



Holy Family Sixth Form

Curriculum and Entry Requirements 2026

A Levels and Level 3 BTECs require a high level of prior knowledge and skills, as demonstrated through GCSE results. As a result, we advertise clear entry requirements for each course. Students who narrowly miss entry requirements will be considered on an individual basis.

A Level Curriculum offer

Students studying A Levels usually study 3 A Levels, plus an additional subject such as EPQ and Core Maths, alongside compulsory General Religious Studies, Study sessions and Enrichment

A Level Subject	GCSE Average required	GCSE English Language	GCSE Maths	GCSE Science	Other GCSE requirements
Art and Design (Fine Art OR Photography#)	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in Art (Fine Art) Portfolio for Photography
Biology	4.8	5	6	77	Or Grade 7 in Single Biology
Business Studies#	4.8	5	5	n/a	Grade 5 at Business if taken Interest in Business essential
Chemistry	4.8	5	6	77	Or Grade 7 in Single Chemistry
Computing	4.8	5	6	n/a	Grade 6 in Computing GCSE is taken
Design and Technology: Product Design (3D)	4.8	5	5	n/a	Grade 5 in Design related subject eg: (Graphics, Resistant Materials, Textiles)
Drama & Theatre Studies	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in Drama
Economics#	4.8	6	6	n/a	Interest in Economic issues essential
English Literature	4.8	6	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in English Literature
Film Studies#	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 5 in Media subject if taken at GCSE
French	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	7+ at GCSE and/or home speaker.
Geography	4.8	6	5	n/a	Grade 5 in Geography if taken and ideally Grade 6 in Maths
History	4.8	6	n/a	n/a	Grade 6 in History
Maths	4.8	5	7	n/a	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths.
Maths (Further)	4.8	5	8	n/a	Further Maths is timetabled separately but MUST be taken with Maths and requires at least a grade 8 at GCSE
Physics	4.8	5	7	77	Or Grade 7 in Single Physics GCSE. Advised to combine with A Level Maths

Politics#	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Prior knowledge in Politics and political systems is essential.
Psychology#	4.8	5	5	55	Interest in Psychology essential
Philosophy & Ethics	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 5 in RE at GCSE
Sociology#	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	Grade 5 in Sociology if taken at GCSE
Spanish	4.8	5	n/a	n/a	7+ at GCSE and/or home speaker.

IMPORTANT: Subjects which do not recruit enough students will not run in Sept 2024. Final decisions will be made about subjects with small numbers once applications are completed. Students would therefore be strongly advised to research one or two 'reserve subjects'.

Subjects above with a # next to them do NOT require a GCSE in that subject in order to take them at A Level.

Level 3 BTEC Vocational Offer

Students studying Level 3 BTECS usually study the equivalent of 3 A Levels (usually combining two BTECs together), alongside compulsory General Religious Studies, Study sessions and Enrichment

Subject	GCSE Average required	GCSE English Language	GCSE Maths	GCSE Science	Other
Business BTEC (Equivalent to 2 A Levels)	3.6	4	4	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Health and Social Care BTEC (Equivalent to 3 A Levels)	3.6	4	4	44	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
ICT (BTEC) (Equivalent to 1 A Level)	3.6	4	4	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Media (BTEC) (Equivalent to 1.5 A Levels)	3.6	4	n/a	n/a	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken
Sport (BTEC) (Equivalent to 1 A Level)	3.6	4	4	44	Merit in L2 BTEC if taken

***** These BTEC subjects are currently under a curriculum review following the defunding of certain qualifications by the Government and the introduction of the new AAQs. The final list of qualifications available will be confirmed during interviews for the 6th form. *****

GCSE Points scores

To access both the A Level pathway and the L3 BTEC Pathway, students are required to gain a GCSE average as outlined in the tables above. Level 3 study is challenging and requires an existing base of knowledge as proven by GCSE results.

Students can 'model' their likely GCSE average by adding up all their current predicted grades (in number form) and dividing by the total number of GCSEs.

Level 2 Bridging course / BTEC Vocational Offer

This is a one year course that can lead to Level 3 study next year, on successful completion of all aspects and meeting the minimum entry requirements for Level 3

Students choose one from:

- Level 2 BTEC Business
- Level 2 BTEC Health and Social care

Students who do not have a grade 4+ in English choose either:

- GCSE English resit
- Functions Skills English (best for students who gained a grade 1 or 2 in English GCSE)

Students who do not have a grade 4+ in Maths choose either:

- GCSE Maths resit
- Functions Skills Maths (best for students who gained a grade 1 or 2 in Maths GCSE)

Additional skills course eg: ASDAN certificate of personal effectiveness

Holy Family Sixth Form – Curriculum Pathways Sept 2026 entry

Pathway	English/maths minimum GCSE requirements	Minimum GCSE average required	Main programme of study	Additional study	Compulsory Non-qualifying hours
POST-16 ASPIRE Pathway A levels (4)	GCSE English grade 5+ GCSE Maths grade 5+	6.8+	4 A Levels	EPQ or Core Maths Compulsory Super-curriculum activities	Compulsory Study Future Focus Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSHCE Core RS
A levels (3)	GCSE English grade 5 GCSE Maths grade 4	4.8 and above	3 A Levels	EPQ or Core Maths or Maths GCSE re-sit if required	Compulsory study Future Focus Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSHCE Core RS
L3 BTEC	GCSE English grade 4 GCSE Maths grade 3	3.6 – 4.7	1 Double L3 BTEC and 1 Single L3 BTEC OR 1 'Triple' L3 BTEC	Maths GCSE re-sit if required	Work Experience linked to core aim Compulsory study Future Focus Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSHCE Core RS
L1/2 Bridging course (1 year)	Dependent on Level of entry (GCSE grades 3 in maths and English usually required for L2 pathway)	Approximately 2.0-3.5 depending on individual students	L1/2 BTEC Health & Social Care L1/2 BTEC Business	Where relevant: GCSE English re-sit GCSE Maths re-sit Functional Skills Literacy and/or Numeracy	Work Experience linked to core aim Enrichment Registration/tutorials PSHCE Core RS