



DIDSBURY
SIXTH FORM

Didsbury Sixth Form

Admissions Policy 2026-27

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Introductory statement

Our vision is for every student, regardless of background or circumstance, to achieve the A level grades which will open the door to the future of their choice, including access to the most competitive and prestigious universities and professions.

Didsbury Sixth Form (DSF) is committed to providing courses of study and enrichment opportunities which enable us to realise our vision. We expect students who apply for a place in our Sixth Form to have the same ambition and to demonstrate this in their attitude to their studies, their participation in the Cornerstones programme and their contribution to the Sixth Form community.

Admission Arrangements

The Laurus Trust is the Admission Authority for Didsbury Sixth Form. DSF has an admission number of 150 for entry into year 12.

The application process opens in November of the year before entry into the Sixth Form. All applicants, whether internal or external, must complete the application form by the December deadline stated on the website.

Successful applicants will receive conditional offer letters by the end of February. A final decision on admission to the Sixth Form cannot take place until students' GCSE results are known. Applicants will need to register for a place in person on GCSE Results Day with evidence of their GCSE results.

Entry criteria and acceptance on to a chosen course or combination of courses

The A level courses which we offer and our entry criteria reflect our vision. A minimum of six GCSEs at grade 6, including Maths and English (Literature or Language), are required for entry. Students should also meet the individual subject criteria - where the subject was not available at GCSE, any comparable subjects will be taken into account. In exceptional cases for internal applicants (for example where there are extenuating circumstances such as illness) or for applicants onto specific Pathway Programmes, the entry criteria may be adjusted on an individual basis.

During the admission process, all students seeking admission to the Sixth Form will have a personal consultation with a member of the Sixth Form team to ascertain whether or not DSF offers the courses which will best match the aptitudes of the potential student. This will be supplemented by additional information from tutors and subject teachers, including estimated grades. Information which students provide on their application forms will also be incorporated into the consultation to ensure that choices and combinations of subjects are appropriate.

Admission into Year 12 does not guarantee entry to the courses as offered in the prospectus. If an individual course is undersubscribed and therefore does not run, alternatives will be offered. If an individual course is oversubscribed, the oversubscription criteria detailed below will be applied to the

individual course.

Once accepted into the Sixth Form, all students will be expected to adhere to the Sixth Form Contract, with particular reference to Attendance, Behaviour, Study and Dress Codes.

Oversubscription criteria

Where there are more applications from students who meet the published entry criteria than the Published Admissions Number, students will be allocated places in the order A-F below. If in any category there are more students than places, priority will be given to those with the highest average GCSE points score.

- a.** Looked after children, and all previously looked after children, including those children 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 adopted¹
- b.** Internal applicants considered to have highly exceptional medical/social reasons
- c.** Internal applicants who are Ever 6 FSM students
- d.** Other internal applicants
- e.** Children of staff who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- f.** All other applicants

If any two or more candidates are tied on the same attainment score for the last available place, then the place will be awarded to the applicant who lives nearest to the Sixth Form – using straight line distance from the applicant's front door to the entrance of the Sixth Form.

Late applications

All applications received after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants, the sixth form is oversubscribed, unsuccessful applicants may ask to be placed on a waiting list.

¹ 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). Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because immediately after, they became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Waiting list

A waiting list of applicants who have met the entry criteria but not been offered a place will be maintained until the end of September in the academic year of entry. It is open to such applicants to be asked to be placed on the waiting list. The priority order for entry within the waiting list will be determined by applying the oversubscription criteria.

Appeals

Parents and Carers and students have a right to appeal against any decision refusing a Sixth Form place in a school with a Sixth Form. Please note that all places are conditional, based on GCSE results and as a result no appeals will be held until after the GCSE results day. All appeals will be heard by an independent panel within 40 days of the deadline for lodging appeals. The appeals process will be published on the school's website.



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