



ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2026/27 POST 16 provision

Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS) is an academy and part of Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) who is the admission authority.

The admission number for year 12 is 100. This is the number of places which will be offered on an annual basis to eligible **external** applicants. i.e students who are not already on roll at Bristol Cathedral Choir School. If fewer pupils intend to transfer from Year 11, the school will admit over the admission number.

Year 11 pupils at BCCS who want to stay on to sixth form and meet the Minimum Academic Entry Criteria will transfer to Year 12. Year 11 students at BCCS do **not** need to apply for admission, because they are already on the school roll. They will simply follow the school's internal transfer process.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Their parents should apply for an EHC needs assessment via their local authority (LA). Following the outcome of the LA assessment process, the school will admit any pupils with an EHCP naming the school. The places are reserved and the PAN will be reduced accordingly. If after the initial allocation of places an application is received from a child with an EHCP, we will go over PAN to accommodate the child.

All Other 6th Form Applicants

To be eligible to enter the sixth form both internal and external students will be expected to have met the minimum academic entry requirements. In addition to the sixth form's minimum academic entry requirements students will need to satisfy minimum entrance requirements to the courses for which they are applying. If either internal or external applicants fail to meet the minimum course requirements they will be given the option of pursuing any alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements. Course requirements are published annually on the website at the beginning of the academic year prior to admission.

Application Process

How to Apply

External students wishing to apply to the 6th Form should apply via the [on-line admission portal](#) by Friday 9th January 2026. The portal will be available on the school website in the Autumn term 2025.

Alternatively a paper application form is available [here](#).

Provisional Offers

The school will make approximately 900 provisional offers to all external applicants, reflecting the choice of providers available to candidates at this phase of education. Applicants should be aware that a provisional offer does not constitute a guarantee of a place. No guaranteed places will be offered prior to formal Enrolment.

Confirmation

Confirmation of the offer is conditional on the offer-holder meeting or exceeding the minimum entry requirements and meeting or exceeding the subject specific entry requirements. Once an offer is confirmed on completion of a pre-enrolment form with attached evidence of GCSE results, the offer holder may be invited to enrol. Course requirements are published annually on the website at the beginning of the academic year prior to admission.

Enrolment

Following the release of GCSE results, offer holders must submit their GCSE results via the application portal. Offer-holders will be sent a link to our online enrolment form on the morning of GCSE results day. They will then be able to submit their final GCSE results, attach their transcripts and complete the form. They will need to attach a scan/image of official ID. If they were born in the UK, a Passport or Birth Certificate. If they were not born in the UK, then a current Passport is required.

The order of enrolment will follow the oversubscription criteria set out below.

While every effort is made to ensure offer-holders can enrol on their chosen courses, BCCS reserves the right to withdraw or change provision (for example, if a subject is fully enrolled, there is a timetable clash or total capacity has been reached). An offer holder will not be enrolled onto an A-level course for which they have missed the subject specific

requirement. In this case they might be invited to attend an enrolment interview and be offered an alternative A-level subject for which they do qualify. However, whether we can make an alternative curriculum offer is dependent upon capacity in those subjects and so BCCS cannot guarantee confirmation and enrolment in all cases.

Late Applications

Late applications will **only** be considered under exceptional circumstances and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Late applicants judged by the Head of Sixth Form to warrant special consideration will be placed on a reserve list (rather than issued with a provisional offer) and invited to enrol as part of the standard enrolment process on receipt of GCSE results that meet or exceed the school's minimum entry requirements (including any relevant subject-specific entry requirements).

Applicants with non-standard qualifications

In the case of applicants with non-standard qualifications (for example, overseas qualifications), BCCS shall consider whether those qualifications are equivalent to GCSEs and will assess on a case-by-case basis whether the applicant is ready to progress to the course for which they have applied. LAE may ask candidates to produce evidence of equivalency (for example a [UK ENIC Statement of Comparability](#)) at the candidate's expense (For further information see <https://www.enic.org.uk/>).

Post GCSE results Late Applications

If, following formal enrolment, BCCS has places available on specific courses, the Head of Sixth Form will make additional discretionary offers in-line with the school's minimum entry and oversubscription criteria.

Oversubscription Criteria for Year 12

Where BCCS is undersubscribed all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted/permitted to progress. Where there are more eligible external applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements, priority will be given in the order set out below:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children

Highest priority will be given to looked after children (children in care) or children who were previously looked after (previously in care) at the time the application is submitted and will be allocated places in this category.

A 'looked after child' is one 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 functions, in England.

A 'previously looked after child' is one who was looked after in England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order, as well as a child who appears to the Admission Committee to have been in state care outside of England (i.e. in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society), but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted."

Applications in this category must be supported by documentary evidence confirming the child's status. A signed letter from the child's current or former social worker confirming their status must be provided with your application. For children previously in care, confirmation that the child was in care to the local authority immediately prior to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order being granted. A copy of the order must also be submitted with your application. In the case of children adopted from state care outside England (as defined above), evidence of having been in state care outside England and of being adopted must be provided together with a copy of the adoption order with your application. When assessing the evidence provided, the DfE's current guidance will be followed.

Where the Virtual School Head at the Local Authority has already verified the child's status and the Admission Committee is able to confirm this with them, there will be no need for further evidence to be provided to the School.

2. Siblings

Next, children who, *on the date of admission*, will have a sibling on roll at Bristol Cathedral Choir School (age 11-16 secondary provision).

A sibling is defined as a natural brother or sister, or a half brother or sister, or a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, or step brother or sister who will be living with them permanently at the same address. Step brothers/sisters are defined as children who are not necessarily related biologically (including foster children) but are living in the same household for the majority of the time at the address the admission authority considers to be the address of the child for whom the application is made.

For the avoidance of doubt this does not include cousins, other family members, friends or siblings attending the BCCS 6th Form (Post 16 provision). A sibling must be attending (or is expected by the admission authority to be attending) the school (age 11-16 secondary provision only) at the time of admission.

The admission authority may require proof of relationship and/or proof of residence.

3. Children of Staff

Next, priority will be given to children of staff who are employed by Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) where their main place of work is Bristol Cathedral Choir School. This will include all teaching and non-teaching staff who;

- a. have been employed at the School for at least two consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission is made; or
- b. were recruited to fill a vacant post at the School for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Notes:

- A School will be the staff member's main place of work if they are based there for at least 50% of their contracted hours each week during term time.
- Children of staff include their natural or adopted children, children placed with the staff member on a long term foster placement, their step-children (i.e. their spouse's children) and the children of their partner who live with them. In all cases, the child must live at the same permanent address as the staff member.
- A staff member is an employee of CST with a 'continuity of employment' contract who is full time, part time, teaching, leadership or support staff, and who will still be employed by CST in the September the child is admitted.

Parents applying for a place under this criterion should complete the [Staff Supplementary Information Form](#) and submit to the school (admissions@cathedralschoolstrust.org)

4. Other children living in Bristol local authority postcode areas BS1 to BS16

For other children not falling into any of the above categories, random allocation will be used to decide the remainder of the places for children living in any of the following Bristol Local Authority postcode areas BS1 to BS16. This process will be overseen by an independent body.

5. Other children not living in Bristol local authority postcode areas BS1 to BS16

In the event of any places still available these will be allocated by random allocation to other children living outside of the above postcode areas. This process will be overseen by an independent body. Note: applicants living in South Gloucestershire Local Authority whose postcode is BS15 or BS16 will be included in this category.

Tiebreak

If a tie-break is required in any of the above categories to decide who has priority for admission between two applicants, random allocation will be used. This process will be independently verified.

Applicant's Home address:

A child's permanent home address, where he or she resides with a person with parental responsibility, or with a parent (as defined in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996). It is the address where the child spends the majority of the time. Documentary evidence may be required to confirm a child's home address.

The Admission Authority will not accept more than one address as the child's home address. Where a child regularly lives at more than one address the Admission Authority will have to reach a conclusion about which should be counted as the main address when allocating places, taking relevant evidence into account. Normally this will be the address where the child is registered with a medical GP. Where parents or carers are living separately and do not agree on the child's home address, they are urged to reach an agreement. If this does not happen evidence may be required by providing court documents or other legally binding documentation such as a sworn affidavit confirming where the child resides for the majority of the school week. Where satisfactory evidence cannot be provided, the Admission Authority will determine the address to be used for allocating a school place.

For the avoidance of doubt, In categories [1, 2 and 3] above, the applicant's address is not taken into consideration to determine whether a child meets these criteria.

Admission of children outside normal age group

Children are normally educated in school with others of their age group; however, in exceptional circumstances parents/carers may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and either be agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows:

With the application to the 6th Form, parents should complete the form below to request that the child is admitted to another year group, and the reasons for that request;

[Form to request an out of normal chronological age group admission](#)

Completed forms should be sent to the Admissions, Cathedral Schools Trust, College Square, Bristol, BS1 5TS or via email to:

admissions@cathedralschoolstrust.org

Parents will submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, head teacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include:

- 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.

The Trust will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests as well as the view of the Headteacher. The Admissions Committee will then decide whether such an out-of-year group place will be agreed or refused on that basis. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the

request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, and the reason for any refusal. Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time.

Waiting Lists

The admission authority will operate a waiting list for students who are unsuccessful in achieving a place in Year 12 until 31 December following entry in September. After that time, the waiting list is cleared.

The waiting list is ranked strictly in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in this policy, and not by reference to the date that the student's name was added to the list. This means that a student's name can go down as well as up the waiting list as more names are added.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Further Information

post16admissions@bristolcathedral.org.uk

Registered Address

Head of School: Dr Wade Nottingham
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