



Marling School

Admissions Policy 2026 Entry

Section 1: Admissions Policy **11-16 Entry**
for September 2026
(Page 2)

Section 2: Admissions Policy **Sixth Form Entry**
for September 2026
(Page 7)

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MARLING SCHOOL

Admissions Policy for September 2026

11-16 Entry

This policy details the process for selecting students for Marling School.

Marling School is a selective boys' grammar school with a co-educational Sixth Form. It is an Academy and as such, the Governing Body is the admissions authority. However, Marling School operates its admissions policy and procedures in line with Gloucestershire County Council's coordinated scheme for school admission, which in turn operates within the School Admissions Code. Admission to Marling School is based on ability, so all candidates for 11-16 entry are required to sit an Entrance Test organised by the school.

1. Primary to secondary transfer

The Published Admission Number for Marling School is 150. Boys in their correct chronological cohort on the date of the test ('eligible cohort') for entry to Year 7 will be eligible to sit the Entrance Test. Parents/Carers who wish their sons to be considered for entry **must register** by completion and submission of the Entrance Test Registration Form (*available online via the school's website during the registration period*) by the stipulated closing date¹. Full details of the admissions process and the Entrance Test are available on the school's website www.marling.school. Please contact Marling School's Admissions Officer if you do not have access to the internet. Parents/Carers must provide details of any Special Educational Needs or Disabilities on the Entrance Test Registration Form in order for the School to consider appropriate access arrangements.

The Entrance Test is scheduled to take place in the autumn term; the precise date will be notified on the school's website. If a change to the Entrance Test date is required due to public health protection measures, or other exceptional circumstances, an alternative date (or dates) will be arranged and registered candidates will be notified of any such change as soon as practicable. Results will be issued as soon as possible after the Entrance Test date and in advance of the Local Authority's Common Application Form deadline, where possible (this may not be possible where the test is delayed for public health reasons).

2. Registration with the Local Authority for allocation of places

Under the Department for Education School Admissions Code, the Local Authority is responsible for allocations of secondary school places.

If you wish your son to be considered for a place at Marling School, it is necessary to declare Marling School as one of your choices on the Local Authority Common Application Form, which should be submitted to your Local Authority by the published deadline (normally 31st October).

Only candidates who meet the qualifying standard in the Entrance Test will be eligible to be considered for admission to the school. The qualifying standard is not a pre-defined pass mark, but reflects a candidate's position in the rank order of standardised scores in the Entrance Test. As soon as possible after the Entrance Test date, confirmation will be sent to Parents/Carers indicating whether or not the required standard has been attained. However, please note that this confirmation is for information only and does **not** constitute an offer of a place. If public health measures prevent significant numbers from attending the main test, the Admissions Committee may defer establishing the qualifying standard until 75% of the registered candidates for the eligible cohort have been tested.

Places at Marling School will be offered by the Local Authority (normally 1st March).

Applicants with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) which names Marling School and **who have met the qualifying standard** will be admitted, and the admission number will be reduced accordingly.

Where applications from candidates **who have met the qualifying standard** exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which candidates to admit:

- a. Any 'looked after child'² or child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order 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 **who have met the qualifying standard**.
- b. Any candidate attracting Pupil Premium funding³ (those who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the six years prior to the test day) **who have met the qualifying standard**.
- c. Other **candidates who have met the qualifying standard** in test rank order.

Where there are a number of equally ranked candidates, the following criteria (in order) will be used to determine the rank order:

- I. Candidates who attended a primary school within the Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust (of which Marling School is a member) at the time of registering for the Entrance Test until at least the December break of Year 6 (*details of member schools can be found on the Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust website: [Our Schools | Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust](#)*).
- II. Candidates with the strongest geographical claim, measured in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the candidate's main residence⁴ (including flats) to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, using the Gloucestershire County Council's measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

In the event of a tie between two or more candidates when applying these criteria, a process of random allocation will be followed by the Governing Body, which will be supervised by someone independent of the school.

A waiting list of qualified candidates will be held until December 31st of Year 7 (Section 11.1).

3. Out of county applications

Applications will be accepted for candidates who live outside Gloucestershire.

4. Out of eligible cohort applications

All candidates not in the eligible cohort will have their case referred to the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body. The Admissions Committee will require evidence as to why the candidate is out of cohort. Parents/Carers of out of cohort applicants must obtain written consent from each grammar school before registration starts or as soon as possible for in year applications.

4.1 Underage candidates

The following must apply if a candidate is underage:

- Their date of birth would normally place them a maximum of one year below the eligible cohort.
- There is a letter of support from the primary school and it is confirmed that the candidate is studying the correct curriculum for the eligible cohort.

Candidates can only sit the entrance exam for Year 7 once. If a place is offered it must be taken up for the next academic year. The place cannot be deferred. All applications for underage candidates will be considered by the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body.

4.2 Overage candidates

Please note that in normal circumstances Marling School does not accept candidates into a year group for which they are overage. However, special consideration may be given where summer born children (born 1st April to 31st August) have been overage from the start of schooling i.e. being admitted to Reception following their 5th Birthday, rather than Year 1. All applications for overage candidates will be considered by the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body.

Any decision in respect of out of cohort applicants will be based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the applicant. In accordance with the School Admissions Code the views of the Headteacher of Marling School will be taken into account.

5. Late Tests

5.1 If, due to illness, public health quarantine restrictions or other exceptional circumstances (such as religious observance, accident or sudden bereavement) a child **who is registered** cannot sit the Entrance Test, the school will organise a replacement test date, typically 10 days after the original test date. Parents/Carers must contact Marling School's Admissions Officer in advance of the test day and certainly before the test commences if their child cannot sit the Entrance Test. The school may require documentary evidence of the exceptional circumstances and may decline to permit a child to take a late test in the absence of such evidence.

5.2 If Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) receive any applications for Marling School from candidates who did not sit the Entrance Test in autumn, the school will organise an opportunity to sit a late test (only candidates applying directly to their Local Authority by their deadline will be permitted to take this test). Any qualifying candidates from this late test will not be included in the initial cohort for GCC allocations on 1 March and must follow Gloucestershire County Council's procedures to request to be added to the waiting list. The priority order of the School's waiting list is listed in Section 11.3.

6. Applications for in-year secondary transfer

Any application for school places made outside the normal primary to secondary year of entry to the school must be made directly to Marling School's Admissions Officer. The School will notify the applicant's parent, within 15 school days of receipt of the application, of either the date of the assessment of academic ability or the reason for refusal of an assessment and/or offer of a place with information about the right of appeal (Section 9). If an assessment is not offered, the candidate can request to have their name added to the Indicated Interest Register to be notified if there is a change of circumstances (Section 11.2).

Candidates for an in-year transfer will be assessed on academic ability at Marling School. Where, on balance, the candidate matches the standard of the cohort, a place will be considered by the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body⁵. If the number of qualifying in-year candidates for a particular year group exceeds the number of places available, offers will be made in order of priority as set out in Section 11.3. Candidates will be notified within three weeks of the assessment of academic ability whether or not they have been allocated a place, and provided information about the right of appeal if appropriate (Section 9). If a place has been offered, transfer should be completed within six weeks. Candidates who matched the standard of the cohort applied for but were not offered a place due to fewer spaces being available than qualifying candidates will be offered a place on the School's waiting list. (Section 11.2)

7. 2nd applications

Candidates who sit a test at any stage for Marling School but do not obtain a place will be permitted to sit a test **once** more for a subsequent academic year. If at the point of application there are no vacancies in the year group, the candidate can request to have their name added to the Indicated Interest Register to be notified when a place becomes available and to be assessed at that point.

In exceptional circumstances the Admission Committee may permit a second test for the same academic year if there is significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school.

At the point of testing, candidates for 2nd applications will be assessed on academic ability at Marling School. Where, on balance, the candidate matches the standard of the school cohort, a place will be considered by the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body. Places will only be offered if the relevant school year group has vacancies and the transfer should be completed within six weeks. The Admissions Committee will ensure that candidates are informed within three weeks of the test. If there are no places available, the candidate can be added to a Waiting List for the remainder of the academic year of application (Section 11.2).

There is a system of appeals against non-admission (Section 9).

8. Fair access protocols

Marling School has signed up to the secondary transfer (In-Year) fair access protocols held by Gloucestershire County Council. Should a child within these protocols require a place at the school, they will take precedence over any child on the waiting list or Indicated Interest Register provided they have met the required standard for entry.

Marling School is committed to equal opportunity. If any special arrangements are required for the test, please contact the school in advance.

9. Appeals

There is a system of appeals against non-admission and details of how to appeal are available from Marling School. It is the school's policy to accept only one appeal application for each candidate for an academic year unless because of a significant and material change in circumstances the school accepted a second application but still refused admission.

10. Complaints

If a Parent/Carer considers the appeal was not carried out in compliance with the School Admissions Code and School Admissions Appeals Code, an objection can be made to the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Details can be found on the Gov.uk website under School Admissions.

All admissions authorities must determine their admission arrangements by 28th February every year. If Parents/Carers think that the admission arrangements do not comply with the School Admissions Code or other legislation relating to school admissions, they may contact the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15th May in that same year.

11. Waiting List and Indicated Interest Register

11.1 Primary to secondary transfer

If the school is still oversubscribed after the Local Authority reallocation process, a waiting list will be held until December 31st of Year 7. The order of this waiting list will be prioritised as in Section 11.3. After December the candidates become secondary transfer candidates and entry would be by 2nd application (Sections 7 and 11.2).

11.2 In-year secondary transfer

If a candidate is assessed to be of the required standard but there are no places available in the relevant year group, they will be placed on the Waiting List for the remainder of the academic year. If a place becomes available, places will be offered in order of priority, as listed in Section 11.3. For second applications, please see Section 7.

If at the point of application, an assessment is not offered, the candidate will be provided with information about the right of appeal and can request to have their name added to the Indicated Interest Register for that academic year to be notified if there is a change of circumstances.

11.3 Waiting List Criteria

The Waiting List will be prioritised as follows:

- a. Any 'looked after child'² or child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order 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 **who have met the qualifying standard**.
- b. Any candidates attracting Pupil Premium funding³ (those who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the six years prior to the test day) **who have met the qualifying standard**.
- c. Other **candidates** who have met the qualifying standard in test rank order.

If there are a number of candidates with an equal position on the waiting list, the following criteria (in order) will be used to determine the rank order:

- i. Candidates who attended a primary school within the Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust (of which Marling School is a member) at the time of registering for the Entrance Test until at least the December

break of Year 6 (*details of member schools can be found on the Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust website: [Our Schools | Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust](#)*).

- II. Candidates with the strongest geographical claim, measured in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the candidate's main residence⁴ (including flats) to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, using the Local Authority's measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

In the event of a tie between two or more candidates when applying the above criteria a process of random allocation will be followed by the Governing Body, which will be supervised by someone independent of the school.

Footnotes

¹ **In order to safeguard the credibility of the test**, where a candidate (whether or not registered in two or more authorities including Gloucestershire) undertakes the same test on more than one occasion, then the first sitting shall be taken as the test score and any place offered in accordance with the admission arrangements shall be on the basis of that score. For the avoidance of doubt where a place is offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application the school may withdraw that offer.

² **A looked after child 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians). Supporting documentation for a looked after child must be submitted to the school prior to sitting the test.

³ **Independent and verifiable evidence of Pupil Premium entitlement** in the requisite period will need to be provided prior to test day. The school will make such enquiries as are necessary of the current primary school or GCC (or the relevant Local Authority) as to the entitlement of any candidates who have qualified when notifying GCC of the test results. This criterion is applicable to Pupil Premium entitlement only and not Service Premium entitlement.

⁴ **Main Residence** is defined as the candidate's permanent home address and this must be completed on the form. Where a candidate lives with both parents on an equal basis, both parents must agree which of their addresses to use and enter this on the application form as the main residence and confirm this before the closing date for test applications.

⁵ **Eligibility for a place at Marling School will be withdrawn** if it is offered in error or if it is established that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.



Admissions Policy for September 2026

Sixth Form

1. Year 12 admissions

The Sixth Form at Marling School is co-educational and open to students from Marling School and other schools; we admit boys and girls. Applications for Year 12 should be completed by the published deadline on the application form. Please refer to the Marling Sixth Form's website www.marlingsixthform.org for full details of the admissions process and the application form. Students receive a conditional offer in April of the calendar year of admission. Conditional places will be confirmed following the GCSE results day in August each year.

2. Capacity

The maximum Year 12 cohort of Marling School is 200. The Governing Body may admit above this figure in exceptional circumstances and where it believes no prejudice will ensue. All Year 11 Marling School students who meet the published academic entry requirements can expect to be allocated a place in the Sixth Form, as well as a **minimum** planned admission number of 50 external candidates.

3. Academic entry requirements

All applicants will need to meet all the following requirements for entry into Marling School Sixth Form⁶:

- Applicants should achieve a minimum of 50 'points' across their best 8 GCSE grades in separate subjects. The numerical grade will be used as the point score. The two grades awarded for Combined Science count as separate subjects. Short course GCSEs do not count towards the full course GCSE requirements.
- Applicants should have a minimum of Grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics (see below).
- Applicants should meet individual subject requirements in their chosen subjects if previously taken at GCSE level, or a relevant subject as specified in the Sixth Form Curriculum Guide.

Applicants will normally choose to study 3 A Levels. Four A levels may be taken by students with a strong GCSE profile.

Applicants will normally choose no more than 2 new subjects to study in Year 12.

Applicants with insufficient formal GCSE qualifications, but with demonstrable equivalent qualifications, including International Baccalaureate and IGCSEs, will be considered by the Marling School Leadership Team, who will be guided by points' equivalence and evidence of prior learning.

Where external applicants have an education, health and care plan (EHCP), they are required to meet the minimum academic entry requirements in order to be admitted and for Marling School to be named on the plan. In that event, they will have priority over all other external applicants and the admission number will be reduced accordingly. For internal applicants with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), in order to continue their studies at Marling School they will be required to meet the minimum academic entry requirements.

Applicants who have missed the entry criteria may request consideration for a place by the Marling School Sixth Form Leadership Panel who may accept or reject applications. This may include, but is not limited to, those applicants who narrowly missed the Sixth Form entry criteria by virtue of their English and Mathematics grade.

The Marling School Sixth Form Leadership Panel will normally meet in the first week of the academic year.

Applicants who have missed the entry criteria and have been in receipt of Pupil Premium funding⁷ during their secondary school education may request consideration for a place by the Marling School Sixth Form Leadership Panel. A place may be offered to any applicants that the group consider will be able to access an A-level curriculum, with the programme of study adjusted as necessary to suit individual circumstances.

4. Applicants continuing from Year 11 at Marling School

Applicants progressing into the Sixth Form from Year 11 of Marling School who achieve the academic entry requirements will be offered a place in the Sixth Form. Applicants should confirm with the school on GCSE results day by the time specified by the school, if they wish to accept a place.

5. Applicants joining the school for the first time (“external applicants”)

We welcome applications from new candidates. Following submission of an application form, applicants will be invited to an advisory discussion and conditional places will then be offered. Applicants should contact the school on GCSE results day by the time specified by the school, if they wish to accept a place and submit their GCSE results.

6. Allocation of Places

Immediately after the published deadline for applications, we calculate the number of students who have applied for each subject. The number of groups for each of these subjects is then determined, to ensure reasonable class sizes. If in August/September a subject area is full but places still exist in the Sixth Form overall, prospective students will be offered suitable alternative courses if they meet the entry requirements of those subject areas (an offer of admission is to the Sixth Form: it is not a guarantee of a particular course of study).

7. Oversubscription criteria for external applicants

If there are more external applicants than can be offered places, the following additional criteria in this order will be applied to candidates that have met the entry requirements:

- a. Any 'looked after child'⁸ or child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order 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.
- b. Any candidate attracting Pupil Premium funding⁷ during their secondary school education.
- c. Applicants with the highest average GCSE grade 'score' in their best eight separate full course subjects (see Section 3 above)

In the event of a tie break between two or more applicants when applying the above criteria, a process of random allocation will be followed by the Governing Body, which will be supervised by someone independent of the school.

There is a system of appeals against non-admission (Section 11).

8. Waiting List

In the event that the external applicant reaches the required academic standard but there are no places available in the relevant Year 12, they will be placed on a Waiting List. The order of this list will conform to the oversubscription criteria as listed above (Section 7). If the number of students falls below the maximum Year 12 cohort number, those on the list will be offered places (Section 5), in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The Waiting List for Year 12 will be held until 31st December. Students from Year 11 of Marling School who left but then wish to return will be treated as new applicants (see 9 below).

9. Sixth Form transfer

New applicants who wish to transfer into Year 12 or 13 should in the first instance make contact with the Head of Sixth Form.

10. Appeals

There is a system of appeals against non-admission, and details of how to appeal are available from the school. For the Sixth Form, the Parents/Carers and the applicant are entitled to appeal against a decision not to admit

the applicant to the Sixth Form. It is the school's policy to accept only one appeal application for each candidate for an academic year unless, because of a significant and material change in circumstances, the school accepted a second application but still refused admission.

11. Complaints

If a Parent/Carer considers the appeal was not carried out in compliance with the School Admissions Code and School Appeals Code, an objection can be made to the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Details can be found on the Gov.uk website under School Admission Appeals.

All admissions authorities must determine their admission arrangements by 28th February every year. If Parents/Carers think that the admission arrangements do not comply with the School Admissions Code or other legislation relating to school admissions, they may contact the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15th May in that same year.

Footnote

⁶ **A place at Marling School Sixth Form will be withdrawn** if it is offered in error or if it is established that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

⁷ **Independent and verifiable evidence of Pupil Premium entitlement** in the requisite period will need to be provided at the time of application. The school may make such enquiries as are necessary of the previous school or GCC (or the relevant Local Authority) as to the entitlement of any candidates. This criterion is applicable to Pupil Premium only and not Service Premium entitlement.

⁸ **3 A looked after child 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians). Supporting documentation for a looked after child must be submitted to the school prior to sitting the test.