

King Charles I School

Admission Policy for entry to Year 12 in September 2017

The governing body adopted this policy on Monday 6th July 2015

Introduction

King Charles I School is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive with 1200 pupils (including 200 in the Sixth Form) serving Kidderminster and the surrounding area.

The governing body is the admissions authority with powers to decide the arrangements for admitting pupils including the admissions criteria for King Charles I School.

The Published Admission Number for external pupils (that is, pupils who have not attended King Charles I School in Year 11) for entry in Year 12 in September 2017 and subsequent years will be at least 10 unless changed in accordance with statutory procedures. This is the minimum number of external applicants who will be offered places.

Admission to King Charles I School is not dependent on any "voluntary" contribution.

Entry Requirements for the Sixth Form at King Charles I School

There are different pathways available for study. The entry requirements for each of these pathways will be detailed on our website from September 2015. Offers made are provisional on pupils attaining the entry requirements for the relevant pathway and courses and are subject to the availability of places in the appropriate pathway, courses and classes. For the current entry requirements, please see the website.

Applying for Places

King Charles I School welcomes applications from all young people who meet the Sixth Form entry requirements. Pupils and their parents/carers who are considering applying are warmly invited to visit the school on our Open Evening for Year 11 pupils and their parents/carers in October of the year prior to intended admission.

All pupils who are currently on roll at King Charles I School in Year 11 are automatically offered places in Year 12 if they achieve the entry requirements for the Sixth Form as detailed in our prospectus for 2017-18. If a King Charles I School pupil does not take up this offer but decides after 1 September that he/she wishes to return to the Sixth Form, he/she will join the waiting list and will only be offered a place if one becomes available under the terms of the published Oversubscription Criteria.

All applicants must return the paper form by the following date:

<i>Closing date for all applications: Friday 9 December 2016</i>

Further information on the application process is published in our Sixth Form prospectus and is also available on our website.

Statement of Special Educational Needs/Education and Health Care Plans

Children for whom a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan (EHC) has been agreed naming King Charles I School on the statement/EHC: where places required by statemented pupils or those with an EHC are known before the Admissions Committee meets, the number of pupils with statements or EHCs naming this school will be deducted from the places available to be offered. Such pupils are automatically offered places at the school and the headteacher and governing body will consider each application for a statemented pupil or those with an EHC individually. A response of concern may be raised prior to the naming of the school on a statement or EHC if they consider that provision will be inadequate for the child's needs or if there is evidence that to admit the applicant would have a detrimental impact on the learning of other pupils.

Late Applications

Applicants who fulfil the entry requirements whose applications are received after the deadline of **Friday 9 December 2016** will be treated as lower priority than those applications received on time, in the initial allocation of places (please see information below on waiting lists).

If an applicant is offered a place after the usual starting date of 1 September 2017, he or she will normally be expected to take up this place within one week of the date of the offer.

Offers of Places

All applicants will be offered the opportunity for an information and guidance discussion with a senior member of staff at King Charles I School in order to agree the most suitable pathway and courses. Following these discussions,

successful applicants will be sent provisional offers of places for the agreed pathway and courses, subject to places being available. If there are more applicants than available places the governors' Admissions Committee will rank all applications received by the deadline in order of priority as described below under the Oversubscription Criteria.

Any applicants to whom we cannot offer a place will be notified and the right to appeal given (see below).

The governors reserve their right to withdraw an offer of a place before the pupil is admitted to the school where it is found that:

- the offer of a place has been made on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application which effectively denied a place to a pupil with a stronger claim, for example, the use of an inappropriate home address; or
- the parent/carer has not responded to the offer within a reasonable period of time of the offer being made and after a reminder has been issued.

If an application is withdrawn or an offer declined for any reason the Head of Sixth Form should be notified in writing immediately. The Head of Sixth Form should also be advised of any changes to the pupil's home address.

Waiting Lists

If there are too many applications for available places in the Sixth Form at King Charles I School those applicants who have been unsuccessful will be placed on a waiting list if requested in writing. This waiting list is held until 31 December 2017 as considerable pupil movement is often seen between the publication of GCSE results in August and the end of the autumn term. If places do become available, the waiting list, including late applicants, will be ranked strictly in accordance with the published Oversubscription Criteria and the applicant who ranks highest at that time will be offered a place subject to availability in the agreed pathway and courses.

Appeals

The parents/carers of children who are unsuccessful in gaining a place at King Charles I School may appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. The Independent Appeal Panel's procedures are in accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admission Appeals Code effective from 1 February 2012.

If you wish to appeal you should write, setting out your grounds for appeal, to the clerk to the governing body of King Charles I School within 20 school days of receipt of notification that your application was unsuccessful. You will receive at least 10 school days' notice of the date of the appeal hearing but in exceptional circumstances you have the right to waive this notice. You will usually be told of the outcome of the appeal within five school days of the hearing.

Any additional evidence which you wish to submit after lodging an appeal must be in writing and must be received by the school at least five school days before the hearing to allow for efficient administration of the appeal hearing. If you submit information or evidence after this deadline it might not be considered at the appeal, or the appeal hearing might need to be postponed.

Appeals for the sixth form will not be heard before confirmation of the examination results on which the offer of a place depends. Such appeals will be heard within 30 school days of being lodged.

For in-year transfer applications, appeals will be heard within 30 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals.

Appeals lodged after the deadline for lodging appeals will be heard as soon as is reasonably practical.

Parents/carers are invited to attend the hearing of their appeal and make their case to the panel, although if this invitation is declined the appeal may be heard on the basis of written evidence only. You may be represented by or accompanied by a friend. You must inform the school in advance if you wish to call any witnesses or be represented at the hearing.

Only one appeal is permitted in respect of the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, a second application has been accepted because of significant and material changes in circumstances (eg a change which puts the applicant in a higher oversubscription category). The statutory right to appeal does not apply if a place has been offered at the school in the usual year group for the child's age, but this is not the year group preferred.

Oversubscription criteria

The purpose of the published oversubscription criteria is to give everyone a fair opportunity to apply for a place at the school in accordance with our main principle of admission as defined above in the Introduction. The governors' Admissions Committee takes considerable time and the utmost care to ensure that the system is applied fairly.

Where there are more applications than places pupils will be offered places in the following order of priority (for definitions of the words in bold, see the section below on Definitions):

1. **Relevant 'Looked After' and previously 'Looked After' Children.**
2. **Siblings** of pupils attending the school **and** living within the **catchment** area of the school. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the school, the sibling must already be attending the school at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission. In the event of a school catchment area change being approved, pupils who would still have a **sibling connection** at the time of admission and who are living at the same address in the previous catchment area for a school, (but not within the revised catchment area), at the time the change was approved will be considered as living within the **catchment area**.
3. Pupils living within the **catchment** area of the school.
4. Pupils living outside of the catchment area but who would still have a **sibling connection** at school at the time of admission. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the school, the sibling must already be attending the school at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission.
5. Pupils who live **nearest** to the school by the shortest straight line distance. The measurement will be taken using the Geocode Points for each property and the Geocode point for the school. The governing body will utilise the Local Authority software package called Arcview GIS to determine distance. Ordnance Survey supply the co-ordinates that are used to plot an address within this system. In the event of equi-distance applicants, any place will be allocated by random selection (lottery). Someone totally independent of the governing body will supervise this process.

Where there are too many applications from within the first category, applications will be given priority if they meet the conditions of the second category. If any places then still remain, applications will be given priority according to the third category, and so on.

Definitions

Relevant Looked After Children

'Looked after' means all those currently in care or accommodated by a Local Authority under the terms of the Children Act 1989 and children who were previously in care or accommodated by a Local Authority but immediately after being looked after, were adopted under either the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption Act 2002 or who became subject to a Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order.

Catchment Area

Our catchment area is defined on the map which may be viewed at the school on request and which is available on the school website or from Pupil Admissions and Transfers at Worcestershire County Council. Proof of residence may be required. The offer of a place may be withdrawn if acceptable proof of residence is not provided when requested.

If you wish to check whether your address falls within the catchment area for King Charles I School, you may also visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk and use the on-line postcode catchment area checker.

While there is no guarantee of a place for children living in our catchment area, it has been the case in the last few years that places have been offered to most or all applicants resident in catchment. This cannot be relied upon for the future as demographic and other changes may make it less likely.

Sibling

Applicants who have a sibling on roll at King Charles I School at the time of application who would still be on roll at the time of admission may claim a sibling connection. Siblings are defined as brothers or sisters who share at least one birth or legally adoptive parent, or who have birth or legally adoptive parents living at the same **home** address as partners. In order to claim a sibling connection, applicants must live at the same **home** address as the sibling.

The governing body of King Charles I School will endeavour to treat applicants who are twins or children of other multiple births with consideration when considering their ranking in the event of oversubscription but cannot guarantee that a place can be offered to every child of a multiple birth if insufficient places are available. In the event of a multiple birth where not all children from that multiple birth can be allocated a place, any place(s) will be allocated by random selection (lottery). Someone totally independent of the governing body will supervise this process.

Home

Home is defined as the only or main residential address at the date of application where the child normally resides and which is the address of the parent/carer with main responsibility for the child.

Where parents/carers have shared responsibility, the child's home address will usually be considered to be that of the parent/carer with whom the child lives for the majority of the school week (eg three or more days out of five Monday to Friday during term-time).

It may be necessary for the school to carry out checks to confirm that information given in relation to a child's home addresses is genuine. Parents/carers may be asked to produce documentary evidence of the address given. If you knowingly give false information in order to obtain a school place you could be guilty of an offence under the Perjury Act 1911.

Places cannot be offered on the basis of a possible future address. If you have already applied but notify us that you have moved home after the closing date for applications, we will deal with this as for late applications.

Section 4: Useful contact details

King Charles I School

Tel: 01562 512880

Web: www.kingcharlesschool.co.uk

Email: office@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Stephen Brownlow

Head of Sixth Form: Bev Blackburn

The information contained in this policy is correct at the time of going to press (September 2015) but minor amendments may be made without notice, for example to comply with new statutory requirements or due to circumstances beyond the control of the Governing Body at King Charles I School including information published by Worcestershire County Council.