



Chelsea FC Development Programme

Selection Criteria

Places on the Chelsea FC Development Programme at **Malvern College** and **The Downs Malvern** are selective and are offered to pupils who demonstrate the ability, potential and commitment to benefit from an enhanced football development programme.

Applicants will be assessed across the following areas:

- **Football ability and potential** – appropriate technical ability, game understanding and athletic potential for their age, with particular consideration given to future development rather than current playing level alone.
- **Attitude and coachability** – a positive approach to training, willingness to learn, respond to feedback and work as part of a team.
- **Commitment** – the motivation and resilience required to engage fully with a demanding programme of training and development.
- **Academic and wider school commitment** – the ability and willingness to balance an enhanced football programme with the academic and wider expectations of Malvern College or The Downs Malvern.
- **Character** – behaviours consistent with the values of both Malvern and Chelsea FC, including respect, teamwork, responsibility and a strong work ethic.

Assessment process: Wherever possible, applicants will attend a Chelsea FC Development Programme Assessment Day at Malvern, where they will take part in football activities observed by programme coaches.

Overseas Applicants: For overseas applicants, or where attendance at an Assessment Day is not reasonably possible, an alternative remote assessment pathway will be available.

Overseas candidates who register will be required to submit:

1. **Match video footage** – ideally 15–20 minutes of continuous, unedited game footage, with the player clearly identified before play begins.
2. **Written coach reference** confirming their current team/playing level, position, training frequency and an assessment of attitude and coachability.

Overseas applicants would also have a short online interview which will focused on motivation, their approach to training, how they respond to feedback and how they see football fitting alongside their education.

Assessment Criteria:

Assessment area	What we are assessing	How we assess it
Technical ability	First touch, passing, receiving, ball control, movement with the ball and ability to execute skills under pressure	Small-sided technical practices and game situations. Coaches assess the quality and consistency of core skills rather than looking for particular tricks or techniques.
Game understanding	Decision-making, positioning, awareness, movement, use of space and ability to contribute both in and out of possession	Primarily assessed through small-sided and larger game play. Coaches observe the choices a player makes, not simply goals, assists or physical dominance. Ability to impact the game.
Athletic potential	Movement, agility, coordination, speed, intensity and capacity to cope with an enhanced training programme	Observed throughout the session, with short movement/agility activities if appropriate. Assessment will take account of age and physical maturity rather than favouring the biggest or fastest players.
Coachability & development potential	Response to instruction, ability to apply feedback, concentration and willingness to learn	Coaches deliberately give players individual and group feedback during the session and observe whether they understand, respond and adapt their play. Improvement during the assessment will count positively.
Attitude & character	Effort, resilience, communication, teamwork, respect and response to mistakes or setbacks	Observed throughout the whole assessment – including warm-up, transitions between activities and interaction with coaches and other players, rather than through a standalone exercise.

Selection is based on overall potential and suitability for the programme.

For further details:

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