

Y7 Admissions: Frequently-asked questions

Chelsea Academy is a Church of England School - does my child have to be Christian to be eligible for a place?

No. We welcome students of all faiths and none. Our community places are open to all.

Do we have to attend church to be eligible for a place?

No. Church attendance is only relevant for those applying for foundation places. Community places are open to all.

Does my child have to attend a C of E church to qualify for a foundation place?

No. Your child can qualify for a foundation place if they attend one of the Church of England primary schools in the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (our foundation feeder schools) or if you attend any Christian church or chapel located in the deaneries of Chelsea, Kensington, Hammersmith and Fulham or Westminster. Churches must be members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, the Evangelical Alliance or the Orthodox or Oriental Orthodox family of churches.

We live in another London Borough - can we still apply for Chelsea Academy?

Yes. You can apply for a school place in any London Borough. Our places are allocated on distance, regardless of which borough you live in.

I have a child already attending Chelsea Academy. Does their sibling get priority?

Yes, we give priority to the siblings of any students on roll on 31st October of the year you are applying.

Our church attendance was interrupted by coronavirus restrictions - can we still qualify for a foundation place?

Yes. To qualify for a place on church attendance the family must have attended church at least twice each month, either via online services or in person for a period of one year. Any period when the church was closed due to coronavirus will be disregarded.

Do I have to fill in a supplementary form for your school?

You only need to fill in the supplementary form if you are applying for a foundation place on the basis of church attendance.

Where can I get a supplementary form?

The supplementary form is available on our website at <https://chelsea-academy.org/admissions/foundation-places/>, or you can pick up a paper copy from our Reception.

Do you do banding tests?

No. Your child does not need to sit a banding test for Chelsea Academy.

What is your catchment area?

We do not have a defined catchment area. Places in all categories are offered in order of the distance from your home address. The furthest distance offered will vary from year to year according to the pattern of applications.

Teaching and Learning

How many students are in each class?

Most classes are 28-30. In some subjects classes may have fewer students in order to better support learning

What languages do you offer?

Students are allocated either French and Spanish, and where possible we try to accommodate student/parental choice. They also have the opportunity to take an extra GCSE in a heritage language in Year 10.

What after-school clubs do you offer?

Our Extended Curriculum includes a range of after-school and lunch-time activities including Drama, Music, Robotics, Korean Club, Rowing, STEM Club and a variety of sport and fitness activities. Details are available on our website

<https://chelsea-academy.org/teaching-learning/enrichment/whats-on-this-term/>

What sports/PE activities do you offer?

KS3 students are timetabled two 55 minute periods of PE per week. Some are taught in the Academy gym and rooftop games areas, while others are held offsite for example at Eel Brook Common. Students have the opportunity to play a variety of sports including football, basketball, badminton, volleyball, athletics and circuit training.

Do students study separate sciences?

Most students take the Combined Trilogy Science GCSE gaining two GCSEs. About 30 students each year study the 3 separate sciences.

How many of your A Level students go on to highly selective universities?

In 2023 all students who wanted to go to university secured a place of their choice, 28% of these were at highly-selective universities. These included places at Cambridge, Oxford, UCL, LSE, SOAS, Kings and Nottingham, to study subjects including Computing, Geography, History,

Mathematics, Philosophy, PPE, and two students secured places on degree apprenticeship programmes.

What is your GCSE progress score?

For 2023 it was +0.38 which is above the national average (-0.03) and above the average figure for all RBKC schools (+0.3).

How many GCSE subjects do you offer?

Students can choose from 17 subjects at GCSE.

What additional support do you offer for the most-able students?

Our most able (MA) students are identified at the start of Year 7 based on their scores in the CATS tests they take on entry. Teachers will then match to the needs of their most able students- this can include both stretch and challenge tasks as well as separate activities.

After Year 7 the MA list is opened for additional teacher recommendations, so other students will be added. From Year 9 onwards we introduce ability setting in most subjects, so that teaching is differentiated for level of ability. At the end of Year 10 students are selected for the 3 separate sciences stream or for higher tier papers in Maths and MFL. We have a dedicated Most Able Coordinator, and have been awarded the NACE Challenge Award in recognition of our high-quality provision for more able learners. <https://www.nace.co.uk/page/challenge-award>

Pastoral support***What is the ratio of boys to girls in the Academy?***

47% of students are girls and 53% boys.

Do students have to do detentions, and in what circumstances?

We have a clear and consistent behaviour policy, balancing praise and rewards with sanctions and consequences, to enable effective teaching and learning to take place. Our detention system escalates from lunchtime detentions through after-school detentions up to two-hour Saturday morning detentions. A copy of our behaviour policy is available on our website <https://chelsea-academy.org/parent-portal/policies-2/>

Can my child be in a class with their friends from primary school?

Students start each day in their coaching group of 30. We try to ensure that coaching groups contain a good mix of students from a range of primary schools and while we will try to put students into a group where they know at least one person this may not always be possible. Students will then be in different groups for different subject lessons, and this encourages them to develop new friendships.

How does the Academy deal with bullying?

We take the issue of bullying very seriously. All members of our community have the right to feel safe and happy.

- Respect for difference is explicitly taught to all students as part of our pastoral curriculum
- We actively promote anti-bullying campaigns and celebrate anti-bullying events
- Inclusion and respect for all are key themes of year group and Academy assemblies
- Each student has at least one learning coach who they see daily and who they are encouraged to speak to if they feel concerned about issues of bullying. These learning coaches also regularly communicate with heads of year about any concerns they might have regarding a student
- All staff are required to formally log incidents of bullying when they do occur
- Our dedicated pastoral team follow up all recorded incidents thoroughly
- We have a clear and consistent policy for sanctioning different types of bullying - including on-line bullying
- Resolution and restorative actions are taken as appropriate

For any other questions please email admissions@chelsea-academy.org and we will be happy to help.