THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1929

Admissions Policy

2028

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For Admission to Years 7-11 September 2028 to July 2029

The John Fisher School is a voluntary aided Catholic school for boys. The John Fisher School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. 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 Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with these admission arrangements.

The Governing Body is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round excluding admission to Year 12. The admission authority has set the school's Published Admissions Number (PAN) at 180 pupils to Year 7, and the school has set the numbers of admissions to Year 12 at 150 in the school year which begins in September 2028.

The admission authority will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's PAN.

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For Admission to The John Fisher School Sixth Form – Year 12 September 2028 to July 2029

The school operates a Sixth Form for a total of 300 pupils with 150 places available in Year 12.

Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter the Sixth Form will be expected to have met the same minimum academic entry requirements for the Sixth Form. These are that pupils will have achieved at least 4 9*-5 GCSEs or above, including Maths and English (Language or Literature).

In addition to the Sixth Form's minimum academic entry requirements pupils will need to satisfy minimum entrance requirements to the courses for which they are applying. If either internal or external applicants fail to meet the minimum course requirements, they will be given the option of pursuing any alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements. Course requirements are published annually in the school's prospectus and on its website.
When Year 12 is undersubscribed, all applicants will still be required to meet the minimum academic entry requirements.

When there are more external applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements, priority will be given in accordance with Sixth Form Admissions located at https://www.johnfisherschool.org/admissions/sixth-form-admissions.

Full details on the on Sixth Form Admissions and how to register on Applicaa can be located on the school website https://www.johnfisherschool.org/admissions/sixth-form-admissions.
Year 12 applications will be advised of their outcome of the application on 28th January 2028.

Where there is a space in Year 13 i.e. where there are fewer than 150 pupils in the year group, the school may admit additional pupils up to the capacity number. Any applications must be put in writing to The Admissions Committee, The John Fisher School, Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3YP at the same time as the admission application is made. The Admissions Committee will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan *(see **appendix 1** on Page 7)*

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

Oversubscription Criteria

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. Catholic looked after and previously looked after boys ***(appendix 2 & 3)***
2. Catholic boys with a Certificate of Catholic Practice ***(appendix 3 & 4)***
3. Other Catholic boys ***(appendix 3)***
4. Other looked after and previously looked after boys ***(appendix 2)***
5. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church ***(appendix 5 & 6)***
6. Boys of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion ***(appendix 7)***
7. Boys of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader ***(appendix 8)***
8. Any other boys

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order:

(i) Applications from Catholic children who are resident within the Sutton Catholic Deanery will be given priority within category 3 above (***appendix 13***)

(ii) Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made (***appendix 11***)

(iii) The attendance of a brother at the school at the time of enrolment of the candidate will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) & (ii) above (***appendix 9***)

(iv) An application from a child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time of application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i), (ii) & (iii) above (see ***appendix 10***)

Tie Break

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distances are calculated on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the front door of the child's main home address (including the community entrance to flats) using the GIS system maintained by Sutton's School Admissions Team. In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a ballot, and the required number of names will be drawn out.

Application Procedures and Timetable

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round, you must complete a Common Application Form which is available from the local authority in which you live. You are also requested to complete the Supplementary Information Form and the Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable) which are attached to this policy if you wish to apply under Oversubscription Criteria of 1 to 3 or 4 to 8. The completed Supplementary Information Form and the Certificate of Catholic Practice are required to be uploaded to our Admissions Application 'Applicaa' by the closing date of 31st October 2027. This application procedure does not apply for Sixth Form admissions.
Full details on the Application procedure for Admissions to The John Fisher School can be found on the school website https://www.johnfisherschool.org/admissions.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 1st March 2028 for Year 7 applications or the next working day by the local authority on our behalf. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the Oversubscription Criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

If you do not provide the information required in the SIF and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child may not be placed in Oversubscription Criteria 1 to 3 or 4 to 8 and this may affect your child's chance of being offered a place.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions to Year 7 which is 31st October 2027.

Late Applications

Late applications will be administered in accordance with your home Local Authority Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.
Any such request should be made in writing to The Admissions Committee, via admissions@johnfisherschool.org at the same time as the admission application is made. The Admissions Committee will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the Admissions Committee will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children 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. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year.
The waiting list will be held open until 31st July 2029.
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 normal admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Applications should be made to The John Fisher School by contacting the Admissions Officer via admissions@johnfisherschool.org and by visiting the school's website https://www.johnfisherschool.org/admissions. An application should also be made to Sutton School Admissions via https://www.sutton.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions.

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published Oversubscription Criteria, as set out above, 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 admission authority is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The admission authority has this power even where admitting the child would mean exceeding the PAN.

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

Appendices and Explanatory Notes
(these form part of the Oversubscription Criteria)

APPENDIX 1. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.

APPENDIX 2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making an application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

APPENDIX 3. '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 living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of 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 laws of the Church.

APPENDIX 4. '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 or she 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 via https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/diocesan-guidance-of-catholic-practice-admissions.

APPENDIX 5. '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.

APPENDIX 6 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.

APPENDIX 7. "children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

APPENDIX 8. "children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at Appendix 5 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:

- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
- A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

APPENDIX 9. 'brother or sister' includes:

(i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and

(ii) the child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

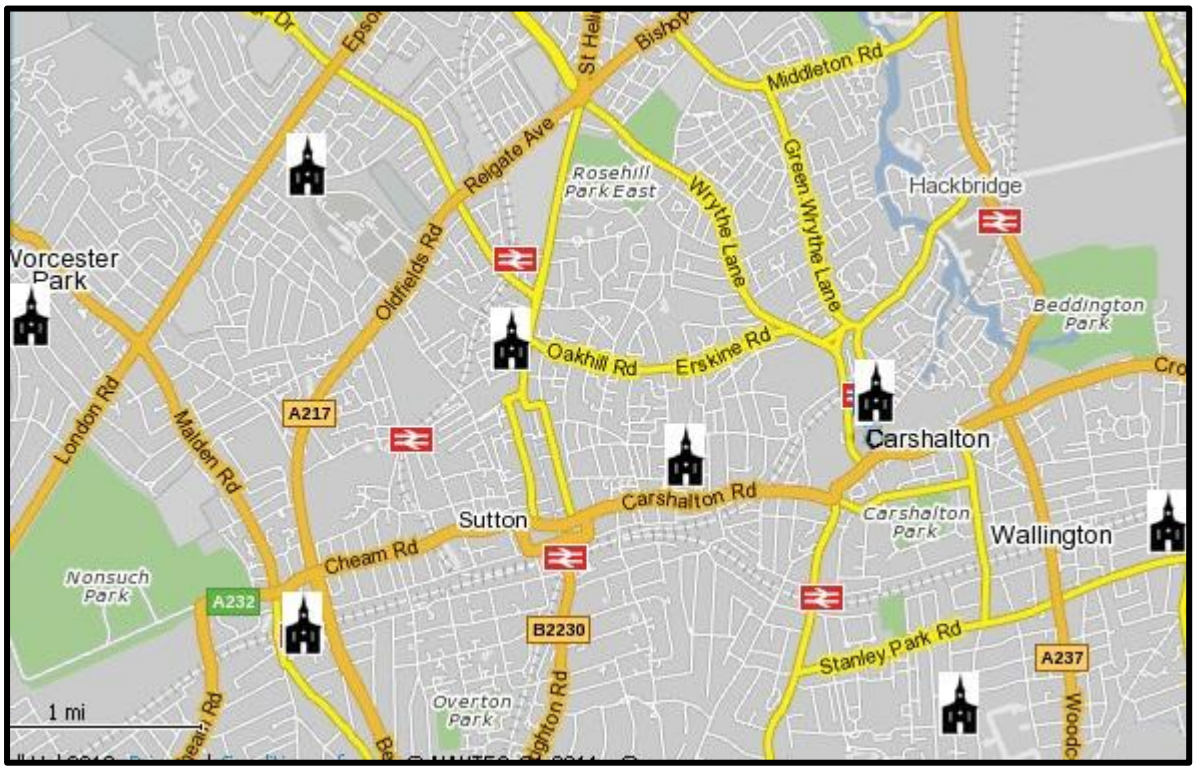
APPENDIX 10. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.

APPENDIX 11. To demonstrate an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the admission authority will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest.

APPENDIX 12. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form (CAF). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF.

APPENDIX 13.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark – Sutton Deanery



Parish	Church	Address	Post Code
Carshalton	Holy Cross	46 North Street	SM5 2JD
Cashalton Beeches	St Margaret of Scotland	Fir Tree Grove	SM5 4NG
Cheam	St. Christopher's	59 Tabor Gardens	SM3 8RU
North Cheam	St Cecilia's	101 Stonecot Hill	SM3 9HP
Sutton	Our Lady of the Rosary	2 St Barnabas Road	SM1 4NL
Sutton Green	Holy Family	9, The Green	SM1 1QT
Wallington	St. Elphege's	120 Stafford Road	SM6 9AY
Worcester Park	St. Matthias'	201 Cheam Common Road	KT4 8SX

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Policy:	Admissions Policy - 2028
Date of latest revision:	November 2026
Version:	4
Changes made during latest revision:	Policy adapted within the Diocese Model Policy to incorporate the inclusion of siblings, priorities for Eastern Orthodox Christians, other non-Catholic & non-Christian faiths and Sixth Form Admissions.
Governors' Committee responsible:	Governors' Admissions Committee
Date Approved by governors:	
Date of next review:	October 2027