THE CARDINAL WISEMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

All Things for Christ

Sixth Form Admissions Policy

Arrangements for the Admission of Students
to the Sixth Form

Approved by	Governing Body
Date approved by Governors	October 2026
Date of next approval	To be confirmed

Arrangements for the Admission of students at The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Sixth Form

Application forms for entry to the Cardinal Wiseman Sixth Form can be obtained from the school website. A hard copy can be obtained from the main school office. Completed application forms should be submitted via Applicaa and/or returned to the Sixth Form by the closing date shown on the application form. Applications are welcome from all faith backgrounds.

"As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education is fully supported by all families in the school. All applicants are therefore expected to give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school."

Year 12

The school has a capacity of 250 students in Year 12.

Students whose Education, Health and Care plan names the school will be admitted (see "Students with an Education, Health and Care plan" below). The remaining places will be offered in the following order of priority:

1. Catholic* looked-after children and Catholic previously looked-after children* who meet the Entry Requirements.
2. Other looked-after children and previously looked-after children who meet the Entry Requirements.
3. Students on roll at The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School at the end of the academic year immediately before the proposed date of entry into the Sixth Form who meet the Entry Requirements.
4. Students from other schools who meet the Entry Requirements.
5. Entry into the Sixth Form will be extended to internal students who wish to retake Year 12 in one or more subjects, followed by external students who wish to restart Year 12 at our school. All such entry is subject to meeting the Entry Requirements, the student's age and availability on the selected course.

**Catholic means a member of a church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced for a child by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic church, or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.*

** Previously looked-after children are children who were looked after but stopped being looked after because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. This includes children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside England and stopped being in state care as a result of being adopted.*

Year 12 Entry Requirements

Students must meet the **minimum** entry requirements for Year 12: **Four individual GCSE passes in any subject, including English Language. A pass is a numerical grade 4 or above, or A*–C where still applicable.**

Students must also meet the subject-specific requirements for each course they wish to study, as published in the Sixth Form Prospectus and Course Guide for the relevant year of entry. A place in the Sixth Form is a place on a full-time programme of study. An applicant must therefore meet the subject-specific requirements for enough courses to make up a full-time programme.

The Entry Requirements are the school's academic entry criteria. They apply equally to all applicants, internal and external, including applicants with an Education, Health and Care plan. They are a permitted form of selection by ability for students over compulsory school age (section 99(2)(c) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; paragraph 2.6 of the School Admissions Code).

Exceptional circumstances. The school does not waive the Entry Requirements or subject-specific requirements. The only exception is where there is independent evidence that a student's final results were significantly affected by circumstances beyond their control during the examination period, such as serious illness or bereavement. In that case the student's prior attainment must show that they would otherwise have been expected to meet the requirements. Any such decision will be made by the Head of Sixth Form with the Headteacher and recorded in writing.

Course Allocation

Admission to the Sixth Form does not guarantee a place on any particular course or combination of courses. Places on individual courses are allocated according to the subject-specific requirements, course availability and the timetable. The school may withdraw a course if, for example, there is insufficient demand. In allocating courses, the school will consider each student's attainment, the demands of the course and any reasonable adjustments, in line with the Equality Act 2010.

All offers of courses made before GCSE results that are published are provisional. Because not all applicants take up their places or meet the entry requirements, the school makes more provisional offers than there are places on some courses. This means a course may be full by the time a student enrols, even if they meet the entry requirements. Where this happens, places will be allocated fairly using the published criteria. The school will discuss alternative courses with any student affected and will do everything reasonably possible to offer a suitable combination.

The number of classes planned for a course depends on staffing and resources. If the school cannot staff a planned class for reasons outside its reasonable control, it may have to reduce the number of places on that course. The school cannot guarantee that a provisional course offer will be confirmed.

Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan

Young people whose Education, Health and Care plan names The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School will be admitted, as required by section 43 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and paragraph 1.6 of the School Admissions Code.

Having an Education, Health and Care plan does not remove the Entry Requirements or the subject-specific course requirements. The school will apply them to students with a plan in the same way as to all other applicants, while making reasonable adjustments, such as access arrangements, where required.

When the local authority consults the school about naming the Sixth Form in a young person's Education, Health and Care plan, the school will:

- state whether the young person is expected to meet the Entry Requirements and the subject-specific requirements for a full-time programme, based on their current attainment;
- where the young person is not expected to meet them, advise the local authority that the Sixth Form would be unsuitable for the young person's ability or aptitude (section 39(4)(a) of the Children and Families Act 2014);
- ask the local authority to make clear, in the plan or its covering letter, that the placement depends on the young person meeting the Entry Requirements.

If a young person whose plan names the school does not meet the Entry Requirements or the subject-specific requirements when results are published, the school will inform the local authority straight away. It will ask the local authority to review the plan urgently, as paragraph 9.182 of the SEND Code of Practice expects, so that alternative options can be agreed before the start of the academic year.

Tie Break

If there is oversubscription in any category, priority will be given to students whose parents' or legal guardians' home address is the shortest distance from the main gates of The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School on Greenford Road. If two or more students have equal priority after all the criteria have been applied, a drawing of lots, witnessed by an independent observer, will decide who is offered the place. Unsuccessful applicants will be told of their right to appeal against the decision and how to appeal.

Late Applications

Applications received after [15 December 2026] will be considered late applications and will not be dealt with until all on-time applications have been considered.

Requirements for Progression from Year 12 into Year 13

Students must:

- achieve a minimum of three D grades, or equivalent, in their Year 12 studies;
- meet the course-specific requirements set by the school;
- pass a BTEC Level 3 course to progress to Year 13 in that pathway.

Further Mathematics: continuing into Year 13

Students who study Further Mathematics must continue with four subjects in Year 13.

To continue with Further Mathematics in Year 13, students must achieve at least a grade B in the November Further Mathematics examination, which takes place after the second progress check (PG2). Students who achieve lower than a grade B will not be able to continue with Further Mathematics. They will continue in Year 13 with their other three subjects.

This rule is there because Further Mathematics is very demanding. A grade B in November is the minimum we need to see to be confident that a student can succeed in the course while keeping up their other subjects.

Students who do not meet these criteria may be offered alternative courses or pathways, where appropriate.