



## ADMISSIONS POLICY AT 16+

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#### INTRODUCTION

St Bede's College, which was founded by Cardinal Vaughan in 1876, is a Roman Catholic co-educational independent grammar school with 913 pupils on roll as of March 2007. In September 1976, when the direct grant system began to be phased out, the College continued its role as an independent school providing an essentially academic education for boys from the age of 11 to 18 years.

Girls were admitted to the Sixth Form in 1984 and at 11+ from 1986.

The general rule as to admissions to the College is that the prospective pupil should be a baptized Catholic. However, applications are welcomed from non-Catholics, provided that the prospective pupil wishes to participate in a Catholic grammar school education. All pupils will be expected to attend all classes and services during College hours.

In order to maintain the Catholic ethos of the College, the Governors' policy is that there shall be no more than 3 non-Catholics in any class. Further, the Governors' aim is that there shall be no more than 5% of non-Catholics on the College roll at any time.

The College's mission statement refers to St Bede's as "a Catholic school which endeavours to transmit the message of the Gospel and uphold the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. It is a College "and not just a school. We are a community of believers aiming to provide for the children in our care an excellence of education rooted in and sustained by our shared commitment to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ."

The mission statement also emphasises that "the vision of Cardinal Vaughan, our founder, was that the opportunity to pursue educational excellence should be available for the Catholic children of Manchester. More than 100 years later we aim to develop highly educated and articulate young men and women strong in their faith and possessing a conviction to establish God's kingdom in this world."

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY**

The College has limited facilities for the disabled, but will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the *Special Education Needs and Disability Act 2001* in order to accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the College can cater adequately.

Parents or guardians of an applicant who has any disability or special educational need should provide the headmaster with full written details when applying for admission and any additional information at least one week before attending an interview, Open Day or Entrance Examination at the College.

The College needs this information so that, in the case of any applicant with particular needs, we can assess those needs and make sure that the College can provide adequately for them throughout the admission process (including at interview, on attendance at the College and during the Entrance Examination, as appropriate).

The College will consult with parents or guardians about the adjustments which can reasonably be made for the applicant both during the admission process and later as a pupil

## **ADMISSION PROCEDURES**

1. Pupils from the Upper 5th (Year 11) at St Bede's College wishing to enter the Sixth Form must obtain 7 GCSE passes A\*-C. This criterion may be relaxed at the discretion of the Headmaster if he is satisfied that a pupil of St Bede's has done his or her best throughout the Upper 5th.
2. The Headmaster reserves the right to deny access to the Sixth Form to any pupil whose presence in the Sixth Form, in his opinion, would be inimical to the academic, behavioural or religious character of the Sixth Form and/or the College.
3. The following procedures will apply to pupils from other schools seeking places at St Bede's Sixth Form:-
  - a) Following receipt of their applications interviews are held from late January onwards. The interviews are usually conducted by the Head of Sixth Form, Deputy Head of Sixth Form and the Deputy Head (Pastoral Care).
  - b) Applicants are required to obtain a minimum of 7 GCSE subjects A\*-C with at least 3 subjects at grades B or above. If you wish to study Mathematics you will be required to have at least an A grade. For Double Mathematics you are required to have A\*. In the case of Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Music at least a B grade. The Headmaster has discretion to relax this requirement if he believes that a particular student would benefit from the education offered at St Bede's Catholic Sixth Form.
  - c) The offer of a place is conditional on a successful interview at St Bede's and (where provided) a favourable reference from the candidate's present school.
  - d) It is made clear to all pupils in the Sixth Form that they must support the Catholic character of the College.
4. When offering places in the Sixth Form the Headmaster will take into account a pupil's performance at GCSE, performance at interview and ability to pay fees.
5. All matters relating to admission to the Sixth Form are contained in the information booklet entitled St Bede's College General Information - Entry.
6. The Headmaster's decision in all cases will be final.