



ST DOMINIC'S
Sixth Form College

Admissions Criteria and Procedures for Entry in August 2023

Introduction

St Dominic's is a Catholic Sixth Form College committed to the personal and spiritual growth of all its members based on Christian values, academic excellence and high-quality pastoral care. The College specialises in post-16 education in a Catholic setting and has a close relationship with its partner schools, the Sacred Heart Language College and the Salvatorian College. The partner schools contributed the majority of students when the College was established in 1979 and continue to do so.

Academic requirements

A Level Programme

The College assigns a point score based on the GCSE grades of 1-9 ^{*1}. Grades in qualifications other than GCSE are not counted for the purposes of deciding application and admission.

To qualify for an A level programme consisting of 3 A levels, students are expected to achieve at least 7 GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including, English Language and Mathematics.

However, their average point score is a **key determining factor in achieving an offer**. Students **must meet their individual offer** in order to achieve a place. This does not guarantee individual and specific courses.

Applied General Qualification

St Dominic's also offers a BTEC programme at level 3 with priority given to the **students from our partner schools**. The College would expect any student wishing to study for this Extended BTEC Diploma to achieve at least 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English Language and Mathematics.

Applications

The deadline for completed applications for the academic year of 2023/2024 is published on the College website.

The College welcomes applications from students with specific learning difficulties or disabilities who will be offered advice and guidance about courses and the support available. All students with EHCPs must meet their offer, however, in order to go forward to enrol at the College.

The College welcomes students of all religious backgrounds who wish to pursue their studies in a Catholic context. All students will be asked to write a personal statement to make clear their reasons for wanting to study at a Catholic Sixth Form College. This statement will not be used to determine the offer of places but represents an opportunity for applicants to acknowledge the religious nature of the College and how they could be supportive of it.

**1 A student's GCSE Average Point Score (APS) is the average of all the GCSE grades awarded. For example, if a student took ten GCSEs and received five grade 7s and five grade 8s, their APS would be 7.5. St Dominic's use students' Predicted APS as one of the factors when offering places to applicants. A student's Actual APS (calculated once results are received) is the primary factor in determining whether they have met their offer, in order to enrol.*

Students attending overseas schools will be required to meet certain conditions and provide evidence of the following:

- be awarded GCSE or iGCSE (not equivalent or comparable to)
- be eligible to reside in the United Kingdom by:
 - 1) holding a British Passport
 - 2) being accompanied by a parent/guardian with a valid visa / residency permit confirming settled status in the UK for the full 2 years duration of the A Level Programme at the College.

Please note the College is unable to consider applicants who require a student visa to study in the UK.

Admissions

The College will consider each application on its merits, but the main criteria will be aptitude for the intended programme as indicated by the predicted grades from their current school. A supportive reference will also be required from the student's school, with positive comments on attitude, attendance, punctuality, application to work and suitability for the relevant programme. The College will, where necessary, discuss the reference and any applicant details with the school.

The College welcomes applications from students of any or no faith who wish to pursue their sixth form education in a Catholic context and who support the Catholic ethos of the College.

Within that scope, the following priorities will apply in making offers to applicants:

1. 'Looked After' (and previously 'Looked After') Catholic students.
2. Students from the partner schools, the Sacred Heart Language College and the Salvatorian College.
3. Catholic students who provide a CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE or a Baptismal Certificate.
4. Other 'Looked After' (and previously 'Looked After') students.
5. Other Christians with a Baptismal Certificate or signed declaration of membership.
6. Students of other faiths.
7. Students of no faith.

The College will give preference to students aged 16 on 31st August of the year of entry.

The College will make offer decisions in line with constraints such as facilities, resources and funding and notify applicants accordingly. Offers made to students will be conditional on the actual GCSE results in terms of an overall average point score and particular grades required by the subjects for which the student has applied. Those not offered a place might be invited to join a continuing interest list and may be contacted should any appropriate vacancies occur at the beginning of the academic year.

Any student failing to attend daily, beginning on the advertised first day of enrolment, may forfeit their place at the College.

Appeals against any alleged failure to comply with the admissions criteria will be determined by a committee of governors provided that the appeal is received within 10 working days of the date of notification of the College's decision.

The admissions criteria is reviewed and agreed annually by the Governing Body of St. Dominic's Sixth Form College.

Originator: Principal
Date of Review: May 2022
Next Review: May 2023