



DIOCESE OF CLIFTON

St Bede's Catholic College

Areté Sixth Form Admissions Arrangements September 2026

St. Bede's Catholic College is an Independent Academy established by the Diocese of Clifton.

Applications for Admission to "Areté Sixth" can be found on our website or from the Admissions Secretary at the College.

Closing date for applications: 12th January 2026

The Christian character of the St. Bede's Community.

We at St. Bede's are charged with the education of the scholars entrusted to our care. It is our desire that they achieve well, securing the highest academic and personal standards and are enabled to develop all their God given gifts and talents, for the greater good and the service of others. As a community, driven by the Gospel, we believe that academic success and spiritual development lie at the very heart of who we are, both as individuals and as a community learning and growing together.

Students currently attending Year 11 at St Bede's Catholic College, who express a preference for a place, will be admitted to the Areté Sixth Form provided they meet the admissions criteria.

Admissions Criteria – the Areté Sixth

- 1.0 A Published Admission Number (PAN) applies to the entry of scholars from other educational establishments. This is the minimum number of places that will be set aside for external scholars, provided they meet the published examination requirements.
- 2.0 The Published Admission Number (PAN) for **September 2026 is 10.**
- 3.0 Year 11 scholars wishing to transfer to the St. Bede's Sixth Form from other educational establishments must complete the Application Form and submit this to the College by the published deadline of 12th January 2026
- 4.0 If there are more external applications than places available in the PAN then each application received on time will be ranked against the oversubscription criteria as outlined below. Those applications ranked highest, who achieve the entry standard required as outlined in this policy, will be offered places up to the number available.
- 5.0 The college will admit any students with a Statement of Educational Need (or with an Education, Health and Care Plan) whose Statement/Plan names the college.

- 6.0 Scholars who meet the published examination requirements and are unsuccessful in securing a place will be entered on a waiting list, if this is their wish. Should places become available by 31st December 2025, these will be offered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.
- 7.0 Applications from children coming from overseas must be treated in accordance with existing European Union law and Home Office rules from non-European economic area nationals. Non-statutory guidance on this is available on the website of the Department for Education.
- 8.0 All offers of places to scholars are conditional on them meeting the published examination entrance requirements as detailed under "Entrance Examination Requirements" in this policy.

9.0 Oversubscription Criteria

- 9.1 Catholic scholars who are Looked After and Catholic scholars who were previously Looked After but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order) immediately following having been Looked After, including those who appear to the governing body to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- 9.2 Scholars who are baptised Catholic.
- 9.3 Scholars who are Looked After and scholars who were previously Looked After but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order) immediately following having been Looked After, including those who appear to the governing body to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- 9.4 Scholars who are Catechumens.
- 9.5 Other scholars.

10.0 Definitions

- 10.1 '**Catholic**' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. For someone to be treated as Catholic, written evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. 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. Whilst a copy of the certificate may be accepted, the governors may request sight of the original. The governing body may request additional supporting evidence if the written documents that are provided do not confirm the fact that the person was baptised/received into a Catholic Church. There may occasionally be difficulty in obtaining written evidence of baptism or reception into the Church. In such cases, contact may be made with a Parish Priest for advice on how the question of baptism/reception is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church. The Priest may seek advice from Clifton Diocese. For the purposes of this policy (9.1), 'Catholic' includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is confirmed as being Catholic.
- 10.2 Catechumens are persons who wish to be baptised and have been accepted into the Order of Catechumens of the Catholic Church, by the appropriate liturgical rite. Catechumens must produce a certified copy of the entry in the Church's Register of Catechumens.

- 10.3 Looked after children and previously looked after children
- a) A 'looked after child' is a child who is in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local council in the exercise of its social services functions at the time of making an application to a school. (Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989)
 - b) A "previously looked after child" is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because she/he was adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order immediately following having been Looked After. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 Adoption Orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 Adoption Orders)
 - c) Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replaced residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22nd April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangement order.
 - d) A special guardianship order is defined as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s), in accordance with Section 14a of the Children Act 1989.

Evidence that a child is Looked After, or has been previously Looked After, will need to be provided.

11.0 Tie Breakers

A 'tie breaker' will be applied where the admission number is reached part way through any oversubscription criterion and there is a need to decide which scholars meeting this criterion are to be allocated places and which are to be refused. For this purpose, the following tie breaker rules will apply:

11.1 Governors will breach the published admission number in order that scholars of multiple births (or siblings born in the same year), who meet the entrance examination requirements, are not separated, where one qualifies for a place.

11.2 Where two or more applications cannot be separated by applying the oversubscription criteria, Governors will use random allocation (drawing lots) in order to rank order such applications. If places are allocated by random allocation, then a person independent of the college will supervise.

12.0 Entrance Requirements

12.1 All scholars will be expected to have achieved at least five 9-5 passes at GCSE (or equivalent), with English and Mathematics at a minimum of grade 4.

12.2 Scholars will be expected to have achieved at least a grade 6 in subjects they wish to study at A level. Some subjects have more specific entry requirements. Details can be found on the college website.

12.3 Scholars must meet entry requirement levels in at least three subjects.

12.4 The ability to study four A level subjects will be available for those whose academic record indicates this is an appropriate course of study and will generally be a straight grade 9/8/7 student. A decision on this will be made by the Director of Sixth Form, and based on evidence of suitability.

12.5 For subjects not on offer at GCSE, scholars will need to meet the entry requirement criteria in related subjects to ensure success.

12.6 In exceptional cases, a student who was predicted a grade 4 in Mathematics and/or English and has failed to achieve this minimum grade and has reached all the other standards, may be offered a place if one is available. In such circumstance, this student must retake GCSE Mathematics and/or English in order to secure a grade 4.

12.7 The facility to study As Level courses is available in some subjects.

13 Appeals

Parents or scholars whose application has been formally refused will have the right to appeal against the decision of the Admission Authority. An appeal form and information explaining how to exercise this right will be available from the Admissions Secretary.

Agreed by the Governing Body