

Admission Policy 2026-2027

The Bishop of Winchester Academy



Sapere Aude

Approved by:	Full Board	Date: 12.12.24
Last reviewed on:	Michaelmas 2024	
Next review due by:	Michaelmas 2025	

Policy Control Table	
Policy Title	Admission Policy
Author/s: Name, Code, Role	Simmoné Lewendon, SLE, Deputy Vice Principal
Link Trustee, if any	
Version (V) N°	
Statutory	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Policy
Required on Website	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Approval/Ratification Route	<input type="checkbox"/> Author – Vice principals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Author - ALT - Trust Board <input type="checkbox"/> Author - ALT - Resources Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Author - ALT - Remuneration Committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Author - ALT - Student Experience Committee
Review Frequency and Authority	Vice principals (VPs) annual <input type="checkbox"/> biennial <input type="checkbox"/> triennial <input type="checkbox"/> Trust committee annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> biennial <input type="checkbox"/> triennial <input type="checkbox"/> Trust board annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> biennial <input type="checkbox"/> triennial <input type="checkbox"/> Other (state) updated if/when guidance changes <input type="checkbox"/>
Linked Policies, if any	•
Review by Author/VPs Due	
Pending Ratification by Committee on	
Pending Ratification by Board on	
Previous Ratification Date	
Ratification Date and Authority	12.12.24

A review or ratification/approval date is not a sunset clause.

The policy remains in place until such time as it has been reviewed, re-ratified/approved or superseded by updated relevant statutory guidance.

Policy History			
V	Date	Author	Revision Summary
2	Nov 2024	SLE	Addition of a control table. Update of years relevant to policy. Minor punctuation corrections and reformatting of document to align with policy suite.
3	Feb 2026	JHU	Updates to page 10 ref 6 th form admission criteria

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Sponsors' Statement

All The Bishop of Winchester Academy policies exist to support the Sponsors' vision, Christian ethos and values that are embedded in the day-to-day and long-term running of the academy. Each policy evidences the commitment of the Sponsors to the principles and values of honesty, respect, hospitality, compassion, love, forgiveness, self-discipline, creativity and hope. This policy contributes to the development of young people and the community through all Academy activities.

The Criteria for Admission

If all applications for places at The Bishop of Winchester Academy (TBOWA) can be satisfied, all children seeking a place will be offered a place.

Where there are too few places available to satisfy all applications, places will be offered according to the following oversubscription criteria. The order of the criteria listed below will be used to determine the order of priority for admissions. Applicants who qualify for more than one criterion will be placed in the highest one in which they are eligible.

Admissions to Year 7

For September 2026, the Governors have agreed an admission number of 210, which represents the maximum number of places that they can offer and this is the academy's Published Admissions Number (PAN). Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the PAN, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. In addition, the Governing Body will admit children to the Complex Communication Difficulties Centre attached to the academy to fill vacancies that arise, up to a maximum of 16 students. Such students will have an Education, Health and Care Plan, formerly known as Statements of Special Educational Needs, for complex communication difficulties that name this provision. These 16 students will be additional to the PAN of 210 children.

Applications for Students with Education, Health and Care Plan

The academy welcomes students of all aptitudes and abilities and will work with the Local Authority (LA) to ensure that proper provision is made for any child admitted with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP). The Governors and the academy will follow the guidance given in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0 – 25 years issued by the Department for Education.

Children with an EHCP which has The Bishop of Winchester Academy named in the plan will be given a place at the academy and this will count towards the PAN.

Co-ordination Between Admission Authorities

The offer of places for all year groups is coordinated between all the admission authorities in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP). Applications to The Bishop of Winchester Academy can only be made on the official (electronic or paper) application form obtainable from the applicant's home Local Authority (LA). This should be submitted to the home LA. In respect of applications for Year 7 starting in September 2026, submission must be by the closing date specified by that LA.

The Governing Body of The Bishop of Winchester Academy operates an equal preference system.

The closing date for admission applications, either online or by application form, is 31st October as detailed on the BPC website. The website also contains information on how to complete application forms online, the dates for notification to parent(s)/carer(s) of admissions decisions and the closing dates for accepting places or lodging appeals. In case of any doubt on these dates, the LA is the point of contact.

Out of Normal Age Group Transfer/Admission

Students are normally educated in school with others of their age group. Applicants who were born between 1 April and 31 August (summer born children) and started reception aged 5, as a delayed admission, may be admitted into Year 7 at the same time as those with whom they have progressed through primary school.

All other requests to place a student in a different year group to that of their normal cohort (such as gifted and talented, or who have experienced problems, or missed part of a year, for example due to ill health) can seek places outside the normal age group. The Principal will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case, taking account of the student's individual needs and abilities and considering which year group these needs can best be met. Such requests will only be agreed in exceptional circumstances. Please contact Admission at the Academy, to discuss such a request. All requests should include recent professional evidence of the student's circumstances which make education outside the age group necessary. Evidence must be of the individual student's need, rather than general factors which relate to a wider group of children born at a similar time.

Any applications for out of normal age group will not be given special priority over other applications in that year, as the usual oversubscription criteria will apply. Parents/carers do not have a right to appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

The Oversubscription Criteria

The criteria are set out in the order in which they will be applied.

1. Looked after children or previously looked after children (as defined below).
2. Children of staff (as defined below).
3. **(For applicants in the normal admission round only).** A student who has a serious medical, physical or psychological condition which makes it **essential** that the student attends TBOWA rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence must be provided in support at the time of application. See definition below).
4. Admission of students whose siblings (sometimes known as a brother/sister but please see 'definitions' below) currently attend the academy in one of Years 7 to 10 and who will continue to do so in one of Years 8 to 11 on the date of admission.
5. Up to 40% (84 for Years 7 to 11) of places for the admission of students who can, or one or both parents/carers can, demonstrate commitment to their religion. This commitment must be declared and verified by an official from their religion on a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which can be obtained from the academy, the academy's website and the BCP website. (A copy is attached and forms a part of this policy.) The SIF must be signed by the current incumbent of the church or meeting place. The SIF must be returned to the academy by the application deadline set for admissions by the LA. The definition of religious commitment is detailed on the SIF.
6. All remaining places, up to 60% (126 for Years 7 to 11) will be offered based on the distance from the applicant's home address to the academy. The distance measurement will be calculated using a Geographical Information System in a straight line from the academy to the applicant's home in accordance with the definition below. The applications will be ranked in the order nearest to furthest.

DEFINITIONS

Looked after children are:

children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

Previously looked after children are:

children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order

This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.

Parent(s) /Carer(s) are:

A parent/carer is any person who has parental responsibility for or is the legal guardian of the child as set out in the Children Act 1989. Where responsibility for a child is 'shared', only one application can be considered. Where parents are separated it is essential that agreement is reached by both parties concerning the application. If agreement cannot be reached, the academy will only consider the application from the parent who is the main carer for the child. The main carer is normally the parent who has the main caring role of the child. In cases of doubt, the academy will seek independent legal advice to determine which parent has responsibility for completing the application form and whose address will be used for admissions purposes. Such a decision is not intended to be a legal ruling, but only used for the purposes of admissions to the academy.

Children of Staff

A member of staff is defined as a person who has a full-time or part-time permanent contract of employment at the academy at the time of application. The Governing Body will give priority in their oversubscription criteria to children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances:

- a) where the member of staff has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and will continue to be so at the point of admission, and/or
- b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Please note that in both circumstances the child must live permanently at the same address as the member of staff.

Serious Medical, Physical or Psychological Condition:

Please note that a letter from your GP will not be sufficient medical evidence.

Supporting evidence from a professional is required such as a consultant for medical cases or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for other social circumstances. This evidence must confirm the circumstances of the case and must set out why it is essential the child should attend TBOWA and why no other school could meet the child's needs. You must also describe the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at TBOWA, and in each case a decision will be made based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made. The evidence will be considered carefully in confidence by the admissions committee of the Governing Body, who will endeavour to reach a fair and equitable decision.

Siblings are:

- a. a brother or sister sharing the same parent/carer;
- b. a half-brother or half-sister where 2 children share one common parent/carer;
- c. a step-brother or step-sister;
- d. a child of a parent's/carer's partner;
- e. adopted children;

- f. a foster brother or sister, living as part of the same family unit at the same address.

In every case the sibling must be living permanently in the same family unit at the same address and be attending the academy in one of Years 8 to 11 at the time of admission (or Years 7-11 for 'In Year' admissions).

Multiple Birth Children

If a student offered a place within the PAN is from a multiple birth or has a sibling (see definition) in the same year group, any further sibling will be admitted, if the parents/carers so wish, even though this may raise the intake number above the academy's PAN. The PAN will remain unchanged so that no other student will be admitted until a place becomes available within the PAN.

Religious Commitment

For applicants wishing to use the religious commitment criteria, either a parent/carer applying for a place or the child will be asked to declare their Religious Commitment and have that commitment verified by an official of their religion.

The two categories of religious commitment will be treated in order with "A" – "Attached to a Christian Church" taking priority over "B" – "A Member of another World Religion". The two categories in more detail are:

"A" – "Attached to a Christian Church". You are a regular worshipper who attends at least two family or church services in a month or who is regularly involved in a weekday church activity including an element of worship.

"B" – "A Member of another World Religion". You are a person who attends an act of worship at least twice per month at the place of worship associated with your religion.

NOTES:

Commitment must be for at least 12 months before the closing date for admissions. Christian church is one listed as having links with those listed below.

A "Christian" church will be a member of the Southwestern Evangelical Alliance or similar organisation. These include the: Antiochian Orthodox Church; Apostolic Pastoral Congress; Assemblies of God; Baptist Union of Great Britain; Catholic Church; Cherubim and Seraphim Council of Churches; Church of England; Church of God of Prophecy; Church of Scotland (Presbytery of England); Churches in Communities International; Congregational Federation; Coptic Orthodox Church; Council for Lutheran Churches; Council of African and Caribbean Churches UK; Council of Oriental Orthodox Christian Churches; Elim Pentecostal Church; Evangelical Lutheran Church of England; Evangelische Synode Deutscher Sprache in Großbritannien; Exarchate of Orthodox Parishes of the Russian Tradition (Ecumenical Patriarchate); Free Church of England; Ground Level; Ichthus Christian Fellowship; Independent Methodist Churches; International Ministerial Council of Great Britain; Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches; Mar Thoma Church; Methodist Church; Moravian Church; New Testament Assembly; New Testament Church of God; Oecumenical Patriarchate; Pioneer; Redeemed Christian Church of God; Religious Society of Friends; Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate); Salvation Army; Seventh-day Adventist Church (observer); Transatlantic Pacific Alliance of Churches; United Reformed Church; Wesleyan Holiness Church.

A World Religion is one listed in the section below.

A Christadelphian, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Janism, Taoism, Shinto, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormon, Zoroastrian.

Other churches will be assessed as appropriate by the Governing Body as and when they are named by applicants.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM (SIF)

This is available at the back of this policy, from the academy, the academy's website and the BCP Council's website. If you want your application to be considered under the religious commitment criteria you must complete the SIF and

return it to the academy by the closing date for admissions. On the SIF you will be asked to declare your religious commitment as defined above. Your declaration will need to be verified by an authorised official of your church or religion. The person verifying declaration should be the incumbent of the named place of worship or, in the case of an interregnum, the Church Warden. If the signatory is related to the child, then a second signature will be required e.g. Church Warden.

If you have recently moved your place of worship, you may ask an authorised official, **from your previous place of worship** to verify your religious commitment. If necessary, please check with the academy who is authorised to sign the form.

The SIF is a paper form that needs to be signed, the SIF is not available for completion on-line although it can be downloaded from the academy's and the BCP Council's websites.

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

Home Address

Means the address where the child usually lives. Where parents/carers have shared residence of a child and the child lives for part of the week with each parent/carer, the home address will be determined to be the address at which the child lives most of the week.

Places will not normally be offered on the basis of a possible future move. Places will only be offered on the basis of future moves on the basis of:

- i. a letter from the solicitor (or equivalent) confirming exchange of contracts to buy a property relevant to the application;
- ii. tenancy agreement confirming the renting of a specific property relevant to the application;
- iii. a letter from a housing association confirming that the parent(s)/carer(s) will be living at a specific address relevant to the application; or
- iv. in the case of UK service personnel and crown servants, an official government letter (MOD, FCO or GCHQ) declaring a relocation date to the relevant parish or priority area of the academy (or to establish distance from the academy).

The home address will be the address that complies with the above at the closing date set by the Local Authority for Secondary School Admissions.

Applications, submission and timetable

BCP Council operates a timetabled coordinated admissions procedure for all Secondary Schools in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole that complies with government legislation.

The LA will manage the coordinated process on behalf of the academy in accordance with the scheme published on their website. It is still this academy's Governing Body, as the Admission Authority for this academy, which will offer the available places in line with this policy. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that a completed application form is submitted to their home Local Authority in paper form or electronically by the closing date and, if using the "Commitment to their Religion" criterion, a completed SIF is returned to the academy at the same time. Your home LA will publish the closing date for admission application forms to be received by your home LA, the date of notifying you of admissions decisions and the closing dates for you to either accept places or lodge appeals in response to those decisions. In case of any doubt on these dates, please contact your home LA or the academy. The BCP website will give you information on how to complete the application form on-line.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that any additional evidence is submitted directly to the academy.

Failure to submit the correct evidence by the closing date may affect the offering of places.

Late applications cannot be considered until after the initial allocation of places has taken place.

After the normal admissions round for Year 7 applications there are no deadline dates for 'In Year' applications. 'In Year' admissions must be made through your home LA using your LA's application form and process.

Distance

The distance criterion will be used to determine those applicants who live closest to the academy and who will have priority over those living further away. Distance will be as measured by the straight-line distance calculated by the Local Authority's Geographical Information System (GIS) in use at the time of allocation (the system at the time of setting the policy takes the measurement between the address mapping points of the school and the applicant's home). If distances are equal, as calculated by the Authority's GIS system, for example a flat in a block of dwellings with the same front entrance, a random allocation system will be administered by the LA as an independent body with the agreement the Governing Body.

The distance calculated by the LA GIS will also determine the order of offers to be made within each of the criterion.

Waiting Lists

There is a waiting list for each year group. For applicants in Year 7 (entry September 2026) all children not in receipt of a place are automatically placed on the waiting list. Applicants will remain on the waiting list for the whole of the academic year unless a parent/carer request otherwise.

On the 31st July each year the waiting lists for all year groups expire and parents/carers must then re-apply if they want their child's name to be carried forward to the waiting list for the next year group.

If the number of children in the year group falls below the Governors' PAN, then places will be offered from the waiting list. The oversubscription criteria of the current Admissions Policy will be used to decide how places are offered.

Placing a child's name on a waiting list does not affect the parent's/carer's right of appeal against an unsuccessful application.

Withdrawal of Offers of Places by the Governors

It is important for parents/carers to note that should the Governing Body find evidence of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, the offer of a place may be withdrawn. This statement is made in accordance with the School Admission Code of Practice.

Challenging Behaviour

We will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8) apply, i.e. where section 87 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 is engaged.

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked after children, previously looked after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

Admissions to 6th Form (Year 12)

The Governors have agreed a published admission number (in addition to any students already in Year 11 at the academy) of 20. A 6th Form meeting will be offered to discuss an appropriate flight path and subject selection based on the academy's entry requirements, but this meeting will not form part of the decision-making process on whether to offer a place. The academy's Christian ethos ensures all members of the community are well-served and TBOWA 6th Form welcomes students of all faiths and no faith.

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirements for the 6th Form at the Bishop of Winchester Academy are the same for internal and external applicants. These entry requirements are:

- A minimum of 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above, which must include mathematics and at least one English. Additional subject specific entry requirements are set out in our entry requirements for the year of entry which can be found on our website: <https://www.tbowa.org/6th-form>.

Students wishing to study at TBOWA 6th Form should complete an expression of interest form by January 31st of the same year of entry. Expressions of interest received after this date will be processed if places are still available. We are unable to process any expressions of interest from students who have reached the age of 18 years on or before the 31st August of the same year of entry.

Oversubscription Criteria

The Governing Body is the Admissions Authority for The Bishop of Winchester Academy and is also responsible for the admission arrangements for the 6th Form. The policy terms set out below explain the priority given to applicants seeking entry into the 6th Form at The Bishop of Winchester Academy.

1. Looked after children or previously looked after children (as defined above);
2. Children of staff (as defined above);
3. Students whose siblings (as defined above) currently attend the academy in Years 7 - 13 and who will continue to do so on the date of admission, or will successfully conclude their Year 13 studies;
4. Up to 20% (20 for Year 12) of places for the admission of students who can, or one or both parents/carers can, demonstrate commitment to their religion (as defined above). This commitment must be declared and verified by an official from their religion on a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which can be obtained from the academy, the academy's website and the BCP Council's website (a copy is attached and forms a part of this policy.) The SIF must be signed by the current incumbent of the church or meeting place. The SIF must be returned to the academy before the closing date for applications to the 6th Form. The definition of religious commitment is detailed on the SIF;

All remaining places will be offered based on the distance from the student's home address to the academy. The distance measurement will be calculated using a GIS in a straight line from the academy to the student's home. The applications will be ranked in the order nearest to furthest (please refer above for further details).

6th Form Prospectus

A prospectus giving details of all the courses available, together with course entry requirements, and much else about the 6th Form at The Bishop of Winchester Academy, is available from on the academy's [website www.tbowa.org](http://www.tbowa.org)

In-Year Admissions

In-Year Fair Access Protocol

The academy, together with other Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole schools and the Local Authority, operates an In-Year Fair Access Protocol in accordance with the Schools' Admissions Code. This helps ensure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

Admissions to Years 8 to 11

Applications for admission to Years 8 to 11 are managed on a coordinated basis and should be made through your Local Authority. They will be considered according to the criteria for admission to Year 7. Decisions will depend on the availability of places. The PAN for Years 8-11 is 210. Parent(s)/carer(s) should note that each year operates a waiting list for new applicants if all 210 places are taken. Details about this waiting list are given within this policy.

Admission Appeals

If the academy is oversubscribed and you are told that a place cannot be offered for your child then you have a right of appeal. Parents/carers whose child is refused a place and who wish to appeal are asked to write to: The Clerk to the Governing Body, c/o The Bishop of Winchester Academy indicating their grounds for requesting an appeal.

Contact with the Academy

The Governing Body wants its Admissions Policy to be presented to parents/carers as clearly and helpfully as possible. Parents/carers should not hesitate to contact the academy if in doubt about any matter relating to the policy and how it is implemented.

THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER ACADEMY



Religious Commitment Supplementary Information Form.

The purpose of the Supplementary Information Form is to verify the religious commitment of students applying for a place at The Bishop of Winchester Academy. You **must complete this form** if you want your application to be considered using the Religious Commitment Oversubscription Criteria of the Academy's Admissions Policy.

I		Your name	
Of		Your address	
being the Parent/Carer of		Your child's name	
		Date of Birth	
<p><i>applying for a place at The Bishop of Winchester Academy declare that my child and/ or family's religious commitment, for at least the previous TWELVE months, is described as:</i></p>			
<p>For Criterion "A" – "Attached to a Christian Church". <i>A regular worshipper who attends a Christian family or church service or who is regularly involved in a weekday Christian church activity including an element of worship at least twice a month.</i></p>		please tick one box only	
<p>For Criterion "B" – "A member of another World Religion". <i>A person who attends an act of worship at least twice per month at the place of worship associated with your Religion.</i></p>		please tick one box only	
<p>Please give the name of the Church your child attends in the space below. Thank you.</p>			
Name of Church:			
Parent's/Carer's signature.		Please print your name.	
Signed:		Name:	
		Date:	
<p><u>PLEASE GET THIS FORM SIGNED BY THE PERSON(S) VERIFYING YOUR DECLARATION</u> <u>See the Academy's Admissions Policy to find out who these persons should be.</u></p>			
<p><i>I verify that the information given above is correct.</i></p>			
Verified by	Person 1	Person 2 (If applicable)	
Signature			
Please print your name			
Status within the church (eg Vicar / Priest in Charge)			
Your contact address / telephone			
Date			
<p>For Academy Use Only</p> <p>Accepted by the school as a validated religious commitment declaration and signed on behalf of the Governing Body by</p>			
Name of person signing on behalf of the Governing Body.	Name	Signature	Date
<p>When completed and signed by the Church official(s) please return to The Bishop of Winchester Academy as soon as possible and not later than the closing date for admissions set by the BCP Local Authority.</p>			

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