WCCS

Catholic prep school for boys aged 4 – 13

Your Questions Answered Day Boys – 2026/27

HOW MANY YEAR GROUPS ARE THERE AT WCCS?

There are currently nine year groups at WCCS:

Reception (age 4-5)

Year 1 (age 5-6)

Year 2 (age 6-7)

Year 3 (age 7-8)

Year 4 (age 8-9)

Year 5 (age 9-10)

Year 6 (age 10-11)

Year 7 (age 11-12)

Year 8 (age 12-13)

AT WHAT AGE ARE DAY BOYS ADMITTED TO WCCS?

Day boys are normally admitted into Reception in the September following their fourth birthday, or into Year 3 in the September following their seventh birthday, or into Year 4 in the September following their eighth birthday.

HOW MANY BOYS ARE THERE AT THE SCHOOL?

There are around 250 boys at the School currently, spread over nine year groups.

HOW MANY DAY BOYS ARE THERE?

There are around 230 day boys at WCCS.

DOES MY SON HAVE TO BE MUSICAL TO JOIN WCCS AS A DAY BOY?

Many of the day boys play a musical instrument, or sing in a choir, or play in an ensemble group, but none is obliged to do so.

DOES WCCS PREPARE BOYS FOR COMMON ENTRANCE AT 13+?

Yes. Many of the boys will also sit 13+ academic and music scholarships at leading public schools in London and beyond.

WHAT ARE THE FEES?

Fees, payable termly and in advance, for the academic year 2026/27 are:

£9,590 (Reception to Year 3)

£10,919 (Years 4 to 8)

HOW DOES A BOY GAIN ADMISSION TO WCCS?

Boys in Reception sit age-appropriate assessments in the November of the year before entry. For places at 7+ and 8+ boys sit papers in English and maths. Sample papers are available on our website.

7+ and 8+ assessments take place throughout Years 2 & 3. Subject to satisfactory assessment, places are awarded on a first-come-first-served basis.

DOES MY SON HAVE TO BE ROMAN CATHOLIC?

The majority of day boys at the School are Roman Catholic, but the School welcomes boys from other faith backgrounds.

WHEN DOES THE ACADEMIC SCHOOL DAY START AND END?

Boys in Reception, Years 1, 2 & 3

Boys in Reception, Years 1, 2 & 3 can be dropped off from 7.45 am (they must be in for 8.40 am), and can be collected at 3.30 pm, if in Reception, Years 1 & 2, or 3.40 pm, if in Year 3.

Reception, Years 1, 2 & 3 boys in an after-School club are collected at 4.50 pm.

All Year 3 boys can go to prep club if they are not doing a club. They are collected at 5.00 pm from Francis Street.

Years 4-8

Boys in Years 4 – 8 can be dropped off from 7.45 am (they must be in for 8.40 am), and can be picked up at 3.50 pm, or stay at School until 5.00 pm. Boys not in an after-School club go to prep club, which finishes at 4.50 pm.

Boys may not be collected between 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm.

HOW IS THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM ORGANISED AT WCCS?

Reception

In Reception, boys are taught the following:

Phonics & literacy
Maths
Reading
Religious Studies
Expressive Arts
Computing
Understanding the world
Civics (PSHCE)

Years 1 & 2

In Years 1 & 2 boys are taught the following subjects.

Art/D&T
Civics (PSHCE)
English
Geography
History
ICT
Maths
Music
Religious Studies
Science

Years 3, 4 and 5

In Years 3, 4 and 5 boys are taught the following subjects.

Art
Civics (PSHCE)
Classics (from Year 4)
English
French (from Year 4)
Geography
History
ICT / verbal & non-verbal reasoning
Maths
Music
Religious Studies
Science

Boys are examined twice a year: once during the Michaelmas term and once during the Trinity term.

Year 6, 7 and 8

Subject-specialist teaching in all subjects is introduced from Year 6. Boys are taught the following subjects.

Art
Civics (PSHCE)
Classics
English
French
Geography
History
ICT / verbal & non-verbal reasoning (Year 6 only)
Maths
Music
Religious Studies
Science

HOW MUCH PREP (HOMEWORK) DO BOYS RECEIVE?

Reception

Boys in Reception are set reading for prep.

Years 1 & 2

Boys in Years 1 & 2 are set spelling, reading, maths and English for prep.

Years 3, 4 and 5

Boys have one half-hour prep every night from Monday to Thursday, and three half-hour preps to complete over the weekend.

Years 6, 7 and 8

Boys have one forty-minute prep every night from Monday to Thursday, and four forty-minute preps to complete over the weekend.

CAN DAY BOYS COMPLETE THEIR PREP (HOMEWORK) IN SCHOOL?

Yes.

The School offers supervised prep (homework) every weekday from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm during term time.

DOES THE SCHOOL RUN AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS?

The School runs a wide variety of after-school clubs, which change according to demand and season.

WHAT ABOUT MUSIC TUITION?

Day boys, from Year 4 upwards, may choose to have tuition in up to two instruments per week, from the following list.

- Bassoon
- Cello
- Clarinet
- Double bass
- Flute
- French horn
- Oboe
- Piano
- Tenor horn
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Viola
- Violin

Instrumental tuition takes place during academic class time, with parents' permission.

WHAT SPORTS ARE ON OFFER?

Michaelmas Term	Football and badminton
Lent Term	Rugby and hockey
Trinity Term	Cricket and tennis

Boys from Reception – Year 5 go swimming at the Queen Mother Sports Centre, Pimlico. Games also includes cross country running and athletics.

There are after school clubs for judo, karati and fencing.

WHAT KIND OF REPORTS DO PARENTS RECEIVE ABOUT THEIR SON'S ACADEMIC PROGRESS?

In Reception, Years 1, 2 & 3 parents receive written reports in all subjects at the end of every term. In Years 4 – 8 parents also receive interim reports every half-term.

HOW OFTEN DOES THE SCHOOL HAVE PARENTS' MEETINGS?

In Reception, Years 1, 2 & 3 the School holds parents' meetings every term. For Years 4 – 8 the Schools holds parents' meetings once a year.

HOW ELSE DOES THE SCHOOL MONITOR BOYS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?

The School takes boys' academic work seriously, and has systems in place to ensure that every boy is working to his full potential.

- Form Tutors check boys' prep diaries daily, to ensure a complete record of the work set.
- Form Tutors inform parents immediately there is any cause for concern in a boy's academic performance.
- If a boy persistently under-performs academically, he will be referred to the Head Pre-Prep or to the Director of Studies for immediate action, in consultation with his parents.
- Academic staff meet regularly to discuss boys' academic progress.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS AT WCCS?

Reception, Years 1 & 2

Boys in Reception are assessed in maths and English towards the end of the Lent and Trinity terms. Boys in Years 1 & 2 are assessed in maths and English towards the end of the Michaelmas, Lent and Trinity terms.

Years 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

Boys in Years 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 sit examinations in all subjects in the Michaelmas and Trinity terms.

Year 8

Boys in Year 8 sit mock Common Entrance examinations, set by the **Independent Schools' Examination Board (ISEB)**.

Boys entered for 13+ academic scholarships sit examinations as required by their chosen destination senior schools throughout the year. Boys who have sat scholarship examinations are not normally required to sit Common Entrance in addition.

WHERE DO WCCS BOYS GO ON TO AT 13+?

13+ Leavers' Destinations 2026

Brighton College (1 x Art Scholarship)
Dulwich College x 6 (1 x Academic Scholarship)
Eton College x 10
Gordonstoun (1 x Music Scholarship)
Hampton School (1 x Sports Scholarship)
Harrow School x 3 (1 x Music Award)
King's College School, Wimbledon
St Edward's School, Oxford (1 x Sports Award)
St Paul's School x 2
Tonbridge School
Westminster School x 3

13+ Leavers' Destinations 2025

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School
City of London School
Dulwich College x 5 (1 x Academic Scholarship)
Eton College x 9 (1 x King's Scholarship, 1 x Music Exhibition)
Harrow School x 3 (1 x Music Scholarship)
King's College School, Wimbledon (1 x Academic Scholarship)
Marlborough College
Radley College x 3 (1 x Music Scholarship)
St Edward's School, Oxford
St Paul's School x 4
Tonbridge School x 2
Westminster School x 2
Wetherby School
Worth School

13+ Leavers' Destinations 2024

City of London School
Ampleforth College (Music Scholarship)
Berkhamsted School
City of London School x 2
Dulwich College x 4 (1 Academic & Music Scholarship)
Eton College x 3
Harrow School x 2
King's College School, Wimbledon
King's School, Canterbury x 2 (2 Music Scholarship)
Radley College (Music & Sports Scholarship)
Sherborne School
Tonbridge School
Westminster School x 4
Wetherby School x 2
Whitgift School
Worth School (Music Scholarship)

13+ Leavers' Destinations 2023

City of London School x 5
Dulwich College x 5 (2 Academic Scholarships)
Eton College x 6 (1 Music Exhibition)
Harrow School x 5
King's College School, Wimbledon
Radley College x 3 (1 Music Exhibition)
London Oratory School
St Paul's School x 2
Westminster School x 3
Winchester College

13+ Leavers' Destinations 2022

Canford School
Dulwich College
Eton College x 2
Harrow School x 2
Latymer Upper School
King's College School, Wimbledon x 2
King's School, Canterbury (Music Scholarship)
Radley College x 2 (1 Music Scholarship)
St James's School for Boys
St Paul's School x 3
Tonbridge School
Wellington College
Westminster School
Wetherby School
Winchester College x 2
Worth School x 2

APPENDIX 1 –
INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR PARENTS UNDER THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL STANDARDS REGULATIONS, PART 6

WHO IS THE HEAD MASTER OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL?

Neil McLaughlan

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL'S ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER?

Westminster Cathedral Choir School, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1P 1QH

Tel 020 7798 9081

WHO IS THE PROPRIETOR OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL?

The Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee
Vaughan House
46 Francis Street
London
SW1P 1QN

Authority is delegated from the Trustees, through an Instrument of Government, to a Body of Governors, appointed by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

WHO IS THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND HOW DO I CONTACT HIM?

The Chair is Mr David Heminway, who can be contacted at the School's address.

The following information is available on the School's website: www.choirschool.com

- A statement of the School's ethos (including its religious ethos) and aims
- Particulars of the School's policy on and arrangements for admissions, misbehaviour and exclusions
- Particulars of educational and welfare provision for pupils with statements and pupils for whom English is an additional language
- Particulars of the School's academic performance during the preceding school year, including the results of any public examinations
- Details of the complaints procedure, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year
- The number of staff at the School, including temporary staff, and a summary of their qualifications

If you would prefer hard copy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel 020 7798 9081 Email lfreeman@choirschool.com

www.choirschool.com

Westminster Cathedral Choir School Ambrosden Avenue London SW1P 1QH
General Enquiries 020 7798 9081
Email office@choirschool.com

www.choirschool.com