



Sixth Form Admissions Policy **Applications for September 2026**

Date of Review: December 2025

Reviewed by: Full Governing Board

Final Approval: Full Governing Board

The Academy Trust of Bishop Stopford School is the Admissions Authority and is therefore responsible for all the admissions to the academy.

The Core Values of the school which relate specifically to this policy state that we are working together to form relationships based on:

- **Faith** – everyone is invited to develop their understanding of Christian belief, worship and lifestyle.
- **Justice** – everyone is entitled to be treated fairly and to promote the self-esteem of others.
- **Responsibility** – everyone is expected to understand the consequences of their actions.
- **Truth** – everyone is required to be honest and to communicate in a positive manner.
- **Compassion** – everyone is encouraged to be generous in their concern for others.

Such values contribute to the academy's common purpose of 'Striving for high quality education with a strong Christian ethos.'

Introduction

The Bishop Stopford School post-16 offer is an A Level provision. A Levels are two-year programmes of study. These are academic courses, and therefore the entry requirements reflect the profile required to optimise chances of success for students.

Students' attainment at GCSE is measured in an 'Attainment 8' score and this guides the entry criteria for entry to Bishop Stopford School's Sixth Form (BSS6). (Appendix 1)

Admission Criteria (General Entry Requirement)

Governors will automatically allocate places to:

1. Students from Bishop Stopford School who have *both* an Attainment 8 score of 50 or more, *and* a strong GCSE pass in English (grade 5 or above) and a standard GCSE pass in Maths (grade 4 or above). This is called the 'General Entry Requirement'. (Appendix 1)
2. Up to 75 students (the 'Stated Admission Number') from other schools who meet the same criteria as those for Bishop Stopford School at 1 above. (To ensure that the academy is in a position to offer 75 external places when results are known, more than 75 *conditional* places will be offered.)

Right to Appeal

Students who do not achieve the General Entry Requirement have the right to appeal the decision not to award them a place. (Appendix 2 – the appeal process)

Oversubscription Criteria for External Applicants

Should there still be more than 75 external applicants who meet the entry criteria, they will be admitted in accordance with the following two priorities:

1. A looked after child or a child who was previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

2. Those who live nearest to the academy. North Northamptonshire County Council's GIS system will be used to determine the distance of the applicant's permanent home from the academy's Headlands entrance.

If there are places available on specific courses, the academy may consider admitting over the Stated Admission Number where an applicant is willing to follow courses which have spaces.

Late Applications

All applications received after the deadline of January 31 in the year of admission will be processed as late applications and added to a reserve list and considered on a case by case basis

In-Year admissions

For in-year admissions, please contact sixthformadmissions@bishopstopford.com for further details.

Admission to Courses

In addition to the General Entry Requirement, some courses have individual entry requirements. These are updated annually and published on our website.

The current version of any policy, procedure, protocol or guideline is the version held on the Bishop Stopford School internet. It is the responsibility of all employees to ensure that they are following the current version

Appendix One

General Entry Requirement: Attainment 8 Explained

Admissions to Bishop Stopford School Sixth Form will be measured by an 'Attainment 8' score. This comprises GCSEs in English and Mathematics, as well as the best 3 results from Ebacc subjects (sciences, computer science, geography, history and languages), and the 3 best other approved subjects.

Admission Criteria

Automatic entry will be granted to students who have:

- An Attainment 8 score of 50 or more, *and*
- A GCSE pass in English at least grade 5 and in Maths a grade of at least a 4

Additional subject specific entry requirements **must** be met, where required.

Attainment 8 Score



Example

			EBacc Subjects			Open Group – remaining EBacc subjects and other approved subjects		
Subject	English Language	Maths	Physics	History	French	English Literature	Biology	Art
Grade	5 (x2)	6 (x2)	5	6	6	5	6	4
Value	10	12	5	6	6	5	6	4

Attainment 8 Score = 54

The grade values of 'legacy' GCSE/vocational qualifications, as they convert to the new grading system of 9-1

Grade	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*
Cambridge National courses		P1	M1	D1	P2	M2	D2	D*2
Other Level 2 Vocational courses					Pass	Merit	Distinction	Distinction*
Value	1	1.5	2	3	4	5.5	7	8.5

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Appendix 2

School Appeal Process

A place is not guaranteed for any application where the student has not met the general admission requirements, but students with an Attainment 8 score between 45-49 can appeal to the school.

Students should appeal via ApplicaOne* or email sixthformadmissions@bishopstopford.com stating their reasons for wanting to study at Bishop Stopford School and identifying subjects they can pursue for which their grades fulfil the individual requirements of the subjects.

Independent Right of Appeal

If the Academy does not offer a place following an internal appeal, the student has the right to appeal this decision to an independent panel. Students wishing to appeal should contact:

The Appeals Administrator
Diocesan Board of Education
Bouverie Court,
6 The Lakes
Northampton
NN4 7YD
Tel: 01604 887006

Appendix 3

Course over- and under-subscription

Planning for A level groups is a complex activity, because the number of students who will attend Bishop Stopford School in Year 12 is not known until the start of September. It is not unusual to receive applications from as many as 360 students, while in reality about 200 will actually take up their places. While we use our extensive experience to predict numbers in groups, it is not possible to ensure that those predictions will become reality. Our suite of over 20 subjects is provisionally on offer, but this offer only becomes certain when numbers in groups make such provision financially viable. Where there is under-subscription or over-subscription, students are required to follow reserve choices, this will be communicated clearly to all students affected after the enrolment period.

Under-subscription

A Level courses are run dependent on viable numbers. Subjects attracting small numbers (i.e. fewer than 15 students) will be reviewed. Contact time may be reduced, Year 12 and Year 13 lessons timetabled concurrently or the subject withdrawn to ensure viability. While we offer over 20 subjects, not all combinations are possible. Subject combination information will be issued during induction in June.

Over-subscription

Students who wish to study a subject which attracts, on average a class size of over 27 students, and where there is no capacity to put on a further group, will be asked to select a reserve choice. In addition, some subject combinations may not be possible, due to timetabling constraints, and students will then be asked to choose between two subjects and identify another choice.

Where oversubscription exists, the procedure for selecting students to follow a reserve choice course is as follows:

- 1. All students who have selected the option will be invited to take up their reserve choice if they have no strong preference.*
- 2. If the number of students taking up their reserve choice removes oversubscription, no further students will be required to follow a reserve choice.*

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3. *If however, numbers still need to be reduced, a process of random selection will take place. NB. EHCP and/or who were in receipt of Pupil Premium funding / disadvantaged, will have their places on the course concerned guaranteed.*

The final decision regarding students' places on courses lies with the school. A waiting list for each course will be held until 1st October in line with our over-subscription criteria. Plans for Year 12 courses at Bishop Stopford School are provisional, dependent on group sizes and timetabling constraints. All rights to modify the provisional curriculum lie with the school.

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