21 days from the issue of the reminder letter).