



Abbey Gate College

POLICY: Admissions	
Scope	Whole College
Responsibility	Head
Reviewed & Updated	September 2026
Board Level Approval	Gareth Lee

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Policy Statement (1)

Abbey Gate College is a through-school and admits pupils from age 4 to 18. All prospective pupils must normally be of the correct age band for the year-group they propose to enter. The College is situated in beautiful, historic buildings and grounds, with restrictions on capacity; places in the College are, therefore, limited.

The College is selective and all pupils whose parents wish them to join are required to complete an age-appropriate entrance process. The decision as to whether a pupil is offered a place is based primarily on academic ability and the pupil's potential to cope with the demands of the curriculum offered. However, other factors may be sympathetically considered, such as a special talent or potential to develop. Above all, a pupil will be offered a place if, on consideration of all available and appropriate academic and personal information, it is reasonably believed that they will thrive and be happy at Abbey Gate College.

The College has a Christian foundation but is mainly secular in practice. The College admits pupils of all faiths and none.

The College also seeks to ensure that pupils will not be disadvantaged during the admissions process because of a learning difficulty or disability; please refer to our *SEND Policy* for further information on admission of pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.

The College aims to manage all aspects of admissions in accordance with requirements and reasonable understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion legislation. For reasons of safeguarding, the College records biological/birth sex and manages aspects of provision on this basis. If, for any individual pupil, gender identity may differ from biological/birth sex, provision by the College will be in full consultation with the family and medical professionals, as much as may be reasonable for the College in any circumstance.

The Head has final responsibility for decisions regarding admission to the College. In exercising this responsibility, the Head will act reasonably and consistently with this policy, taking account of the published admissions criteria, all relevant information concerning the individual applicant, the College's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, including its duty to make reasonable adjustments, and the College's ability to meet the pupil's needs.

The Head may exercise reasonable discretion in exceptional circumstances where strict application of the normal admissions criteria would not, in the Head's judgement, result in an appropriate outcome for the pupil or the College. The reasons for any material departure from the normal admissions criteria will be recorded.

Abbey Gate College also ensures that the Admissions Register is maintained in accordance with Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulation 2006. The identity and right to study of all applicants is verified from their passport or, if no passport is available, the long form of their birth certificate before the admission process can be completed.

Policy Statement (2)

- 1) This policy applies to all members of the Abbey Gate College community, including those in our EYFS setting.
- 2) Abbey Gate College implements this policy through adherence to the procedures set out in the rest of this document.
- 3) This policy is made available to all interested parties on the College website at www.abbeygatecollege.co.uk. It should be read in conjunction with the College's *Behaviour, Bursary, Curriculum, Safeguarding, and SEND* policies.
- 4) Abbey Gate College is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Further details are available in the College's *EDI* policy document.
- 5) This policy is reviewed at least annually, or as events or legislation changes require, by the College Leadership Team and the Governing Body. The deadline for the next review is no later than 12 months after the most recent review date indicated above.
- 6) The most recent updates were made on account of an annual review, including; personnel changes and increased clarity around discrete admissions procedures.

Key Personnel

- 1) Craig Jenkinson: Head
- 2) Corinna Travis: Head of Infant & Junior School (incl. EYFS)
- 3) Sam Maclaren: Admissions Manager
- 4) Carole Houghton: Deputy Head (Pastoral) & DSL
- 5) Mike Booth: Deputy Head (Academic)
- 6) Lucy Hornby: SENDCo

EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Admissions

- 1) Assessments for the Foundation Stage take place throughout the year in which the child turns 4 years old.
- 2) Assessment days are allocated throughout the year.
- 3) Assessments consist of the prospective pupil joining a selection of the current Foundation pupils in the classroom. If, for any reason, the prospective children are unable to join our classes, they will be assessed individually.
- 4) Structured activities are set out and the child is observed and assessed. Staff assess each potential pupil's ability to communicate, socialise, respond to instructions and work within the classroom, as well as identifying academic milestones.
- 5) This information is recorded throughout the session through observation by staff.

Infant & Junior Admissions (1) - Introduction

The Infant and Junior School is a small school and this is valued by parents. It is an inevitable consequence of our size that places at the school are limited. All pupils are, therefore, assessed before a place in the school can be confirmed.

If there are gaps in learning due to a pupil having come from a different educational setting this, along with any learning difficulties disclosed by parents, will be taken into account when assessing the pupil for entry.

An offer will normally be made only after receipt of a satisfactory reference from the prospective pupil's current pre-school or school. In exceptional circumstances, the Head of the Infant & Junior School may authorise an offer before the reference has been received, in which case the offer will be expressly conditional upon receipt of a satisfactory reference before the pupil joins the College.

The Infant & Junior school may, at its discretion, require a trial period of attendance to determine whether it can appropriately meet a student's needs and whether the pupil is likely to thrive at the College. This is discussed with the student and the family at the time, and any offer letter states the initial duration of the trial period and the criteria against which the placement will be reviewed. The school reserves the right to extend a trial period where there are reasonable grounds for doing so, and will confirm this with the family along with the reason for the extension. Any decision not to confirm the pupil's continuing place will take account of all relevant information, the best interests and wellbeing of the pupil, and the College's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, including consideration of reasonable adjustments. During or at the conclusion of this time, either party may terminate the contract without penalty beyond fees already paid.

Infant & Junior Admissions (2) – Infants (Years 1 & 2)

Prospective Infant pupils are assessed using material appropriate to their year group in English and Maths. The staff will also observe and assess the child's ability to communicate, socialise, respond to instructions and work within the classroom.

Infant & Junior Admissions (3) – Juniors (Years 3 to 6)

Potential Junior pupils are assessed using formal, standardised papers in: Maths, Comprehension, Spelling and Grammar and Reasoning. Staff observe the pupil's ability to communicate, socialise respond to instructions and work within the classroom. If, for any reason, the prospective children are unable to join our classes, they will be assessed individually.

References will be taken up with Nursery and school settings prior to offers being made.

Infant & Junior Admissions (4) – Transition to Senior School

Junior school pupils are not required to sit the entrance assessment for the Senior School; it is assumed that all Year 6 pupils will continue through to Year 7 and Senior School places are initially reserved on this basis. A term's notice must be given if any family's circumstances are such that this automatic transition from Junior to Senior will not take place.

Each child's progress is being continually monitored throughout the Infant & Junior School into the Senior School. However, if an Infant & Junior School pupil wishes to compete for an academic scholarship, they must take the entrance assessment in January, along with all external applicants; this is to ensure a consistency of data to support the decision.

It is also to be noted that if, in the opinion of the Head of the Infant and Junior School and Head of the College, a pupil's progress, attainment, or attitude is insufficient to cope with and thrive in the Senior School environment, with the associated curricular and co-curricular demands, a place at the Senior School may not be automatically offered. In such instance, the family will be

informed with sufficient time for discussion and, as applicable, to source an alternative place of Senior education.

Senior School Admissions (1) – Years 7 to 11

- 1) Enquiries from prospective families are welcome at any time and should be directed to admissions@abbeygatecollege.co.uk.
- 2) All prospective families are encouraged to visit the College for a personal tour, and taster days can also be arranged for prospective pupils.
- 3) A Senior School open event takes place during the autumn term, and the date is published in advance.
- 4) For existing Abbey Gate students, as above, entrance into the Senior School is automatic, provided that they have progressed sufficiently to demonstrate that they will be happy and successful, given the Senior School's curricular, co-curricular, and behavioural expectations.
- 5) For the Senior School (Years 7-11), external applicants are admitted on the basis of their academic ability, such as will enable them to cope sufficiently well with the curriculum; as well as references and reports from their previous school(s), and an interview, all of which should indicate clearly that the pupil would thrive, be happy, and bring a positive influence to our College community.
- 6) Assessment is by means of:
 - a. Standardised tests in verbal, non-verbal, quantitative, and spatial ability (completed digitally);
 - b. Creative writing
 - c. Interview (in person)
 - d. Review of most recent school reports and reference from current school
 - e. Taster Day with the relevant Year group
- 7) The Senior School Entrance Examination takes place in January, for entry into Year 7 the following September. A completed Registration Form and initial administration fee must be forwarded in advance. An applicant for Year 7 is advised to attend one of our two scheduled Taster Days, which take place during the autumn term of Year 6.

Assessment is by means of:

 - a. Standardised, tests in verbal, non-verbal, quantitative, and spatial ability (completed digitally);
 - b. Writing and mathematics assessments (completed in ink);
 - c. Interview (in person)
 - d. References from current primary school
- 8) Appropriate assessments are taken by external applicants in Years 8 – 11 at any time of the school year, as required. A completed Application Form and initial administration fee must be forwarded in advance. For students who are applying with Special Educational Needs, all diagnostic reports and SEND profile documentation are normally reviewed directly by the SENCo. During holiday periods, the College may require more time to consider these applications.
- 9) In the case of an applicant transferring to Abbey Gate College after the start of secondary education (ie above Year 7), the school may, at its discretion, require a trial period of attendance to determine whether it can appropriately meet a student's needs and whether the pupil is likely to thrive at the College. This is discussed with the student

and the family at the time, and any offer letter states the initial duration of the trial period and the criteria against which the placement will be reviewed. The school reserves the right to extend a trial period where there are reasonable grounds for doing so, and will confirm this with the family along with the reason for the extension. Any decision not to confirm the pupil's continuing place will take account of all relevant information, the best interests and wellbeing of the pupil, and the College's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, including consideration of reasonable adjustments. During or at the conclusion of this time, either party may terminate the contract without penalty beyond fees already paid.

- 10) In the Senior School, there are limited places available, with class sizes not exceeding 24. The decision of the College to offer places is final and, although general feedback may be given following application, individual and specific results are not shared.
- 11) Abbey Gate College does not release practice papers, but examinations are based on work covered in the Key Stage 2 curriculum in all education sectors, in order to ensure parity and fairness for all applicants.

Senior School Admissions (2) – Sixth Form

- 1) Entry into the Sixth Form at Abbey Gate College normally requires a Grade 6 or above in the subjects, or related, with which a student wishes to continue at A level. If remaining subjects include English Language or Maths, these must each be at Grade 5 or above, and all other subjects at Grade 4 or above.
- 2) Year 11 students transfer automatically into the Sixth Form, provided that they meet the above academic criteria. In addition, the student's record of conduct and attitude must match the appropriately high expectations of the College's Sixth Form and, as above, the College must believe that the student will be happy and thrive in our Sixth Form.
- 3) In a circumstance where an extraordinary curriculum arrangement is made and agreed by all appropriate parties, to accommodate a student's subject choices, and the student does not then take up the reserved place in September, fees will be charged in lieu.
- 4) External applicants for the Sixth Form are welcome and are expected, under normal circumstances, to have a strong academic profile at GCSE level, as above. References and reports will also be requested from the prospective student's current school and they will undergo an interview with the Head of Sixth Form before receiving any provisional offer.
- 5) Where an applicant does not fully meet the normal academic entry requirements, the Head may nevertheless offer a place in exceptional circumstances, taking account of the applicant's overall GCSE profile, suitability for the proposed A-level subjects, academic progress, school reference, interview and any relevant mitigating circumstances.

Scholarships

- 1) A number of scholarships are awarded, to recognise commendably high achievement in specific areas.
- 2) Abbey Gate Scholars are role-models within our community. Scholars not only exemplify the self-discipline, consistency, and determination to be the best of themselves; they also commit to our wider College community through service, responsibility, and leadership.
- 3) Scholarship awards represent a fixed discount on annual fees and are not dependent upon family income, nor are they negotiable.

- 4) The maximum, annual scholarship award is £1000 for any pupil. [Please note this amount is exclusive of VAT. Based on the current VAT rate of 20%, the total deduction from fees will be £1200, subject to any changes in the prevailing VAT rate].
- 5) Scholarships awarded in Year 7 remain with the student throughout their entire Senior School career, including Sixth Form, on the explicit condition that respective achievement in the scholarship discipline, as well as general conduct, remains appropriately deserving.
- 6) Scholarships are available for Year 7 entry in:
 - a) Academic – one of which is exclusively reserved for pupils in our Infant & Junior School, based on the assessment outcomes of the Entrance Examination:
 - b) Performing Arts – up to three scholarships of £1000, based on the outcome of auditions held during the afternoon, following the Entrance Examination:
 - i. The Daphne Herbert Choral Scholarship (£1000)
 - ii. The Music Exhibition Scholarship (£1000).
 - iii. The Drama Scholarship (£1000)

Performing Arts scholarships are conditional upon the continued commitment of the recipient to the co-curricular, performing arts life of the College.

- 7) Scholarships are also available for Year 12 (Sixth Form) entry. If a student is already in receipt of a scholarship, as above, no additional scholarship may be awarded; since the existing scholarship will continue through Sixth Form. All remaining students, both internal and external, are eligible to apply:
 - a) Academic – conditional on final GCSE achievements and/or progress, and provisionally agreed on the basis of projected outcomes in the Spring:
 - b) Art – conditional on final GCSE achievements and/or progress, and provisionally agreed on the basis of projected outcomes in the Spring.
 - c) Performing Arts – based on individual assessment, or other evidence of high achievement in Drama and/or Music, and interview in the Spring:
 - d) Sport – based on individual assessment, or other evidence of high achievement, and interview in the Spring.
- 8) The College may award a scholarship in one or more of the above disciplines to a student at any time during their school career where their attainment clearly meets the standard expected for the relevant scholarship.

Bursaries

The College provides significant, means-tested financial support for families of pupils who would thrive and be happy at Abbey Gate College. Full detail is available in our separate *Bursary Policy*.

Sibling Discounts

Sibling discounts apply automatically for pupils throughout the College, from Reception to Sixth Form. The sibling discounts are only applicable while an elder child remains on the College roll. The discount applies to siblings only and equates to 5% reduction in school fees for sibling 1, 10% reduction in fees for sibling 2 and 15% reduction in fees for sibling 3 or more.

Learning Enrichment

- 1) The College has a dedicated Learning Enrichment (SEND) department.
- 2) In the case of an applicant with specific academic or pastoral needs, a full professional report must be submitted in advance of any entrance assessment. Allowance will then be made during the entrance examination, but the overriding criterion for any offer of place will be the pupil's ability to cope with the College's academic and behavioural

expectations, alongside the level of support able to be offered by the College within current staffing capacity.

- 3) Where English is not the pupil's first language (i.e. default language of spoken and written communication), this will be taken into consideration in our selection process and where possible an appropriate member of staff will be available to assist in the administration of the entrance examination.
- 4) The College requires full and complete disclosure of a child's needs, including any external assessments in process or pending, prior to formal offer and acceptance of a place, along with confirmatory parental signature. Failure to provide such information, if only later disclosed or otherwise made available to the College, would be in breach of contract and could result in termination.
- 5) If a child's needs develop or are more comprehensively diagnosed after the initial point of admission, such that the College's original level of provision is no longer sufficient to meet those needs and cannot be reasonably adjusted, the College will prioritise the best interests of the child and may require removal to an alternative and more suitable school, where the new level of need can be covered.
- 6) The College does admit children with Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs), if the requirements of the EHCP can be reasonably fulfilled by the College's existing provision and structures. However, administrative capacity for EHCPs is limited within our dedicated Learning Enrichment team, and the College will operate to a maximum number of EHCPs, which it can manage each year.
- 7) Further details, including EAL provision, are in our *Special Educational Needs* policy.

Accessibility

- 1) With regard to disability, the College aims to make reasonable adjustments not to put any disabled student at a substantial disadvantage compared to any student who is not disabled.
- 2) Parents of prospective pupils are asked to inform the Head or the Head of the Infant & Junior School in advance, when they apply for a place at the College, of any disabilities or long-term medical conditions and the implications thereof which the College should consider, either in the selection process or once a pupil has been accepted.
- 3) In assessing any pupil or prospective pupil, and in considering any adjustments it might need to make, the College may take such advice and require such assessments, as it regards appropriate.
- 4) With reference, however, to accommodating the needs of any pupil with specific needs, for whom we can, at the initial point of admission, cater for adequately; if we determine, after appropriate consideration, that we cannot continue to provide for that pupil, academically or pastorally, due solely to the limitations of the school's capacity which will not have changed since the point of entry, then we shall be permitted to request that parents withdraw the child without being charged fees in lieu of notice.
- 5) Further information is available in our *Accessibility*, *EDI* and *Special Educational Needs* policies.

Waiting Lists

- 1) In the event that a particular year group is already full in the Junior School, students wishing to join will be placed on a waiting list. Once a place becomes available, an

assessment will be offered to the child at the head of the waiting list. Where there is already a child on roll at the College, priority will be given to their sibling on the waiting list.

- 2) On any occasion where the school intake into Year 7 is over-subscribed, places will be allocated on the basis of ability as assessed in the entrance assessments. In the event that the above is unable to distinguish between candidates, then school references and/or an interview will be taken into account.
- 3) At other times vacant places will be offered to the next applicant who fulfils the entry criteria. If there are no places available in a specific year, applications will still be encouraged and, once a candidate has attained the required standard in the relevant entrance assessments, a provisional place may be offered and the child placed on the waiting list. Once a place becomes available it will be offered to the child at the head of the waiting list. Where there is already a child on roll at the College, priority will be given to their sibling on the waiting list.
- 4) In the event of a place becoming available mid year in a year group with a waiting list, the child at the head of the waiting list will be offered an assessment in line with point 1. It is expected that, if offered, the child will take up the place as soon as it becomes available. We are unable to hold the place until the following academic year if there are other pupils who could take up the place.
- 5) If no vacancy arises within twelve months of the original assessment date, the reserve candidate may be required to be re-assessed for any future places that arise.

Provisional Notice

Provisional notice is available to parents of Year 11 students whose Sixth Form arrangements for the following September remain dependent upon GCSE examination results. Where provisional notice is given in writing to the College within the notice period specified in the Parent Contract, the student's place at Abbey Gate College will be held pending publication of their GCSE results. Parents will then have 48 hours from publication of the results to confirm whether the student will take up their Sixth Form place. Where the College is notified within this period that the student will not be returning, fees in lieu of notice will not be charged. If confirmation is not received within the 48-hour period, the place may be released and the normal notice provisions of the Parent Contract will apply.

In exceptional circumstances, provisional notice may be requested for other year groups, by previous arrangement with both the Head and the Finance Manager. This must be agreed mutually in advance, again in accordance with contractual timescales and on the understanding that the notice period will expire, if the student remains at College in the following, applicable term.

Admissions Register

The College complies with the following regulatory requirement, and from the beginning of the first day on which the College has agreed or been informed that the pupil will attend the College, an entry will be made in the College's admissions register in line with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024.

The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 replaced the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 with effect from 19 August 2024. The relevant Statutory Instrument 2024 No. 208 is available at www.legislation.gov.uk.

For each pupil, the College's admission register must contain:

- a) name in full;
- b) gender - this should be birth sex unless the person has obtained a gender recognition certificate (not available under the age of 18)
- c) name and address of every person known to the proprietor to be a parent of the student (and an indication of the parent with whom the student normally resides, as well as which parents hold parental responsibility as defined by Section 3 Children Act 1989);
- d) at least one telephone number at which the parent with they live with can be contacted in an emergency;
- e) day, month and year of birth;
- f) day, month and year of admission or re-admission to the school;
- g) name and address of the school last attended, if any;
- h) an indication of boarding or day attendance (in schools which include boarders);
- i) name of the destination school (or additional school, in the case of dual registration) notified by a parent and the first date of attendance, where it is reasonably practicable for the College to ascertain this information;
- j) more than one emergency number for each pupil where reasonably possible.

It is to be noted that the admissions register is not a public document. Furthermore, the requirement to register a transgender pupil under their birth sex (unless they have a gender recognition certificate) does not prevent the College from treating the pupil for all other purposes as the being of the gender with which the child identifies.

The Admissions Register is completed and stored electronically in the school's MIS, managed by the Admissions Officer. There is provision for the register to show the name and title of any person making an amendment and the date the amendment is made. There is also provision for the electronic register and any print-out of the register, after a correction has been made, to distinguish clearly between the original entry and the correction. Date-specific, fixed copies are accessible by the Head and the Head of the Infant & Junior School, as required. Thus, inclusion in and deletion from the register is carried out in accordance with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024.

The College recognises its duty to inform the local authority, where a pupil is resident, if their name is going to be deleted from the register for the following reasons:

- a) the pupil has been taken out of College to be home educated
- b) the family has apparently moved away
- c) the pupil has been certified medically unfit to attend
- d) the pupil is in custody for more than four months
- e) the pupil has been permanently excluded
- f) the pupil has transitioned to another school

The College furthermore understands its broad duty to make/notify returns to their local authority for all non-standard admissions and departures, to know or be able to ascertain the correct local channels for doing so, to be able to evidence that if there have been any non-standard admissions or departures, the required notifications have occurred in accordance with local procedures. The College aims to work co-operatively with their local authority in making returns as requested and respond to reasonable enquiries where necessary. The College understands that it is a criminal offence not to report when so required. The College is also under a duty to provide information to the local authority for standard transitions if requested.

The College recognises that children missing education is a safeguarding issue, particularly when a child leaves with no known destination. For this reason, although the legal requirement

under the registration regulations is met if the College reports to its own local authority, the College will also copy in the local authority where the child is normally resident. In relation to deletions from the register, the duty arises as soon as the grounds for deletion are met and in any event before deleting the child's name. As to non-standard admissions, the notification is to be made within five days of the entry on the admission register.

The College has the right under the regulations to delete a pupil for non-return within 10 school days after authorised leave of 10 school days or more, or after 20 school days unauthorised absence (in both cases, in the absence of illness or other unavoidable cause); however, the College and the local authority will firstly have jointly made reasonable enquiries as to the pupil's whereabouts and failed, prior to deletion. The College's right to remove a pupil will, in addition, be subject to the terms and conditions of the College's own school/parent contract.

The College is also obliged to notify the local authority when a child or pupil fails to attend school regularly or is absent without leave for more than 10 school days (continuous).

The lawful grounds for removing a pupil from the admission register, and the information to be reported to the local authority, are set out in the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and the Department for Education's statutory guidance, *Working together to improve school attendance*. The College will also have regard to the Department for Education's statutory guidance, *Children missing education*, as updated from time to time. The Admissions Register is managed digitally within the school's MIS, iSAMS, including all back-ups and storage.