



Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre

Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2018/2019

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School and 6th Form Centre is a voluntary aided school in the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. The school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church and is in the Trusteeship of the Diocese. The school is conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with Canon Law, the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Portsmouth. It seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

The school offers a Catholic education. The school was set up primarily to serve the Catholic community in the Greater Reading area. Although Catholic children have priority of admission, the Governing Body also welcomes applications from those of other denominations and faiths, or none. The governors expect that all parents applying for places for their children will accept the Catholic character and ethos of the school.

The Governing Body of Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School is the Admissions Authority for the school. The Governing Body intends to admit to Year 12, in September 2018, up to 150 pupils from both internal and external applications. The Planned Admission Number (PAN) for external applicants is 25.

Admission Criteria

Pupils who are on roll at Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School at the end of the academic year immediately preceding the proposed date of entry into Year 12 who meet the Entry Requirements for their programme of study will automatically be offered a place.

Up to 25 pupils from schools other than Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School who meet the Entry Requirements for their programme of study will also be offered a place in Year 12.

Admissions Procedure

Students are required to complete a formal application and this must be submitted before the published closing date, which is by the end of the last day of term in December.

For an application form please see the School website or contact the School Office or Head of Sixth Form.

In addition, external applicants are advised to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which can also be obtained from the School Office/Head of Sixth Form or downloaded from the website. Completion of a SIF is not compulsory, but this school has a religious character which permits the governing body to request additional information in order to place applications in the correct Oversubscription category. You

should also complete a SIF if you are applying for priority because of exceptional medical/social need. If a SIF is not submitted, applications can only be ranked on the basis of information contained in the Application Form.

Oversubscription Criteria

If there are more than 25 external applicants who all meet the minimum Entry Requirements, and after the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plans, the Governors will offer places using the following criteria in the order stated:-

1. Baptised Catholic looked after children or Baptised Catholic previously looked after children. Evidence of Baptism and adoption (if applicable) will be required (*see notes a, b and c*).
2. Baptised Catholic children. Evidence of Baptism will be required (*see notes b and c*).
3. Other looked after children and previously looked after children. Evidence of adoption (if applicable) will be required (*see note a*).
4. Children who are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches. Evidence of membership of the church provided by a priest of a designated place of worship will be required (*see note c*).
5. Children of families who are members of other Christian denominations. Evidence of membership of the church provided by a priest/ minister of a designated place of worship will be required (*see notes c and h*).
6. Children of families who are members of other faiths. Evidence of membership of the faith, provided by a minister/faith leader of a designated place of worship, will be required.
7. Any other children.

Priority within the Oversubscription Criteria:

The governors will apply the following order of priorities within any of the above criteria when applications exceed the number of places available and it is necessary to decide between applications through a priority ranking:

- i. Social or medical need which make the school particularly suitable for the child in question. **STRONG AND RELEVANT EVIDENCE MUST BE PROVIDED BY AN APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY** (e.g. qualified medical practitioner, Education Welfare Officer, SENCO, senior UK service personnel, social worker or social care professional). Evidence of a diagnosis or a letter from a parent expressing a preference for the school is **NOT sufficient evidence** (*see note d*).
- ii. Within each Oversubscription category above, priority will be given to children with a sibling in the school at the time of application (*see note e*).
- iii. For applicants in Oversubscription category 2 above priority will be given to children of families who are practising Catholics in the following order: those who practice regularly; those who practice occasionally; those who practice irregularly. Practice is defined as attendance at Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass. This evidence must be provided by the parent/carer (*see note g*) and be endorsed by a priest at the church (es) where the child normally worships.
The definitions of regularity of practice are:
“Regularly” means weekly attendance at Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass
“Occasionally” means at least monthly attendance at Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass

“Irregularly” means less than monthly attendance at Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass.

- iv. Within each Oversubscription category above, priority will be given to the applicant whose permanent home address is nearest to the school. This information on distance is provided by Reading Local Authority using a computerised system; distances are not measured by the Governing Body. Evidence of residence may be required (*see note f*).

Year 12 Entry Requirements

For an Academic Pathway at Level 3 consisting of 3/4 A Level subjects five individual GCSE grades A* – C, or grades 9-5, including English and Maths. Students must additionally meet the individual subject specific criteria as published in the Sixth Form Prospectus which includes GCSE grade 6 for Maths, Sciences and MFL or a 7 for Further Mathematics.

For a Combined Academic and Vocational Pathway at Level 3 consisting of a combination of BTEC, AS and GCSE Maths and English, four individual GCSE grades A* – C, or grades 9-4, in any subject. Students must additionally meet the individual subject specific criteria as published in the Sixth Form Prospectus which includes a grade 6 for Maths, Sciences and MFL or a grade 7 for Further Mathematics and a grade 4 in English for most other subjects.

Late Applications

Any applications received after the closing date will be accepted, but considered only after those received by the closing date.

Waiting Lists

If the school is oversubscribed, parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask for their child’s name to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above. Placing a child’s name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place. The waiting list will be maintained by the school until at least 31 December in the academic year of admission. The names on the waiting list will be ranked in line with the oversubscription criteria each time a child is added to the list.

Children admitted under **the Fair Access Protocol** may take precedence over those on the waiting list.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

The Governing Body will make decisions 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 views; information about the child’s academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. They must also take into account the views of the head teacher of the school concerned. When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the Governing Body will set out clearly the reasons for its decision.

Where the Governing Body agrees to a parent’s request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (i.e. the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school) the local authority and Governing Body must process the application as part of the main admissions round, unless the parental request is made too late for this to be possible, and on the basis of their determined admission arrangements only, including the

application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. They must not give the application lower priority on the basis that the child is being admitted out of their normal age group. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

In-Year Admissions

Applications for In-Year admissions will be considered by the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body. The maximum number of places per year group is 150, of which up to 25 will be offered to external applicants. If there are vacancies in the year group then a place will be offered. If there are more applications than places available then the Oversubscription Criteria will be applied, so completion of a Supplementary Information Form is advised.

Please ensure that you contact the school and the Local Authority when making an In-Year application.

Notes (these form part of the admission arrangements):**a) Looked after children:**

'A looked after child' has the same meaning as in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function (e.g. child with foster parents) at the time of making an application to a school.

Previously looked after children:

'Previously looked after children' are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders) or became subject to a child arrangements order¹⁸ or special guardianship order¹⁹. Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

A copy of the adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order and a letter from the Local Authority that last looked after the child confirming that he/she was looked after immediately prior to that order being made, will be required.

- a) '**A Baptised Catholic**' means a person whose Church of Baptism is 'in communion with the See of Rome' or a person received into the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church comprises within it the Latin Rite (Roman Catholics) and the Eastern or Oriental Rite (composed of Catholic (Uniate) Churches – see below). This will be evidenced by a certificate of Baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

b)

Traditions	Catholic Churches (Churches in communion with the See of Rome)
Alexandrian	Coptic Catholic Church Ethiopian Catholic Church includes Eritrean Catholic Church
Antiochean (West Syrian)	Syrian Catholic Church (Syro-) Maronite Catholic Church Syro-Malankar Catholic Church
Armenian	Armenian Catholic Church
Chaldean (East Syrian)	Chaldean Catholic Church Syro-Malabar Catholic Church
Constantinopolitan (Byzantine)	Albanian (Byzantine) Catholic Church, Belarussian Catholic Church Bulgarian (Byzantine) Catholic Church, Georgian Catholic Church Greek (Hellenic) Catholic Church, Greek-Melkite Catholic Church Hungarian (Byzantine) Catholic Church, Italo-Albanian (Byzantine) Catholic Church, Church of the Byzantines of the Diocese of Krizevci (Byzantine Catholics in former Yugoslavia), Macedonian Catholic Church, Romanian (Greek) Catholic Church, Russian Catholic Church, Ruthenian

	(Byzantine) Catholic Church, Slovak (Greek) Catholic Church. Ukrainian (Greek) Catholic Church
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Notes: 1. 1. 1. Orthodox Churches, including the Coptic Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches, are NOT in full communion with the See of Rome.

2. 'Anglican Ordinariates' are members of the Latin Rite but those describing themselves as 'Anglo Catholics' are members of the Anglican Communion and therefore not in communion with the Holy See. Please refer any queries to the Diocesan Department for Schools, via the School.

- c) **Exceptional medical need:** If the child has a serious medical condition/disability such that the parent feels the child must go to Blessed Hugh Faringdon School, this must be specified on the Supplementary Information Form. Governors can only consider applications under this category if supporting evidence is attached, e.g. a letter from a registered health professional, setting out the particular reasons why this school is the most suitable and the difficulties that would be caused if the child attended another school. Governors will make their decision based on the medical evidence provided by the child's medical consultants. Governors will consult the LA's medical advisers and only agree to a priority placement if the medical advisers consider it necessary for the child to attend this school.

Exceptional social need: If parents feel there are sensitive, individual and serious family circumstances, perhaps involving the support services (e.g. social care) these may be considered at the time of the application for a school place. This will need to be specified on the Supplementary Information Form and evidence provided, e.g. a report from a social care professional detailing why this school is the most appropriate placement for the child given the circumstances of the case.

- d) **Siblings:** For admission to this school, a sibling is defined as a brother or sister (i.e. another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), or a half-brother/ half-sister or a step-brother/ step-sister or an adoptive or foster brother/ sister, living at the same address. A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling at the school at the time of the child's application.
- e) **Distance:** Distance is the straight line distance between the Ordnance survey data point of the child's home and the data point (469299 Easting and 172222 Northing) of the school measured using Reading Borough Council's software.

A child's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only/main residence and not an address that is sometimes used due to certain domestic/special arrangements. The address must be the pupil's home address on the day the application form was completed and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents, or guardian OR leased or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement. If parents live separately but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, the 'home address' will be regarded as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekdays.

A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the school. In the unlikely event that two or more children live in the same block or an equal distance from the school and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child receives the place. This process will be supervised by an independent person, usually an appropriate officer of the local authority.

- f) **Parents/Carers:** *The terms 'parent' or 'carer' are used for all persons who legally have responsibility for the child.*
- g) **Other Christian denominations** *are those which are full members of 'Churches Together in England'; a list of the member churches can be seen at www.cte.org.uk*

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