

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

VI FORM ADMISSION POLICY 2027 – 2028



Admission arrangements determined on: 11/02/2026

Policy Review Date: Autumn 2026

St Wilfrid's was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and instrument of government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our students. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with these admission arrangements.

The governing body is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round.¹

Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)

The admission of students with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

Admission to the VI Form

The school operates a VI form for a total of **300** students. **150** places overall will be available in year 12. While the admission number is 150 if fewer than **150** of the school's existing students transfer into year 12, additional external students will be admitted until year 12 meets its capacity of 150.

In addition to the VI 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 in the school's prospectus and on its website.

When year 12 is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted or permitted to progress.

When there are more external applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements, priority will be given in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out below.

Where there is a space in year 13 i.e. where there are fewer than 150 students in the year group, the school will admit additional students who have met the minimum academic requirements, up to this number using the oversubscription criteria set out below.

The admission authority will admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's PAN.

¹ This is for admission to the school at the start of the school year in September and not for applications made in-year.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority for external applicants:

Criterion 1	Catholic looked after and previously looked after children will be given priority over the general admission number (see notes 2&3)
Criterion 2	Other Catholic children (see note 3)
Criterion 3	Other looked after and previously looked after children (see note 2)
Criterion 3	Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church (see notes 4&5)
Criterion 4	Any other children.
	<i>Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.</i> (i) Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made (see note 8) (ii) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above (see note 9) (iii) Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) and (ii) above

Tie Break

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distances are calculated using the local authority's computerised measuring system on the following basis West Sussex use specialized Geographic Information Systems ([GIS](#)) and [Ordnance Survey](#) data, which measure the straight-line distance from a home's exact address point to the main entrance of the school. In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

Application Procedures, Timetable and Appeals

External Students: To apply for a place at this school's VI form you must complete our Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and Application Form here: <https://stwilfrids.applicaa.com>. Applications close on Friday 28 January 2027.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admission.

You will be invited to a meeting to discuss your course choices with the VI Form team and will be advised by 1 March 2027 of the outcome of your application. Students who are unsuccessful in their application for a place in the VI form will be informed of the reasons and are entitled to appeal to an independent panel if they disagree with the decision. Any appeal should in the first instance be directed to the Admissions Manager at admissions@stwilfrids.com ***If you do not provide the information required in the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child may not be placed in criteria 1,2 or 3 and this may affect your child's chance of being offered a place.***

Internal students: If students are already on roll at the school, they are required to complete an application form with their course selection by Friday 28 January 2027 in order to transfer into Year 12.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admission.

You will be invited to a meeting to discuss your course choices with the VI Form team and will be advised by 1 March 2027 of the outcome of your application. Students who are unsuccessful in their application for a place in the VI form will be informed of the reasons and are entitled to appeal to an independent panel if they disagree with the decision. Any appeal should in the first instance be directed to the Admissions Manager at admissions@stwilfrids.com.

Late Applications

Late applications will only be considered when applications that met the deadline have been processed. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

In-Year Applications

An application can be made for a place for a student at any time outside the normal admission round and the student will be admitted where there are available places. Application should be made to the school by contacting The Admissions Officer at admissions@stwilfrids.com

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied.

If there are no places available, the student may be added to the waiting list (see above).

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Waiting List

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and ***not*** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held open until 31 July 2028.

Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

The admission authority reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where a child is already attending the school the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or place was obtained by deception in line with the Admission Code at Para 2.13: A school must not withdraw a place once a child has started at the school, except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether to withdraw the place, the length of time that the child has been at the school must be taken into account. For example, it might be considered appropriate to withdraw the place if the child has been at the school for less than one term.

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. 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.
2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being 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.

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 special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

3. '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 the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of baptism or reception into the Church 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 laws of the Church.

4. '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.
5. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
6. "children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and CYTŪN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

7. “children of other faiths” means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of ‘other Christian denominations’ at 7 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:

- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
- A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

8. To demonstrate an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the admission authority will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest.

9. ‘brother or sister’ includes:

- (i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
- (ii) the child of a parent’s partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

10. A ‘parent’ means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.

11. A child’s “home address” refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer, and will be the address provided in the Application Form, Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.