

THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL

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DETERMINED SIXTH FORM ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2025

Entry Requirements

The Bishop's Stortford High School offers two post-16 pathways to accommodate different learning styles. Entry to the Sixth Form is dependent upon achieving the basic minimum requirements at GCSE. Students wishing to study the A-Level pathway require a total points score of at least 44 from their best eight GCSEs. Students wishing to study the combined BTEC and A-Level pathway require a total points score of at least 36 from their best eight GCSEs (and a minimum of 5 GCSEs grades 4-9). Both pathways require at least a grade 5 in Mathematics and in English Language or English Literature. Students also need to meet the subject specific entry criteria as detailed in the relevant sections of the Sixth Form Prospectus. Candidates who fall just short of the entry criteria may still be offered a place, if space exists on their chosen courses. Priority will be given to those closest to the stated entry requirement.

The Admissions Process

The intended number to be admitted to the Sixth Form in 2025 is 200. The school's planned admission number (PAN) for external students is 32 who meet the stated minimum entry requirements. Children who meet the entry requirements and have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school will be admitted.

In the event that a pathway is over-subscribed, then places for external applicants will be allocated (to students meeting the entrance requirements) by applying the following oversubscription criteria in the order set out below.

- *Priority will be given first to appropriately qualified applicants who are children looked after and children who were previously looked after, including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England, and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order¹ or a special guardianship order².
- Priority will then be given to children who live nearest to the school, measured by using the Hertfordshire Local Authority's 'Find Your Nearest School' facility. The measurement is taken from the point of your child's house to a point of distance, which has been agreed by the Governors, on the new school site. Should two applicants have the same home-school distance a random allocation will be made and that process will be independently supervised.

** Places are allocated to children in public care according to Chapter 7, Section 2 of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. Priority will also be given to children who were previously looked after, including those looked after outside England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order¹ or a special guardianship order². A "child looked after" 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 (section 221(1) of The Children Act 1989).*

All children adopted from care who are of compulsory school age are eligible for admission under rule 1.

Children in the process of being placed for adoption are classified by law as children looked after providing there is a Placement Order and the application would be prioritised under Rule 1.

Children who were not “looked after” **immediately** before being adopted or made the subject of a child arrangement order or special guardianship order, **will not** be prioritised under rule 1.

¹ Child arrangements order

Under the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amended section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders which settle the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.

² Special guardianship order Under 14A of The Children Act 1989, an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian or guardians.

Children previously looked after abroad and subsequently adopted will be prioritised under Criterion Rule 1 if the child’s previously looked status and adoption is confirmed by Hertfordshire’s “Virtual School”.

The child’s previously looked status will be decided in accordance with the definition outlined in The Children & Social Work Act 2017:

- i. to have been in state care in a place outside England and Wales because he or she would not otherwise have been cared for adequately, and
- ii. to have ceased to be in that state care as a result of being adopted.

A child is in “state care” if he or she is in the care of, or accommodated by –

- (a) a public authority,
- (b) a religious organisation, or
- (c) any other organisation the sole or main purpose of which is to benefit society.

Final decisions regarding pathway and subject choices will only be confirmed once actual GCSE grades are known and it is confirmed that applicants have met the minimum academic requirements for each course.

The Bishop’s Stortford High School Governing Body will review its admissions arrangements annually in line with current legislation and the School Admission Appeals Code. Details of admissions arrangements and of the appeals procedures against non-admission will be published each year.

Sixth Form Appeals Procedures

Parents can appeal against an admission decision, in accordance with current legislation and the School Admission Appeals Code. Please call the Appeals Helpline 01992 588548 to request an appeal pack.

Applicants cannot normally appeal more than once in an academic year except where exceptional circumstances exist.

The criteria are subject to review annually.