



## The Holy Cross School

### Sixth Form Admissions Policy

#### For entry in Year 2020-21

Admission is open primarily to students from The Holy Cross School then, if places are available, to students who have attended other institutions. A minimum of 10 places will be offered to external applicants. Where there are more external applicants than places available, the oversubscription criteria detailed below will be used.

To study Level 3 courses, students must have obtained at least five GCSEs of level 4 or above including English and Mathematics. They must also have met the course requirements as detailed in the Sixth Form Prospectus, which is available to download from the school's website at: [www.holycross.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.holycross.kingston.sch.uk)

All students applying to our Sixth Form, whether internal or external, will be interviewed and will be required to provide the following:

1. A commitment on the part of the student to contribute to the ethos of a Catholic school.
2. Predicted or actual GCSE grades or equivalent.
3. Evidence of the appropriate motivation
4. A commitment on the part of the student to contribute to the life of the school and to act as a "role model" for the younger students.

#### **Oversubscription Categories of Entry:**

Places will be prioritised according to the following categories:

1. **Looked After and previously Looked After Catholic children<sup>1</sup>** (registered in public care) or **Looked After and previously Looked After children in the care of Catholic families.**
2. **Baptised Catholics<sup>2</sup>.** Evidence of Baptism will be required. The level of Mass attendance as stated by the parents and endorsed by a priest at the church (Priest Reference Form must be completed) or churches where the family normally attends Mass, will be used to rank applicants. Priority will be given to those who attend Mass weekly, followed by those attending fortnightly, at least once a month and those attending less often.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Looked After' currently looked after and previously looked after children are defined as:

- Children who are (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 in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, at the time an application for a school is made;
- Children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (under the Adoption Act 1976 or Adoption and Children Act 2002), or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Applications made under categories 1 and 4 must be accompanied by details of circumstances and professionally supported evidence (e.g. from a social worker) and the relevant orders.

<sup>2</sup> 'Catholic' means members of the Ordinariate and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with the Bishop of Rome.



3. **Children enrolled and registered in the Catechumenate<sup>3</sup>.** Priest Reference Form must be completed and evidence of formal registration will be required.
4. **All other Looked After children and previously Looked After children.**
5. **Children who are verified members of Eastern Christian Churches including Orthodox Churches.** Evidence of Baptism will be required. Applications must be supported by a religious Minister (Faith Leader Reference Form must be completed).
6. **Children who are members of other Christian denominations that are part of Churches Together in England<sup>4</sup>,** whose parents are in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the school. Evidence of Baptism (or Certificate of Dedication) will be required and applications must be supported by a religious Minister (Faith Leader Reference Form must be completed).
7. **Children of other faiths** whose parents are in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the school and whose application is supported by their religious Leader (Faith Leader Reference Form must be completed).
8. **Any other children.**

**Where the offer of places to all applicants in any of the categories listed above would still lead to oversubscription, the priority of an application within a category will be increased for:**

- I. A child with a **sister**, including a step-, half-, adopted or foster sister, living at the same address and attending this school at the time of admission.
- II. A child who has **special medical, pastoral or social grounds** for attending the school. Applications must be accompanied by at least two supporting letters from a doctor, priest, social worker or other appropriately qualified person explaining why the school is necessary for the child.
- III. A child who is **currently eligible to receive Free School Meals**. Applications must be accompanied by a letter from the student's current school verifying this status.
- IV. A child whose parent is a permanent member of staff and where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

<sup>3</sup> 'Enrolled and registered in the Catechumenate' means formally registered as undergoing instruction leading to Baptism into the Catholic Church.

<sup>4</sup> 'Churches Together in England' – The Governing Body will refer to the list of member churches on the Churches Together in England website.



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- V. A child **living nearest to the school**, this being measured by a straight line to the school gate in Sandal Road. All distances will be measured using Kingston Council's School Admissions computerised Geographical Information System. Where the last remaining place is to be allocated and two or more children are deemed to live at the same distance from the school the place will be decided by the drawing of lots.