



THE CHAMPION SCHOOL

A Catholic Science Academy

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ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2021-2022

The Champion School was founded by the Society of Jesus in 1962 to provide education for the male children of Catholic families. Since 1965 it has been under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Brentwood and the Bishop of Brentwood has appointed the governors. In 2011, the school became an Academy.

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 Jesus Christ. The governing body has responsibility for admissions to this school and intends to admit the pupil admission number (PAN) of 150 male pupils to Year 7 and no more than 180 students (including where appropriate other male or female students from beyond the school's existing Year 11) to the Lower Sixth Form (Year 12) in September 2021.

Priority for places in Year 7 will be given to applicants (i.e. families) who reside within the boundaries of an area comprising the Catholic Deaneries of Havering and Brentwood and the Catholic Parishes of Aveley and Grays and whose parents or carers wish them to receive a Catholic education. Where applicants indicate that they are moving into this area from beyond its boundaries, the residence will be assumed to be that applying at the date of the governors' meeting to determine Admissions. Applicants need to provide a solicitor's letter confirming an exchange of contract, or a letter from a landlord/housing organisation/local authority confirming that a letting within the geographical area has been confirmed. (Please see addendum (1).)

Parish and Deanery Boundaries are established by the Diocese of Brentwood. Details are available from parishes or from the Boundaries Office at Cathedral House. The Deanery of Havering consists of the parishes of Collier Row (Corpus Christi), Elm Park (St Alban's), Gidea Park (Christ the Eternal High Priest), Harold Hill (Most Holy Redeemer), Harold Hill (St. Dominic's), Hornchurch (St. Mary Mother of God), Hornchurch (English Martyrs), Rainham (Our Lady of La Salette), Romford (St Edward the Confessor), Upminster (St Joseph's) and the Deanery of Brentwood consists of the parishes of Billericay (The Most Holy Redeemer), Brentwood (Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Helen), Hutton and Shenfield (St Joseph the Worker), Ingatestone (St John the Evangelist and St Erconwald), Ongar (St Helen), Warley (Holy Cross and All Saints), and Wickford (Our Lady of Good Counsel).

Priority of Applications and Oversubscription Criteria

At any time where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority:

1. Looked after baptised Catholic boys and boys who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order), from Catholic families.
2. Baptised Catholic boys who are resident in the area stated above and whose Catholic parent or parents are practising members of the Catholic Church, as stated by their parish priest who have provided a Certificate of Catholic Practice.

3. Baptised Catholic boys who are not resident in the area stated above and whose Catholic parent or parents are practising members of the Catholic Church, as stated by their parish priest who have provided a Certificate of Catholic Practice.
4. Other Catholic children (see note 1).
5. Boys who are resident in the area stated above and whose parents are catechumens or they themselves are members of an Eastern Christian Church, as stated by their parish priest.
6. Other “Looked after” boys and boys who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
7. Boys whose parent or parents are Christians of other denominations whose practice is confirmed in writing by a minister of religion and demonstrated by a Baptismal certificate.
8. Boys whose parent or parents are of other faiths and whose application is supported by a religious leader.
9. Any other applicants.

Where the offer of places to all the applicants in any of the categories listed above would lead to oversubscription the following provisions will be applied.

The attendance of a sibling (a brother or sister) at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application above others within each category. If an applicant's family lives outside the geographical area defined above but there is already a sibling attending the school, the application will be considered as if the applicant were resident within the defined area. For the purposes of admission, the governors will consider siblings to be other children living in the same family on a permanent or semi-permanent basis, i.e. for the twelve-month period preceding admission. Thus half-brothers and half-sisters will be considered siblings as will children who have been adopted or who are in long-term foster care. Those in short-term foster care (12 months or less) will not, however, be considered to be siblings.

The governing body may increase the priority of an application above others within a category where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social or medical need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school.

To demonstrate an exceptional social or medical need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the governing body will normally require written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest. The application will be considered by the governors and assessed against this criterion: that the child's social and/or medical needs are of immediate urgency and/or long-term significance, and can clearly be better (or solely) met by The Champion School rather than by another school or educational institution for the reasons stated in the application and supporting evidence. The application will be prioritised if this criterion is met.

Oversubscription Procedure

At any time where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered within the relevant priority groups identified above by the use of a Tie-Break Procedure.

Tie Break

In the event of a tie for a place after these oversubscription criteria have been applied, the decision will be determined as follows:

Once siblings have been offered places (the Sibling Places) the remaining places will be offered as follows:

- a) 80% of the remaining places will be offered to boys from the parishes in the Deaneries of Havering and Brentwood and Catholic parishes of Aveley & Grays ("the Distance Places"). The Distance Places will be offered on the basis of the distance of the boy's home address from the school's chapel as measured by appropriate global satellite measurement or similar methods. (This is currently the GPS system used by the London Borough of Havering)
- b) The final 20% of remaining places ("the Ballot Places") will be offered to students from the Deaneries of Havering, Brentwood and the Catholic Parishes of Aveley and Grays. The Ballot Places will be offered on the basis of a ballot of all the applications not already offered a Sibling Place or a Distance Place. This will be administered by an independent third party appointed by the Governors, as appropriate.
- c) A reserve list of applicants will be maintained in accordance with the result of the ballot of all the applications referenced in b) above.

Admission to the Sixth Form

The majority of students will study 3 A level subjects leading towards terminal exams at the end of Year 13.

Entry requirements: at least 6 GCSEs 5 – 9.

- You need at **least** a 6 in your GCSE if you want to study the same subject at A level.
- To do maths you need at least a grade 7. To do a science, you need at least one 7 (for example, if you do Core and Additional, one has to be a 7 or above. If you do separate sciences, one of the 3 has to be a 7 or above).
- To study BTEC, a minimum of 4 GCSEs 4-9.

In certain circumstances exceptions to the above can be made at the discretion of the Headmaster.

Please note that all entry requirements are currently under review and may be amended.

The Headmaster may allow exceptions to these qualification requirements where there is a known reason for a student's under-achievement at GCSE or where he determines that a student will not impede the progress of other students following the course.

The governors will admit up to a minimum of 180 students to the Sixth Form, basing any decisions if there is severe over-subscription on the Admissions Criteria, copies of which are available from the school office.

The governors will also consider any particular application for a place or course in one of the school's areas of strength or expertise of science, mathematics, sport and PE, music and leadership and if they consider the application sufficiently meritorious they will offer a supernumerary place.

Places will be offered to existing students in Year 11 where they clearly indicate their desire of a place and their likely suitability in terms of the individual requirements of suitable courses. All students must achieve the minimum grades to study BTEC or A levels in the Sixth Form.

Priority will be given to looked after Catholic boys and previously looked after Catholic boys. Remaining places in the Sixth Form of the school will be distributed according to the priority criteria, subject to applicants fulfilling the individual requirements of suitable courses. References to “boys” or “boy” in the Admissions Procedure and Criteria for Year 7 will of course be replaced by references to “boys” and “girls” in the Sixth Form. The school welcomes applications to the Sixth Form from boys and girls from other institutions.

The governors will also consider any particular application for a place or course in one of the school’s areas of strength or expertise of Science, Mathematics, Sport and Physical Education, Music and Leadership and if the application meets one or more of the following they will offer a supernumerary place.

- The predicted achievement of 8/9 grades in relevant subjects (at GCSE);
- Competition in club or school sport at the equivalent county standard;
- Achievement of grade 5 or above in Music;
- Appointment as a leader in school or in out-of-school activities.

The courses available and the minimum academic requirements are published annually by the school.

To apply, applicants must complete a form indicating their choice or preference of courses, available at the Open Evening for Sixth Form Applications or from the School Office. External applicants for the Sixth Form may be invited to attend a meeting to discuss their option choices and to tour the school.

An offer of a Sixth Form place is conditional on the school being able to provide a course suited to the applicant’s ability, aptitude and educational needs.

Application Procedures and Timetable for Year 7

A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) supporting the application must be submitted, online (thecampionschool.org.uk/admissions) by the closing date of **Friday, 23rd October 2020 at 4.00 pm.**

A Catholic Certificate of Practice will need to be completed as well as the online SIF. The Catholic Certificate of Practice is only available from your Parish Priest. You will therefore need to make an appointment with him so that the Certificate can be completed. A copy of the original **MUST** be uploaded together with a copy of your son’s Baptismal Certificate and a utility bill to the online SIF. A common application form from the parents’ home Local Authority must also be completed and returned to the relevant officer(s) by the closing date. Parents will be advised of the outcome of their applications on **Monday, 1st March 2021** or whatever date is determined nationally for such information.

Unsuccessful applicants will be given reasons related to the oversubscription criteria listed above and the tie-break if applicable and advised of their right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Applicants are requested to note that it will not be possible for governors to give applications full consideration unless the completed online SIF, together with the relevant supporting documentation and the original Certificate of Catholic Practice,

described above have been completed and received at the correct school address and on time i.e., 4.00 pm on Friday, 23rd October 2020.

Late applications: These will be administered in accordance with your home local authority co-ordinated admissions scheme.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful candidates will be offered the opportunity to 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. This will be maintained for three terms of the academic year of admission. Children will be added to the list as and when parents request this. Every time a child is added to the waiting list, the list will be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria. Priority must not be given to children based on the date their application was received or their name added to the list. Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

In-Year Applications

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Application should be made to the school by contacting the Admissions Officer at The Champion School, Wingletye Lane, Hornchurch, RM11 3BX.

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out below, will be applied. If there are no places available, the child will 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.

Fair Access Protocol

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the governing body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The governing body has this power even where admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

The governing body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where a child is already attending the school place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or place was obtained by deception.

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Educational, Health and Care Plan

The admission of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. This procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of

statements by the pupil's home Local Education Authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. Parents of boys with such a statement should contact their own local authority.

Notes that form part of the oversubscription criteria

'Looked after child' has the same meaning as in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents). "Adopted", as defined under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 Section 46. "Residence order", as defined under the terms of the Children Act 1989 Section 8 as an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. "Special guardianship order", as defined under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s).

1. '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 who is part of a Catholic family where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptized or received if it were not for their status as a looked after child (e.g. a looked after child in the process of adoption by a Catholic family. For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic 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 law of the Church].
2. Practising Catholic is hereby defined as confirmed by the Certificate of Catholic Practice.
3. '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.
4. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
5. 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' means a certificate issued by the family's parish priest (or the priest in charge of the church where the family attends Mass) in the form laid down by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It will be issued if the priest is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent or carer (along with the child, if he is over seven years old) have (except when it was impossible to do so) attended Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least five years (or, in the case of a child, since the age of seven, if shorter). It will also be issued when the practice has been continuous since being received into the Church if that occurred less than five years ago. It is expected that most Certificates will be issued on the basis of attendance. A Certificate may also be issued by the priest when attendance is interrupted by exceptional circumstances which excuse from the obligation to attend on that occasion or occasions. Further details of these circumstances can be found in the guidance issued to priests:
<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/school-admissions/>

Addendum:

- (1) Where applicants indicate that they are moving into the area from beyond its boundaries, for the purposes of admission, the place of residence will be taken as being that as applying at 4.00 pm on Friday, 23rd October 2020 and evidence of residence at that address must be provided no later than that date. That evidence can be in the form of a solicitor's letter, a letter from a landlord/housing organisation or local authority confirming a letting within the geographical area, a utility bill or council tax which would also be acceptable.

Privacy Notice/GDPR:

<https://thecampionschool.org.uk/about/policies/>