



The Grey Coat Hospital Admissions Policy for entry into Year 7, September 2026

To help you through the process, we have divided up the information into sections.

- **Section one** contains general information about the school, and everyone thinking about applying for a place should read this section;
- **Section two** tells you about **Language places**;
- **Section three** explains how banding works in relation to **Church of England places, Other Church places** (your church must be a member of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance) and Open places;
- **Section four** explains the process for Church of England places and Other Church places (your church must be a member of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance);
- **Section five** tells you about **Open places**. By Open places, we mean places where no religious criteria apply;
- **Section six** explains the procedure you have to follow to apply for a place and should be read by everyone thinking about applying for a place.

SECTION ONE

This section should be read by everyone thinking about applying for a place at The Grey Coat Hospital

THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR 2026

1.1 The Grey Coat Hospital is a voluntary aided Church of England Comprehensive Academy for girls, which has a special relationship with Westminster Abbey.

1.2 In September 2026, the Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry into Year 7 will be 175 (one hundred and seventy-five) girls, who will be within the full range of ability and from a wide range of backgrounds. If one child from a multiple birth is offered a place at the school, their sisters will also be offered a place, even if doing so exceeds the PAN.

1.3 Girls admitted to The Grey Coat Hospital, are required to abide by school regulations and to co-operate with the staff on matters of attendance, discipline, homework and dress code.

1.4 Parents are expected to encourage their daughters to contribute to, and benefit from, the school's Christian and Church of England tradition as well as abiding by school regulations. This is not a requirement for entry to the school.

1.5 Applicants are strongly urged to visit The Grey Coat Hospital on one of the Open Days so that they may learn as much as possible about the school and its ethos.

1.6 The Grey Coat Hospital is participating within coordinated admission arrangements with other secondary schools in Westminster.

1.7 Governors may offer a place to an applicant who has an exceptional medical, social or educational need for a place at The Grey Coat Hospital. Applications will only be considered under this category if they are supported by a written statement from a medical consultant, senior social worker or other appropriate professional provided at the point of application. In each case, there must be a clear connection between the applicant's need and The Grey Coat Hospital and an explanation of the difficulties that would be caused if the applicant were to attend another school.

1.8 In the event of oversubscription, places will be allocated in accordance with sections 2 – 5 below.

1.9 Applicants with an Education, Health and Care Plan which names The Grey Coat Hospital will be admitted to the school via the SEN process.

1.10 A waiting list will be kept until 31 December 2026. When any child is added to the waiting list, the list will be ranked again in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria. No priority will be given according to date of application but anyone allocated a place under the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

SECTION TWO - LANGUAGE PLACES

If you are applying for a Language place, please read the following section.

Admissions Criteria – Language Places

Up to 15 (fifteen) places of the PAN (Published Admissions Number) will be offered to applicants solely on the strength of their aptitude for languages, as shown by a test given for this purpose on the Languages Aptitude Test Day. The Languages Aptitude Test Day is in the first half term of Year 6. It is in advance of the completion of the common application form and is on a different day to the banding assessment day. The Languages Assessment is for applicants who are applying for a Language place. No previous knowledge of a foreign language is expected or required. No other criteria for admissions apply to these fifteen places.

If it is necessary to decide between applicants who have an equal score in the language aptitude test, the Governors will apply the following tie breaker:

Where the order of priority is otherwise equal, preference will be given to a child who lives the shortest distance from the school. Home address is defined as the address at which the child resides for 50% or more of the school week. Distances are measured by a straight line from the address seed point (determined by Ordnance Survey data) of the child's home address to the main school gate for pupils, as measured by the Local Authority's computerised measuring system. Where it is necessary to differentiate between applicants living in flats using the same street entrance, priority will be given to the applicant(s) living closest to the ground floor and then by ascending flat number order. Where it is necessary to further differentiate between applicants living the same distance from the school, priority will be decided by random allocation.

Where fewer than 15 Language places are allocated, any remaining places will be added to the total number of Open places available.

SECTION THREE - BANDING

If you are applying for a Church of England place, and Other Church place (Churches Together in England or Evangelical Alliance), or an Open Place, please read this section.

To fill the remaining 160 places (excluding Language places and those with an EHC plan) and to ensure a balanced intake from all ability ranges, all girls must sit a non- verbal reasoning test on assessment day.

The Governors will refer to the result of the non-verbal reasoning test and place all of the applicants into three ability bands based on their result. The Governors will allocate the 160 remaining places on the following basis:

- 25% to applicants of above average ability (Band 1 - the top band);
- 50% to applicants of average ability (Band 2 - the middle band);
- 25% to applicants of below average ability (Band 3 - the lower band).

	Church of England Places	Other Church Places	Open Places	Total
Band 1 (25%)	25	9	6	40
Band 2 (50%)	52	18	10	80
Band 3 (25%)	25	9	6	40
Total (100%)	102	36	22	160

The numbers in the banding grid above may vary depending on the number of applicants with an EHC plan.

Where, after all applicants have been offered a Church of England place, Other Church place or Open place within their band, and one or more of the bands is undersubscribed, the places remaining in that band will be allocated using the same order of priority and tie breaker as for Open places, but without reference to the band into which the applicant falls.

Where there is under-subscription for Open places, the extra places will be treated first as Church of England places and secondly as Other Church places.

SECTION FOUR – ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PLACES AND OTHER CHURCH PLACES (CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND OR EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE)

If you are applying for a Church of England place, or an Other Church place (Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance), please read this section.

Admission criteria – Church of England, Other Church (Churches Together in England or Evangelical Alliance)

4.1 To fill places other than Language places and to ensure a balanced intake, the Governors will refer to the result of the non-verbal reasoning test given on Assessment Day. Consequently, applicants **must** sit the assessment test on Assessment Day. Applicants will have been placed into three ability bands and the Governors will allocate 25% of these places to girls of above average ability (the top band), 50% to girls of average ability (the middle band) and 25% to girls of below average ability (the lower band).

4.2 Once applicants have been placed in a band, Governors will allocate church places as follows:

Church of England Places

102 places will be given to girls from worshipping Church of England families living in the area covered by the Dioceses of London and Southwarkⁱ. “Worshipping Church of England families” is defined in paragraphs A to D below in that order of priority. Applications must be supported by a clergy reference. As directed by the Admissions Code, first priority will be given to Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Childrenⁱⁱ, including those children who appear (to the Admissions Authority) to have been in state care outside of England and cease to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Next, priority will be given to any girls admitted under section 1.7 who need to comply with one of the categories from A to D below. After this, priority will be given to sistersⁱⁱⁱ of current Grey Coat pupils who will be on roll in years 7 to 13 at the school at the time of the admission of the younger sister, provided there are sufficient places available in the appropriate category. Sisters need to comply with one of the categories A to D below. Other applicants in this section will be ranked according to the categories from A to D below in that order.

If there are still insufficient candidates after all of the above criteria have been applied, applicants will be taken from the Other Church (Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance) places category in order to contribute to, and benefit from, the school’s Christian and Church of England tradition.

Other Church (Churches Together in England or Evangelical Alliance) Places

36 places will be given to girls from families worshipping in other churches which are full members of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance and who live in the area of the Dioceses of London and Southwark. "Families worshipping in other churches which are full members of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance" is defined in paragraphs A to D below in that order of priority. Applications must be supported by a clergy reference. First priority will be given to Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Children, including those children who appear (to the Admissions Authority) to have been in state care outside of England and cease to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Next, priority will be given to any girls admitted under section 1.7 who need to comply with one of the categories from A to D below. After this, priority will be given to sisters of current Grey Coat pupils who will be on roll in years 7 to 13 at the school at the time of the admission of the younger sister, provided there are sufficient places available in the appropriate category. Sisters need to comply with one of the categories A to D below. Other applicants in this section will be ranked according to the categories from A to D below in that order.

In establishing family church commitment, only family members/carers living together at one address and who have legal responsibility for the child will be taken into account. Assessing the commitment of the child and their family/carers will be carried out as follows:

A: Weekly church attendance for at least five years immediately preceding the application

Weekly church attendance for at least five years (weekly is currently 30 or more weeks a year i.e. **usually** weekly with allowances for holidays and illness due to the intermittent closures of churches during the Coronavirus pandemic) and:

The child and their parent/carer will need to meet all of the criteria below:

Parent/carer (all criteria must be met)

- Weekly church attendance for at least 5 years
- Parent/carer being a communicant member of the church
- Parent/carer on the church's electoral or other membership roll

Child (all criteria must be met)

- Weekly church attendance for at least 5 years either in Sunday school (including other activities in Church taking place during the Church service) or in church with parent/guardian if no Sunday school exists at the church attended
- Baptism of child or alternative to baptism in traditions where children are not baptised (e.g. dedication)

NOTE: Due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus in around February 2020, all Churches and places of worship in the UK shut on or near March 17, 2020. Many opened to regular worship in mid-July 2020 with some affected by the lock down in January – March 2021, when primary schools in England were closed.

Therefore, for pupils applying for a place at The Grey Coat Hospital within the category of a Church of England place or Other Church places (Churches Together in England or Evangelical Alliance), we have temporarily revised the conditions for weekly church attendance to 30 weeks for the school years 2019 – 2020, up to and including, the school year 2025 – 2026 (please note, a school year runs from 1st September to the 31st August).

B: Weekly church attendance for under five years but at least two years immediately preceding the application

If there are insufficient candidates to fill the places available in a category after the ‘five year weekly’ church attendance rule has been applied, applicants will be considered from those who have under five years, but at least two years, weekly church attendance (weekly is 30 or more weeks a year i.e. **usually** weekly with allowances for holidays and illness) and:

Applicants and their parent/carer will need to meet all of the criteria below:

Parent/carer (all criteria must be met)

- Weekly church attendance for under 5 years, but at least 2 years
- Parent/carer being a communicant member of the church
- Parent/carer on the church’s electoral or other membership roll

Child (all criteria must be met)

- Weekly church attendance for under 5 years, but at least 2 years either in Sunday school (including other activities in Church taking place during the Church service) or in church with parent/guardian if no Sunday school exists at the church attended
- Baptism of child or alternative to baptism in traditions where children are not baptised (e.g. dedication)

C: Fortnightly church attendance for at least five years immediately preceding the application

If there are insufficient candidates to fill the places available in a category after the ‘under five years but at least two years weekly’ church attendance rule has been applied, applications will be considered from those who have fortnightly church attendance for at least five years (fortnightly is at least 15 weeks a year i.e. **usually** fortnightly with allowances for holidays and illness) and:

The child and their parent/carer will need to meet all of the criteria below:

Parent/carer (all criteria must be met)

- Fortnightly church attendance for at least 5 years
- Parent/carer being a communicant member of the church
- Parent/carer on the church’s electoral or other membership roll

Child (all criteria must be met)

- Fortnightly church attendance for at least 5 years either in Sunday school or in church (including other activities in Church taking place during the Church service) with parent/guardian if no Sunday school exists at the church attended
- Baptism of child or alternative to baptism in traditions where children are not baptised (e.g. dedication)

D: Fortnightly church attendance for under five years but at least two years immediately preceding the application

If there are insufficient candidates to fill the places available in a category after the ‘five years fortnightly’ church attendance rule has been applied, applications will be considered from those who have under five years but at least two years fortnightly church attendance (fortnightly is at least 15 weeks a year i.e. **usually** fortnightly with allowances for holidays and illness) and:

The child and their parent/carer will need to meet all of the criteria below:

Parent/carer (all criteria must be met)

- Fortnightly church attendance for under 5 years, but at least 2 years
- Parent/carer being a communicant member of the church
- Parent/carer on the church’s electoral or other membership roll

Child (all criteria must be met)

- Fortnightly church attendance for under 5 years, but at least 2 years either in Sunday school (including other activities in Church taking place during the Church service) or in church with parent/guardian if no Sunday school exists at the church attended
- Baptism of child or alternative to baptism in traditions where children are not baptised (e.g. dedication)

If there are still insufficient candidates after all of the above criteria have been applied, applicants will be added to the Open place category.

If it is necessary to decide between applicants who have equal claims to a place under one of the above criteria in any band, the Governors will apply the following tie breaker:

Where the order of priority is otherwise equal, preference will be given to a child who lives the shortest distance from the school. Home address is defined as the address at which the child resides for 50% or more of the school week. Distances are measured by a straight line from the address seed point (determined by Ordnance Survey data) of the child’s home address to the main school gate for pupils, as measured by the Local Authority’s computerised measuring system. Where it is necessary to differentiate between applicants living in flats using the same street entrance, priority will be given to the applicant(s) living closest to the ground floor and then by ascending flat number order. Where it is necessary to further differentiate between applicants living the same distance from the school, priority will be decided by random allocation.

SECTION FIVE – ADMISSIONS CRITERIA OPEN

PLACES

No faith-based criteria apply to Open places.

5.1 To fill places other than Language places and to ensure a balanced intake, the Governors will refer to the result of the non-verbal reasoning test given on Assessment Day. Consequently, applicants **must** sit the assessment test on Assessment Day. Applicants will have been placed into three ability bands and the Governors will allocate 25% of these places to girls of above average ability (the top band), 50% to girls of average ability (the middle band) 25% to girls of below average ability (the lower band).

5.2 Once applicants have been placed in a band, Governors will allocate open places as follows:

22 places will be open places (where no religious criteria apply). Applications will be ranked in this order of preference:

- (i) First priority will be given to Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Children, including those children who appear (to the Admissions Authority) to have been in state care outside of England and cease to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- (ii) Next, priority will be given to any girls admitted under section 1.7.
- (iii) After this, priority will be given to sisters of current Grey Coat pupils who will be on roll in years 7 to 13 at the school at the time of the admission of the younger sister, provided there are sufficient places available in the appropriate category.
- (iv) Priority will then be given to applicants living the shortest distance from the school in accordance with the tie-breaker below.

If it is necessary to decide between applicants who have equal claims to a place under one of the above criteria (i) to (iii) above or under criterion (iv) above, in any band, the Governors will apply the following tie breaker:

Where the order of priority is otherwise equal, preference will be given to a child who lives the shortest distance from the school. Home address is defined as the address at which the child resides for 50% or more of the school week. Distances are measured by a straight line from the address seed point (determined by Ordnance Survey data) of the child's home address to the main school gate which is the gate of The Grey Coat Hospital, St. Andrew's building, Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 2DY, as measured by the Local Authority's computerised measuring system. Where it is necessary to differentiate between applicants living in flats using the same street entrance, priority will be given to the applicant(s) living closest to the ground floor and then by ascending flat number order. Where it is necessary to further differentiate between applicants living the same distance from the school, priority will be decided by random allocation.

SECTION SIX – ADMISSION PROCEDURES

This section applies to anyone wishing to apply for a place at The Grey Coat Hospital regardless of the category.

6.1 Applicants **must** complete the school's supplementary information form. Applicants should state on the supplementary information form under which categories they are applying:

- Languages places
- Church of England places
- Other Church places (Churches together in England or Evangelical Alliance)
- Open places

Those unsuccessful in one category may be considered for another appropriate category. For example, those applying for a Language place will be considered under the Church of England category if they meet the criteria as outlined above. Those who do not submit the supplementary information form will only be considered for an Open place.

6.2 Those applying for a Church of England place and those applying for an Other Church (Churches Together in England or Evangelical Alliance) place should provide their church with a clergy reference form which should be completed and sent to the school by the clergy. If references are required from more than one member of the clergy, please ask for additional forms. Those who do not return a clergy reference form will only be considered for an Open place.

6.3 If, as is customary, there are more applications than places, the admissions criteria explained in sections 2 - 5 above will determine which applicants are to be offered places. The same procedures will be applied when there are applicants for casual vacancies that arise in years 8 to 11.

6.4 Applicants are required to attend the Assessment Test at our St. Michael's building on a date to be confirmed. In cases where there is a proven legitimate reason for not being able to sit the assessment test on Assessment Day, parents will need to provide evidence from their Primary School of their daughter's ability level.

6.5 Applicants who are applying for a Language place **must** attend the language assessment test at our St. Michael's building. Language Aptitude Test date to be confirmed. Those who do not sit the test will not be considered for a Language place. The outcome of the languages test will be communicated by letter as soon as possible thereafter.

Please note:

Common Application Form

All applicants must complete a common application form provided by their Local Authority and name The Grey Coat Hospital on this form.

Confirmation of Address

All offers are provisional until we receive confirmation of your address. To confirm your address, we will require copies of your Council Tax bill and a recent utility bill in your name.

In-year admissions

For in-year admissions, the above process and criteria apply with the exception of the banding assessment and the language aptitude test which are not required.

Explanatory notes

ⁱ A map of the Dioceses of London and Southwark is available on the school website www.gch.org.uk

ⁱⁱ Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Children and internationally adopted previously Looked After Children. For the purposes of admissions, previously Looked After Children are defined as children who were Looked After, but ceased to be so, because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order) immediately following having been Looked After. Internationally adopted previously Looked After Children are children who appear to the School to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

ⁱⁱⁱ Sisters mean children who reside together at the same address and who have at least one parent/carer in common by birth or legal adoption, or resides with the applicant and is their step-sister or foster sister.