



The King's (The Cathedral) School

Year 7 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.

All parents wishing to apply for a place at The King's (The Cathedral) School for Year 7 intake should do so via their 'home' authority (i.e. the authority where they live). Parents have a right to express a preference for the school they want for their child. Applications must be returned to the home authority by the specified date, which is published annually.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the 2026 Year 7 group is 150, the School will admit children up to this number for each of the corresponding year groups.

A child with an Education Health and Care Plan, which names the School as part of that Plan will be admitted if the school is able to meet their needs. The number of places within the PAN will reduce accordingly.

Oversubscription Criteria - Year 7 Entry

The Board of Governors will seek to preserve the existing character of the school by admitting 135 pupils, including those with an Education Health and Care Plan, which names the School, on the following basis and in the following order of priority. This will give a year group of 150 pupils, with the 135 pupils joining the 15 pupils who were admitted into the School in Key Stage 2.

Please be aware that for at least the last 20 years we have been oversubscribed as a school. In such circumstances, oversubscription criteria are applied in A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, B1 and B2, as listed below. To make sure that your application is given due consideration under our published oversubscription criteria, it is vital that when you complete the Local Authority Parental Preference Reasons section online, you check all of the boxes that are relevant to your application.

Even if you have completed a Supplementary Information Form (SIF)(Appendix A), you can still check as many boxes as appropriate on the Local Authority Common Application Form.

Should the number of pupils transferring from Year 6 not be 15, for whatever reason, then the places offered will be varied accordingly. If the places are oversubscribed, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate the 135 places each year in the following order of priority:

Group A: A maximum of 120 places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

1. '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. (See note A below.)
2. Children of worshipping members of the Church of England, Church of Wales, The Episcopal Church of Scotland and Methodist Church of Great Britain (maximum of 74 places). (See note B below.)

3. Children of any member of staff employed by the Board of Governors of the School at the time of application:
 - a) where the member of staff has been employed at the School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the School is made and/or b) the member of staff was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
4. Siblings of children attending the School at the time of application. (See note C below.)
5. Children of worshipping members of other Christian denominations or of Other Major Faiths. (See note D below.)
6. Children of any other applicants to the limit of places available, places being awarded to the child(ren) living close(st) to the School as indicated by a straight line from the main school reception entrance to the child's home, as calculated using Peterborough City Council's measuring process.

Group B: Pupils allocated by ability as measured by the School's assessment procedures in merit order for a maximum of 15 places.

1. 12 of these places will be allocated on overall academic ability. (See note H below).
2. 3 of these places will be allocated on musical ability. (See note I below).

If there are unallocated places in B1 due to a lack of suitable candidates, these places will be allocated in B2 and vice versa. If there are insufficient successful applicants for B1 and B2, additional places will be allocated in Group A under criteria 3 to 6.

If at any stage, a tiebreaker is required, places will be allocated to the child(ren) living close(st) to the School as indicated by a straight line from the seed point of the school (*The King's (The Cathedral) School - Eastings: 519435, Northings: 299666*) to the seed point of the child's home, as calculated using Peterborough City Council's measuring process. If this system cannot separate two or more applications, these applications will be further ranked by lottery.

Please note that each application is judged on its own merit and there is no automatic right to any sibling receiving an offer of a place in the same admissions round, e.g. twin/triplet, where the other sibling has received an offer of a place.

Notes:

A. **'Looked After Children'** - A child or young person is regarded as a 'Looked after Child' when they are accommodated or in care. If they are accommodated this means that their parent(s) retain parental responsibility and can ask for them to be returned home at any time. If they are subject to a Care Order then the local authority in England shares parental responsibility with the parent(s) and decides where the child should live. Looked After Children are cared for in a number of different settings including foster homes, children's homes and residential schools.

'A child in state care outside of England' - A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society, but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted only.

B. **Children of worshipping members of the Church of England, Church of Wales, The Episcopal Church of Scotland and Methodist Church of Great Britain:** (These applications must be accompanied by form SIF A2, which is available from the School).

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

Children of worshipping members of the Church of England, Church of Wales, The Episcopal Church of Scotland and Methodist Church of Great Britain are defined as those who score above zero on the School's scoring system as described below as the "Marking Process". In relation to Criteria A2, the Supplementary Information Form (SIF A2) will need to be signed by a Church of England, Church of Wales, The Episcopal Church of Scotland Priest or by a Methodist Minister, or if a Priest or Minister is unavailable during an interregnum, a Church Warden or Church Leader. Evidence of worship from the Priest, Minister or Leader of the religious community concerned, must be submitted on SIF A2.

The information should define the worship pattern of the applicant (the parent), who lives at the child's home address, in terms of frequency and duration. The information on SIF A2 should cover your **whole** attendance record and **current** pattern of worship for the last eight years, or more. If you have worshipped at different churches during the last eight years, or more, a separate SIF A2 from previous parish(es) must be submitted. Where a religious leader has been in post for only a part of the time you have worshipped there, they should state how they are able to confirm your attendance for the whole period. Please note the **maximum** number of marks available for Period of Attendance at Worship is 9.

Criteria A2 Marking Process

Frequency of Attendance at Worship	Marks
More than weekly throughout the year	5
Four/Five times per month	4
Three times per month	3
Fortnightly	2
Monthly	1
Major Festivals only	0.5

Period of Attendance at Worship	Marks
Greater than 8 years	9
Between 7 and 8 years	8
Between 6 and 7 years	7
Between 5 and 6 years	6
Between 4 and 5 years	5
Between 3 and 4 years	4
Between 2 and 3 years	3
Between 1 and 2 years	2
Less than 1 year	1

The **total** mark awarded for each application will be the product of the marks for frequency and period of attendance for worship, (i.e. frequency mark multiplied by period of attendance mark). Places are offered strictly in descending order of each applicant's **total** mark.

The evidence on Criteria A2 Supplementary Information Form (SIF A2) will be used by the Board of Governors in determining which applicants are awarded places. The evidence will help the Board of Governors assess the commitment, in terms of frequency and duration, which the applicant has devoted to their religious community.

C. Children are siblings if:

A brother or a sister, half-brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, stepbrother or sister, or the child of a parent/carer's partner, and in every case the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address.

Priority will be given where the applicant's sibling is a member of the school community in Years 7-11 or, where they are in the sixth form, had previously studied at the school in Years 7-11. Any remaining places would be allocated to an applicant where their sibling attends the school but had not previously studied at the school in Years 7-11.

**D. Children of worshipping members of Other Christian denominations and Other Major Faiths:
(These applications must be accompanied by form SIF A5, which is available from the School).**

In the event that during the period specified for attendance the relevant place of worship has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the relevant place of worship or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

- i) For parents/carers to be 'worshipping members', the applying parent/carer of the child, who lives at the child's home address, needs to be regarded by the priest/minister/worship leader as being part of the worshipping community at the church/worship centre. A church/worship centre will be determined by the award of a worship license as issued by the Local Authority. This would not necessarily mean that the parent/carer is a "Member" in the technical sense (e.g. through baptism, confirmation or electoral roll) but would imply a pattern of attendance at worship (on Sunday or at other times) that is more than "occasional" and **has been sustained for at least five years**. All SIF A5 Forms that are supported in this way will then be ranked by a lottery. Each application will be allocated a number and the numbers will be drawn at random to produce the rank order that will determine which children are awarded a place in this category.
- ii) Children of worshipping members of 'Other Christian denominations' are defined as members of any Church that is a member of Churches Together in England, or the Evangelical Alliance. To confirm whether your Church is a member of Churches Together in England please visit the following website - [Member Church Directory – Churches Together in England \(cte.org.uk\)](http://cte.org.uk)

The following denominations are affiliated to Churches Together in England:

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles + Ireland (2005)
Apostolic Church UK (2019)
Apostolic Faith Mission International Ministries (2023)
Apostolic Pastoral Congress (2011)
Armenian Orthodox Church (2013)
Assemblies of God (2012)
Baptist Union of Great Britain (1990)
Calvary Church of God in Christ (2017)
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (1990)
Church of England (1990)
Church of God of Prophecy (2005)
Church of Scotland (Presbytery of England) (1993)
Churches in Communities International (2010)
Congregational Federation (1990)

Coptic Orthodox Church (2003)
 Council of African and Caribbean Churches UK (1990)
 Council of Lutheran Churches (1990)
 Council of Oriental Orthodox Churches (temporarily defunct) (1990)
 Elim Pentecostal Church (2009)
 Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (2011)
 Fellowship of Churches in Christ (2023)
 Free Church of England (2010)
 Free Churches Group (1990)
 Ground Level (2012)
 Holy Apostolic Catholic Syrian Church of the East (2021)
 Ichthus Christian Fellowship (1990)
 Independent Methodist Churches (1990)
 International Ministerial Council of Great Britain (1990)
 Ixthus Church Council (2016)
 Joint Council of Churches for All Nations (1990)
 Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (Indian Orthodox Church)
 Mar Thoma Church in Europe (2009)
 Methodist Church (1990)
 Moravian Church
 New Testament Assembly (1990)
 New Testament Church of God (2006)
 Oecumenical Patriarchate (1990)
 Order of St. Leonard (2018)
 Pioneer (2012)
 Presbyterian Church of Ghana in England (2019)
 Redeemed Christian Church of God (2007)
 Religious Society of Friends (1990)
 Ruach Network of Churches (2014)
 Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) (1990)
 Salvation Army (1990)
 Serbian Orthodox Church (2018)
 Synod of German-speaking Lutheran, Reformed, and United Congregations in Great Britain (2007)
 Transatlantic Pacific Alliance of Churches (2005)
 Unification Council of Cherubim + Seraphim Churches (Europe Chapter) (1990)
 United Kingdom World Evangelism Trust (2015)
 United Reformed Church (1990)
 Vineyard Churches UK & Ireland (2021)
 Wesleyan Holiness Church (1990)
 Wesleyan Reform Union (2019)

iii) To confirm whether your Church is a member of the **Evangelical Alliance**, please visit the following website:
<https://www.eauk.org/churches>

iv) Children of members of the following major faiths: Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and Buddhism.

E. The relevant sections of the SIF/A2/A5 form (Appendix B and C) should be filled in by the applying parent and then sent to the priest/religious leader for completion. Once the form has been completed, the applying parent should return it to the School.

The address submitted on Supplementary Information Forms (SIF A2 and SIF A5)(Appendix B and C) should be the child's home. This is the home at which the child spends the majority of school weeknights (Sunday – Thursday inclusive).

- F. The Board of Governors will deal with late applications after all of the 'on time' applications have been processed.
- G. Parents/Guardians/Carers not offered a place for their child due to the School having admitted up to the published admission number (PAN, 135) will be advised of their right to appeal.
- H. Pupils admitted to Category B1 will have taken the Governors' Entrance Examination and will have been ranked in order of merit. The examination consists of tests in English, Mathematics and Verbal Reasoning.

A minimum total score of 40 out of 58 will be required for the child to be considered for admission. Places are offered strictly in descending order of each child's total score. Examples of the English, Mathematics and Verbal Reasoning tests are on The King's (The Cathedral) School website Year 7 Admissions page.

- I. Pupils will be allocated for category B2 by audition, carried out by the Music staff of The King's (The Cathedral) School. At the audition, the candidate will be expected to:
- i) Perform a piece of his/her choice on their main instrument or voice. Candidates who play another instrument may, if they wish, perform a second piece.
 - ii) Respond to various aural tests which might include:
 - Repetition of a melody
 - Clapping a rhythm
 - Identification of time signatures/beats in bars.
 - iii) The following scoring system will be used to determine the successful music applicants:
 - a) Performance of chosen piece:

This will be judged and scored by considering both the difficulty of the music performed and the quality of the performance.

Level of Difficulty	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Grade 3	10	15	20
Grade 4	15	20	25
Grade 5	20	25	30
Grade 6	25	30	35
Grade 7	30	35	40

- b) Response to tests:

Level	Points
Grade 4	5
Grade 5	10
Grade 6	15
Grade 7	20

Each applicant will be awarded a total mark for the audition and places will be awarded to the top three scoring pupils.

- J. Admission of children out of their normal age group – Parents/carers may seek a place for their child out of their normal age group by completing the Local Authority Common Application 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.

- K. 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 criteria on the Admissions Policy. If a place becomes available at the School, places will be allocated according to the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be held from the allocation of places date, until the end of the academic year. Parents will be asked to contact the School and the local authority, to request that their child's name be placed on the waiting list.
- L. Please note that children who are the subject of a direction by the Local Authority to admit, or who are allocated a place in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol will take preference over those on the waiting list.

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).