

April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Pupils in Year 6 Transferring to St Gabriel's RC High School in September 2026

We are writing to welcome you to the family of St Gabriel's, and to confirm your child's place with us from September 2026. There are a number of aspects to our transition programme: our visits in the summer term to our family of partner primary schools, an information session for parents/carers and pupils and two orientation days for pupils to spend with us meeting their form teacher, other key staff, experiencing taster lessons and meeting their new peer group. For many of you, this will be our first communication with you at a personal level, and we wish very much that the experiences you go through with us in the next few months are as positive and stress free as possible. You will already know that we are committed to working closely with you in partnership.

1. Information Meeting: Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 5.00pm until 6.00pm (parents/carers and pupils)

The purpose of the evening is to give you and your child some basic information about the transfer arrangements described above and to tell you about what will happen in the first few weeks. We will also give you and your child information about the curriculum, the school day, uniform, school transport and catering arrangements. On arrival, the students will be directed to the Year 7 playground at the John Banks Building whilst parents & carers should make their way to the school hall for a talk by the Headteacher and senior staff. The pupils will have a presentation by their new Form Teacher, who will support them in Year 7. They will be directed to their form rooms separately. The event will last around an hour.

2. Transition Days: Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June 2026 (pupils only)

These two days enable our new pupils to become familiar with the wider environment at St Gabriel's, and to meet key staff and their new friends. They will be orientated with the locations on the school site, such as the dining room, where the cashless system will be explained and registration takes place, as well as an opportunity to meet their Form Teacher again.

Arrangements for transition days

New pupils should arrive at school at 8.40am. There they will be directed to the Year 7 playground (in the John Banks Building situated opposite the main site). From here, they will be escorted to their various activities. You will need to send a packed cold lunch with your child as the canteen system will not be available to them until September. Pupils will be dismissed at the end of both days at 2.30pm. Children will leave via the main entrance.

For safeguarding reasons, we ask that parents do not wait on school grounds or park on the adjacent roads, which have double yellow lines. Pupils may wait for brothers or sisters (who finish school at 3.10pm) in our resource centre from where they should be collected by their sibling.

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3. Visits to pupils in their Primary Schools by Mr Killion and Miss Smith

Mr Killion/Miss Smith have already started visiting our partner primary schools to meet pupils and liaise with Year 6 teachers. They will then begin meetings at other Primary Schools in the area. This will allow us to build and develop our relationships with our new pupils and to establish a 'friendly face' for when pupils visit St Gabriel's.

Please check the school's website and X (Twitter) account (@StGabsBury) regularly, as useful information, updates and news are posted here.

We will shortly be sending out a link to the Arbor App which we would ask you to complete fully. We would also ask you to bring a copy of child's baptism certificate if they have been baptised with you on the evening of Tuesday 23rd June 2026 (unless you have already sent it via email)

We look forward to working with you during the next five years and establishing a strong partnership with you where Christ is at the Centre of everything we do.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Braithwaite
Headteacher

