

Admissions Criteria and Procedures for Entry in August 2026

Introduction

St Dominic's is a Roman 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 school, the Sacred Heart Language College. The Sacred Heart contributed a significant percentage of students when the College was established in 1979 and continues to do so.

Academic requirements

A Level Programme

- 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.
- The College assigns a point score based on the GCSE grades of 1-9 to calculate a student's GCSE average point score (APS) ^{*1}.
- Grades in qualifications other than GCSE/ iGCSE will not count towards an APS for the purposes of deciding offers and admission. We do not accept qualifications that are equivalent or comparable to GCSEs.
- The APS is calculated on all GCSE subjects undertaken by a student.
- For offers, St Dominic's will use students' predicted APS as the key determining factor when offering places to applicants.
- For admissions, St Dominic's will use the offer holders' actual APS (calculated once results are received) as the primary factor in determining whether they have met their individual offer.
- For course enrolment, offer holders must meet the subject specific GCSE grade requirements published in the Prospectus and on the College website.

Applications

The annual deadline for completed applications is published on the College website.

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

The College welcomes students of all religious backgrounds who wish to pursue their studies in a Catholic context. All applicants are required to write a personal statement making clear their reasons for wanting to study at a Catholic Sixth Form College.

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

- having been awarded GCSEs or iGCSEs (not equivalent or comparable to)
- proof of eligibility to reside in the United Kingdom by:
 - holding a British or Irish Passport; or
 - 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.

***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

Offers

The College will consider each application on its merits, but the main criteria will be aptitude for the intended programme as indicated by the applicant's predicted grades from their current school. A supportive, confidential reference will also be required from the student's school, with positive comments on attitude, conduct, attendance, punctuality, application to work and suitability for the relevant programme. As part of the reference process, schools will be required to provide an attendance percentage for year 11 and disclose any particular 'attendance related' issues. The College will, where necessary, discuss the reference and any applicant details with the school.

The College reserves the right to offer places in order to fill all its courses efficiently and may offer places in under-subscribed subjects where the average predicted GCSE score is lower than for other subject combinations.

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

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

Within this scope, offers will be made according to the following priorities:

1. 'Looked After' (and previously 'Looked After') Catholic students
2. Students from the partner school, the Sacred Heart Language 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 faith
7. Students of no faith

Offers made to students will be conditional on the actual GCSE results in terms of an overall average point score as well as the particular grades required by the subjects for which the student has applied. Those not offered a place might be invited to join a 'waiting list' and may be contacted, should any appropriate vacancies occur at the beginning of the academic year.

Requests for course changes will always be considered. Depending on availability of spaces, changes will either be actioned when requested or discussed at enrolment once student numbers are confirmed.

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

It should be noted that upon entry to the College students are allocated a timetable and this cannot be amended for specific requests.

Appeals

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 2025
Next Review:	May 2026