

Saint Gabriel's College

Admissions Policy for the 2016/17 Academic Year

All parents applying for a place in Year 7 at Saint Gabriel's College must complete the Common Application Form from their Local Authority. 120 pupils are admitted into Year 7 every Year.

Ethos Statement

Saint Gabriel's College is a Church of England school with a distinctive Christian ethos at its heart. The school provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment where children of all faiths or none will learn and flourish in a setting shaped by Christian values. We welcome applications from all members of the community and we ask all parents to respect the Christian ethos of our school and its importance to our community.

Statutory Changes to Maintained Schools Admissions for 2016/17

The following statutory changes have come into place for 2016/17:

1) Definition of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

Looked After Children are children who are in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions as defined by Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to the school. **Previously Looked After Children** are children who were looked after immediately prior to being adopted, or who became subject to a residence order (now termed child arrangement order under the Children & Families Act 2014), or special guardianship order. The Governors will require written confirmation that the child is looked after, or previously looked after, and will be so at the time of making an application to the school.

2) Special Educational Needs

Parents/carers of children who have a statement of special educational needs, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan are required to apply for school places separately through the local authority from whom advice is available. If a child with a statement, or EHC Plan, is placed in the school by the local authority before the normal admission round, the number of places available to other applicants will be reduced. The Governors will admit all those pupils whose statement, or EHC Plan, names the School.

3) Education out of normal (chronological) age group

Children are normally educated in school with others of their age group; however, in exceptional circumstances parents/carers may seek a place outside of their child's normal age group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case. Parents/carers must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interests and may provide recent professional evidence to support this. Further details of how to make such a request are available from the school.

Admissions Procedure

The College admits pupils under three categories – **Church Foundation Places**, **Specialist Music Places** and **Open Places** according to a system of "banding" to ensure a comprehensive intake across the full range of ability. Students applying to Saint Gabriel's College will be required to take cognitive abilities tests on a date to be published each year. There will be arrangements for late tests for any applicants who are unable to attend on the date of the test.

The College will admit from each of the ability bands as follows:

25% band one

50% band two
25% band three

If there are insufficient applicants for places the following criteria will apply: the unfilled places in band 1 will be offered to band 2 applicants; the unfilled places in band 2 will be offered to band 1 and band 3 applicants equally; the unfilled places in band 3 will be offered to band 2 applicants.

Church Foundation Places

The governors have decided that 25% of places each year should be Church Foundation places; these places will be offered to students who themselves and/or whose families are committed regular worshippers in a Christian church. A letter of support will be required from the minister in charge. Parents applying for a Church Place must complete the Church Place Supplementary Information Form available from the school, **as well as** the Common Application Form from the Local Education Authority. If there are more applications from those who fulfil the above definition than places available, places will be allocated in the following priority order.

1. Looked After Children, or previously Looked After, or subject to a child arrangement order under the Children & Families Act 2014.
2. Children who themselves and/or families attend St John the Divine Church, Kennington.
3. Children who will have a brother(s) and/or sister(s) already at St Gabriel's College when they enter the school.
4. Children who have a special need that can be met by the School. This is to be supported by evidence from a suitable professional agency, e.g. teacher, social worker, doctor etc, stating why this would be the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.
5. The shortest safe walking route by road.

If there are fewer than 25% qualified applicants for Church Foundation places, any unfilled places will automatically become extra open places.

Unsuccessful applicants for Church Foundation places will be considered for open places.

Specialist Music Places

10% of places will be offered to children who demonstrate that they have the aptitude to benefit from a place at a specialist music school. Places will be allocated on the basis of an aptitude test carried out in November/ December to include performance either as a vocalist or instrumentalist and a test of aural perception and awareness. Applicants will be placed in rank order according to their total score in the aptitude test.

Those not offered a specialist place will automatically be considered for a place under the general admission criteria.

All students at Saint Gabriel's College have the opportunity to apply for peripatetic music lessons.

Parents applying for a Specialist Music Place must complete the Supplementary Information Form available from the school, **as well as** the Common Application Form from the Local Education Authority

Open Places

The governors have designated 65% of places each year as Open Places, to be offered to students who do not qualify for a Church Foundation place.

If there are more applications than places, places will be allocated in the following priority order.

1. Looked After Children, or previously Looked After, or subject to a child arrangement order under the Children & Families Act 2014.
2. Children who will have a brother(s) and/or sister(s) already at St Gabriel's College when they enter the school
3. Children who have a special need that can be met by the School. This is to be supported by evidence from a suitable professional agency, e.g. teacher, social worker, doctor etc, stating why this would be the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.
4. The shortest safe walking route by road.

Parents applying for an open place or a specialist place do so knowing that the school aims to provide an education based on Christian principles and therefore the governors hope that all students will take part in the Christian worship of the school and will attend religious education lessons. Parents wishing to apply for an open place should do so by filling in the Common Application Form available from the Local Authority.

Where two or more applicants have equal right to a place and there are insufficient places available, the matter will be determined by distance in the first instance. If this is insufficient, the matter will be decided by drawing lots. In the case of twins or other in-year siblings, the governors would admit both children.