




Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

How to write a personal statement for college



WHAT'S
YOUR
STORY?

How to write a personal statement for college/sixth form



What is a personal statement?

A college/6th Form personal statement is written information about you! It puts across relevant skills, experience and attributes that will make you appealing and illustrate your suitability for the course that you would like to apply for.

It should be professional and in your own words.

A personal statement is important because you are introducing yourself to someone who may have nothing else to go on, maybe never having met you before. It is crucial then to include your own thoughts, feelings and opinions. Admissions staff are curious, they want to know more about you and why you are applying to them.

You must always link back to why you are a suitable candidate for the subjects they are offering. Why should they select you rather than someone else? Why are you suited to them and that course? What do you offer them in terms of your academic ability, confidence and interests?

For College courses or 6th Form courses; first explore the answers to these questions about your choices...it will help you write a statement with appropriate skills and qualities which match the requirements of your course.

The application process for college can be very competitive and a strong personal statement is crucial to ensure your chances of success. There is no single, right way of writing a personal statement. However below are a few suggestions on what to include (you may want to use some or all of the points below to help structure your personal statement).

Please note: Each college may provide its own guidelines on what to include in your personal statement (this might include a word or page limit, or specific content requirement), but please check with the college/s you are applying to.

Introduction

Here you could outline:

- Who you are and/or where you are currently studying
- What you are applying for (e.g. English literature, bricklaying, childcare)
- Your reasons for wanting to study your chosen subjects
- Your reasons for wanting to study at that particular college (e.g. what makes that college stand out for you?)

You should demonstrate enthusiasm for your chosen subject/s, course type and college, and show that you have a good understanding of the subject area and college you are applying to. Failure to personalise your personal statement to a college and course could suggest you are not serious about your post 16 college choices.

Talk about your school subjects.

In this section you should discuss your strengths and key skills and relate them to what you are applying for. What have you enjoyed in your subjects at GCSE that makes you want to study that subject further?

Discuss any position of responsibility you may have had.

This might include being a Student Leader, Prefect, Peer Mentor, etc, and also things outside of school such as involvement in a club, carer etc.

Talk about work experience including non-GCSE activities in school.

This could include what you did do for your Year 10 work experience. Do you have a part-time job? Do you volunteer? What skills, knowledge, and experience have you developed from these experiences? How useful were these experiences? You could also include assisting at open evenings, taking part in drama productions, school fundraising events, projects, sports teams, meetings, etc.

Talk about extra-curricular activities outside of school.

This could include any hobbies or interests (rock climbing, keeping fit, youth club, etc). You could also talk about any additional certificates/awards you have achieved such as Duke of Edinburgh, sports achievements, music awards (e.g. Grade 4 Piano), etc. It can also include any charity/fundraising activities you have taken part in or organised outside of school. Don't forget to mention if you are signed up to do the NCS (National Citizenship Service) at the end of Year 11.

Write about your plans for the future.

In this section you could write about what you would like to do in the future and why, explaining how your chosen subject/s can help you achieve this.

Useful websites:

- [Your College Personal Statement](#)
- [How to Write a Personal Statement for Further Education – UCAS](#)

Start with a spider chart!

