



Sacred Heart High School

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Academic Year 2025-2026

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The School

Sacred Heart High School is a Catholic 11-18 comprehensive school for girls within the Trusteeship of the Society of the Sacred Heart. The school was founded by the Society in 1893 has always sought to promote the education of women and academic excellence.

The school has academy status and its Governing Body is the Admission Authority for the school.

1.2 Admissions Policy

This admissions policy relates to admissions for Year 7 for entry in September 2025 and later In-Year admissions in the academic year 2025-2026.

Numbered footnotes appear throughout this policy, providing further clarification on the definition of various words and phrases. The clarification notes can be found in Section 11 below.

There is a separate admissions policy for the Sacred Heart Sixth Form.

1.3 Number of Places in Year 7

There are 198 places in Year 7. This is our Published Admissions Number (PAN).

1.4 Equality

In formulating this policy, the school has had regard to the principles and provisions of the Equality Act 2010.

The school does not select its pupils on the basis of ability or aptitude. The school welcomes applications from children of all abilities, including from those with additional or special educational needs or disabilities.

The school deliberately seeks to take pupils across a wide range of abilities and it does so with the use of a banding test referred to below.

1.5 Banding

The school assesses the ability of applicants using a non-verbal reasoning banding test. The scores from this test are used to place each girl into one of three ability bands for the initial round of offers. Places in Year 7 are distributed across these bands as follows.

Test Scores	% of overall places	Number of Places
Band 1: above average ability	25%	49
Band 2: average ability	50%	100
Band 3: below average ability	25%	49

The banding test simply provides information to enable the school to secure a comprehensive intake. It is not a selection test. After the applicant has been allocated a band, the test result has no further relevance to the outcome of an application. In the event of oversubscription in any band, it will be the

oversubscription criteria and not the test score which determine whether or not a place is allocated.

Practical arrangements for the banding test are set out later below in Section 4.

Banding will not be applied to the reserve list.

1.6 Girls with Education & Health Care (EHC) Plans

Girls with an Education, Health and Care Plan¹ which names the school are dealt with under separate statutory procedures by the local authority, and will be admitted without reference to this policy.

Girls with an EHC plan are asked to attend to take the non-verbal reasoning banding test and will be allocated places in the appropriate band but regardless of the banding arrangements, will be allocated a place if their EHC plan names the school.

In the normal round of admissions in Year 7, these EHC Plan admissions are made first, consequently reducing the number of other places available. Where admission occurs 'In-Year' the girl will be admitted over the Published Admissions Number if necessary.

1.7 Twins and Children of Multiple Births

Where a place is achieved by a twin or child of a multiple birth but there are no remaining places for their twin or multiple birth sisters, the school will admit the remaining twin or multiple birth sisters over the Published Admission Number.

2 OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Places will be offered within each of the three ability bands in the following order of priority.

Criterion 1: Catholic Looked After Girls & Previously Looked After Catholic Girls including girls adopted from state care outside England with a Certificate of Catholic Practice

Catholic² *looked after*³ girls and *previously looked after*³ Catholic girls including girls adopted from state care outside England with a Certificate of Catholic Practice⁷

Criterion 2: Catholic Girls with a Certificate of Catholic Practice

Catholic² girls with a Certificate of Catholic Practice⁷ will then be admitted in the following order:

- a) Those who have an exceptional medical or social need⁵ which makes it necessary for them to attend Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith, **and no other school**.
- b) Those who have a sister⁶ currently or previously on roll at the school
- c) Those with a parent/carer who has been employed as a member of school staff on a permanent contract for at least two years at the time of application.
- d) Those who attend one of our Feeder Schools listed in Appendix A.
- e) Other Catholic girls with a Certificate of Catholic Practice.

Criterion 3: Catholic Girls without a Certificate of Catholic Practice

Catholic² girls without a Certificate of Catholic Practice⁴ will then be admitted in the following order:

- a) Those who have an exceptional medical or social need⁵ which makes it necessary for them to attend Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith, **and no other school**.

- b) Those who have a sister⁶ currently or previously on roll at the school.
- c) all other Catholic girls.

Criterion 4: Other Looked After Girls and Previously looked after girls including girls adopted from state care outside England.

Girls who are **not Catholic**² who are *looked after*³ girls and *previously looked after*³ girls including girls adopted from state care outside England.

Criterion 5: Members of the Catechumenate of a Catholic Church & Members of Eastern Christian Churches

*Catechumens of a Catholic Church*⁷ are normally evidenced by a Certificate of Reception into the Order of Catechumens. *Eastern Christian Church*⁸ includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism or Reception from the authorities of that Church.

Criteria 6: Other Girls

Any other girls

3 PRIORITISING WITHIN OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERION GROUPS

3.1 The Random Allocation Process

If there are more girls in any oversubscription criterion group than places available, the places within that group will be allocated on the basis of random allocation within each ability band.

The random allocation process will be carried out electronically by an organisation wholly independent from the school. The independent organisation will electronically create a random order for applicants and places will be awarded in this order.

4 BANDING TEST

4.1 The Banding Test Arrangements

All prospective candidates must attend to take the non-verbal reasoning banding test which will take place on **9th November 2024**. If you have a valid reason (with evidence to support it) for not being able to attend on this day, please contact the school as soon as possible and we will endeavour to provide an alternative date for the test.

Applications to the school cannot be considered by the Governors without an ability band.

The main exception to this will be candidates with an EHC Plan who will be admitted without reference to this policy or 'looked after' girls or 'previously looked after' girls who will be given priority under the oversubscription criteria regardless of whether they have taken the test or not. We still encourage all girls take the test.

5 APPLICATION

5.1 Application Forms

Application forms must be completed by the parent of, or adult with legal responsibility for the child for whom a place at Sacred Heart High School is being sought.

Main Application Form

All applicants for Year 7 **must** complete the eAdmissions Form by the application deadline, which for the 2025 intake is **31st October 2024**. It is recommended that

applicants do this online at www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app. Paper copies are also available from the candidate's home local authority on request and must be returned to the candidate's home local authority by the application deadline of **31st October 2024**.

Supplementary Information Form

All applicants should also complete the school's own Supplementary Information Form. This is essential for all applicants in Criteria 2,3 and 5 and failure to do so would mean that the Governing Body will be unable to fully assess your application against the oversubscription criteria. Historically, the school has been heavily oversubscribed with Catholic candidates and therefore if you do not submit a completed Supplementary Information Form by the deadline, it is extremely unlikely that your daughter will be offered a place.

The Supplementary Information Form is available on the school website <https://www.shhsadmissions.org.uk/>

Whilst the deadline for the return of the Supplementary Information Form is **31st October 2024**, it is recommended that this form is uploaded electronically by **3.00pm 25th October 2024**. The school will be closed from 3.00pm on Friday 25th October 2024 for half term and no checking procedure/IT support will be available.

Certificate of Catholic Practice

Applicants should also submit a Certificate of Catholic Practice in order to be considered under Criterion 1 and Criterion 2. This form is available from the priest at the parish where the family normally worships and it must be **signed by the priest**, with the **official parish stamp**.

5.2 Failure to Provide Forms and/or Documents

Applicants are advised to ensure that they read the whole of this policy carefully to establish what forms they are required to complete and what documents they are required to provide to the school in addition to submitting the Common Application Form to their home local authority. There is a summary checklist on the application form.

Failure to provide, or lateness in providing, any required form or document may result in the candidate being placed into a lower criterion group, which might adversely affect their chance of achieving an offer of a place.

5.3 Late Applications

Any applications received by the school after the application deadline of **31st October 2024** but at least seven days prior to the date of the banding test will only be considered after all applications which were received on time, except in very exceptional circumstances. Any exceptional circumstances which apply must be explained in a covering letter accompanying the forms and documents, which should be addressed to the Governing Body. The Governing Body reserves the right to request documentary evidence in support of any matter disclosed as exceptional circumstances. The Governing Body will make all decisions fairly and consistently.

5.4 Documentary Evidence

The Governing Body reserves the right to request documentary evidence, where any part of the application for admission requires further clarification before the application can be processed.

5.5 Providing False Information/Documentation

Not only will providing fraudulent or intentionally misleading information usually result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place, it is a criminal offence and may result in applicants being prosecuted in the criminal courts.

6 OFFERS AND APPEALS

6.1 National Offers Day

The national offers day is **1st March 2025** and results will be made available during the evening if you applied online with all applicants receiving communication from their home local authority by **1st March 2025**.

6.2 Communication from the school

The school will also write to all successful applicants on **3rd March 2025** to provide them with the admission forms to complete. It would be of great assistance if all responses to offers could be returned within five working days of receipt of that letter, so that an early indication of places which are not required can be established. These places can then be offered to the next eligible candidates who applied.

6.3 Statutory Right of Appeal

Applicants who were unsuccessful in achieving a place for their daughter have a statutory right of appeal against the refusal. Full details of how to appeal, including the deadline by which the appeal must be submitted, will be included with the refusal letter.

7 WAITING LIST & IN-YEAR APPLICATIONS

7.1 The Waiting List (maintained from 1 Sept 2025)

In addition to the right to appeal, unsuccessful candidates will be placed on the Reserve List. Ability bands will not apply to the Reserve List. The order of the Reserve List will be determined in accordance with the oversubscription criterion and will be maintained until 31st August 2025.

Those who already applied for Year 7 within the original deadline but failed to secure a place at Sacred Heart High School, and anyone who applied to Year 7 after the closing date for applications, **must specifically request** to be placed on the waiting list if they still wish to be considered for a place after 1 Sept 2025.

The date that the application for admission was received is not considered. Where priority needs to be established within a particular oversubscription criterion, a new round of random allocation will occur (so that those who apply for a place at the school after an earlier round of random allocation are not disadvantaged).

A candidate's name may go down the waiting list as more applications are received.

Ability bands will not apply to the Reserve List or Waiting List.

The waiting list will be maintained up to and including Year 10. The list will be re-generated and re-ordered so that it reflects the admission policy in effect at the time (and not that which applied when the application was made).

7.2 In-Year Applications and Appeals

Applications for In-Year admission must be made through Hammersmith & Fulham's co-ordinated 'In-Year Admission' scheme. Applicants are also requested to complete and return the school's own Supplementary Information Form.

If a place is available and there is no waiting list for that Year Group, then the governing body will admit the candidate.

If a place cannot be offered at this time, then you may ask for the reasons and you will be informed of your right of appeal.

You will be offered the opportunity of being placed on the Waiting List for the appropriate year group which will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria, with random allocation as referred to above, used for any tie breaks.

8 APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION OUTSIDE NORMAL AGE GROUP

Applicants who want their daughter to be admitted to a year other than with their daughter's normal age group must apply directly to the Governing Body for their daughter to be admitted to a year outside their normal age group - usually one year above or one year below.

Applicants must obtain an 'Application for Admission of Child Outside Normal Age Group Form' by downloading it from the school's website. A hard copy may also be obtained from the school office. The completed, signed and dated form must be submitted to the school, together with supporting evidence from a GP, hospital consultant, social worker or other professional, where appropriate, as soon as possible before the application deadline. An application for admission must also be submitted in the usual way, as set out above.

9 FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place. A Fair Access Protocol, agreed with schools in the local area, has been implemented by the local authority to find school places for children outside the normal admission round who are without a place. Such children will be admitted by the school over the Published Admission Number without reference to the waiting list for that year group.

10 DEFINITIONS & CLARIFICATION

These definitions form part of the oversubscription Criteria.

Note 1: Education, Health & Care Plan

An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.

Note 2: Catholic

'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 by a Certificate of Baptism in a Catholic church or a Certificate of Reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

For the purposes of this policy this includes a looked after child in the process of adoption and living with a Catholic family, where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised were it not for his/her status as a looked after child.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of **Catholic baptism** with the **official parish stamp** or **reception in the Catholic Church** with the **official parish stamp** will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their parish priest who, after consulting with the diocese will decide how the

question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

The Governing Body is, however, aware that in some limited cases, applicants may not be able to obtain the baptism or reception certificate for submission by the application deadline, and have therefore agreed a later deadline by which the baptism or reception certificate must be received. The deadline for the 2025 intake is **Wednesday, 13 November 2024**.

Note 3: Looked After, Previously Looked After

‘**Looked after**’ child has the same meaning as in S.22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents at the time of making an application to the school.) Looked after status will normally be evidenced by a letter from the girl’s social worker, which confirm her legal status.

A ‘**previously looked after**’ child is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or a Special Guardianship Order. Previously looked after status will normally be evidenced by a letter from the girl’s social worker or an adoption certificate. Girls or applicants ‘previously in state care outside England’ refers to those who have been looked after outside England by a public authority, a religious organisation or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society, for example an orphanage. Parents will be asked to provide evidence which demonstrates their child is eligible for priority under this criterion. Such evidence may include an adoption order. It is recognised that it may not be straightforward to establish that a child was in state care outside England. In such cases, the Governors will exercise professional judgement and common sense to determine eligibility

‘Adopted’ is any child who has been formally adopted from care and whose parent/guardian can give proof of legal adoption.

‘Special Guardianship Order’ is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.14A appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian(s). Children ‘looked after’ immediately prior to the granting of the order qualify under this category.

‘Child Arrangements Order’ is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. Children ‘looked after’ immediately prior to the granting of the order qualify under this category.

Note 4: Certificate of Catholic Practice

‘Certificate of Catholic Practice’ means a certificate issued by the family’s parish priest (or the priest in charge of the church where the family attends Mass) in the form laid down by the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

It will be issued if the priest is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent or carer (along with the child, if she is over seven years old) have (except when it was impossible to do so) attended Mass on Sundays and holydays of obligation for **at least five years** (or, in the case of the child, since the age of seven, if shorter).

It will also be issued when the practice has been continuous since being received into the Church if that occurred less than five years ago. It is expected that most Certificates will be issued on the basis of attendance.

A Certificate may also be issued by the priest when attendance is interrupted by exceptional circumstances which excuse from the obligation to attend on that

occasion or occasions. Further details of these circumstances can be found in the guidance issued to priests: <http://rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/admissions>

Note 5: Exceptional Medical or Social Need

It is the candidate who must have the exceptional social or medical need, rather than the candidate's parents. This should be evidenced with supporting documentation. Common medical conditions, for example asthma, eczema, diabetes or allergies, which can be managed by all schools will not result in priority under this category. Candidates who are not successful under this category will automatically be placed in the next category/criterion which applies to them.

Note 6: Sister

Sister is defined as being a full sister, half-sister, adopted sister or step-sister of the candidate as well as the daughter of the partner of the candidate's parent living in the same house and being brought up as sisters within the same core family unit.

Note 7 Catechumen of a Catholic Church

'Catechumen' means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a Certificate of Reception into the order of catechumens.

Note 8 Eastern Christian Church

'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism or Reception from the authorities of that Church.

Note 9 Code of Canon Law

Any reference to the Code of Canon Law is a reference to the Code of Canon Law promulgated by the Apostolic See. However, the requirements of this Code will be adjusted according to the Catholic rite, Latin or Eastern, to which the candidate belongs. Please refer to extracts from current Codes of Canon Law set out within our Notes on Catholic Practice which are appended to this document.

APPENDIX A: LIST OF FEEDER SCHOOLS

London Borough of Brent

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School, NW2 6HS
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, NW10 8PP
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, NW10 9LS
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School, HA9 6BE
St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School, NW10 0BG
St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School, NW2 5BB
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, NW6 5ST
St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School, NW9 8YD

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, SW6 4BL
Larmenier and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, W6 7BL
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, W6 8QE
St John XXIII Catholic Primary School, W12 7QR
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, W14 0LT
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, SW6 7HB
The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School, W12 9BY

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Oratory Roman Catholic Primary School, SW3 6QH
Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary School, SW7 5AQ
Servite Roman Catholic Primary School, SW10 9NA
St Charles' Catholic Primary School, W10 6EB
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, W11 4BJ
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, SW3 2QT
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, W10 5AW

London Borough of Wandsworth

Holy Ghost Catholic Primary School, SW12 8QJ
Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary School, SW15 1AW
Our Lady Queen of Heaven, SW19 6AD
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, SW11 2TD
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, SW15 5NX
St Anselm's Catholic Primary School, SW17 8BS
St Boniface Catholic Primary School, SW17 8PP
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, SW15 2QD
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, SW8 4BE

London Borough of Ealing

Holy Family Catholic Primary School, W3 0DY
Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School, UB6 9AN
Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School, W5 4EA
St Anselm's Catholic Primary School, UB2 4BH
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, W5 1SL
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, UB6 7AF
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, W7 3HU
St Raphael's Catholic Primary School, UB5 6NL
St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, W3 9JR

London Borough of Hounslow

Our Lady and St John's Catholic Primary School, TW8 9JF
St Lawrence Catholic Primary School, TW13 4AF
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, W4 2DF
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, TW7 7EE
St Michael and St Martin's Catholic Primary School, TW4 7AG
The Rosary Catholic Primary School, TW5 0RL

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, TW2 7BB
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, TW10 6HN
St James's Catholic Primary School, TW2 5NP
St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School, SW14 8HE
St Osmund's Catholic Primary School, SW13 9HQ
St Richard Reynolds Catholic Primary School, TW1 4LT
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, TW11 9DD