

# Admissions criteria for Stratford School Academy with effect from September 2023

## General Principles

1. Stratford School Academy is an 11-16 mixed comprehensive school. We do not have any requirement for aptitude from prospective students.
2. There is no guarantee of a place for children who have a brother or sister who attend the school or who attend a linked primary school.
3. Admission to our school is not dependent on any 'voluntary' contribution.
4. The school will endeavour to provide places for students who do not have a brother or sister in the school and who do not attend a link primary school provided that they can be accommodated within the admission limits.
5. Pupils will be admitted at the age of 11+ **without** reference to ability or aptitude using the criteria below.
6. Stratford School Academy recognises that parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. Where the school agrees to a request the status of that child's application will be the same as all other applications made for that year group at the relevant time.
7. The admission number for September 2023 will be 300.
8. Stratford School Academy participates in the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme and all deadlines within that scheme must be adhered to by applicants.
9. Children with a statement of Special Educational Need or an Education Health and Care Plan naming Stratford School Academy will be admitted.
10. As required by the School Admissions Code the school will give the highest priority to applications on behalf of children in public care (looked after children) and all previously looked after children. (see definitions below)
11. The Board of Governors of Stratford School Academy has determined that the criteria for admissions from September 2023 will be as follows.

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## Definitions and Details

12. Our **linked primary schools** are:
  - a. Elmhurst School, Upton Park Road, Forest Gate, London E7 9PG
  - b. Park School, Mathews Park Avenue, Stratford, London E15 4AE
  - c. Portway School, Stratford Road, London E13 0JW
  - d. Selwyn School, Cecil Road, London E13 0LX
  - e. Shaftesbury School, Shaftesbury Road, Forest Gate, London E7 8PF
  - f. St Stephen's School, Whitfield Road, East Ham, London E6 1AS
  - g. William Davies School, Stafford Road, Forest Gate, London E7 8NL
13. By **sibling** we mean brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, step-children, common law step-children, half- siblings, children subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order and foster children (only those "looked after" by any local authority) who permanently live in the same household
14. For Stratford School Academy to take a sibling into account the sibling's name must be correct on the application form and the sibling must be on roll of Stratford School Academy at the time of application.
15. By an **employee** of the Stratford School Academy we mean someone who is on the payroll of the Academy.
16. By **child** of an employee of Stratford School Academy we mean a child living in the same household as an employee or, if living in a different household, then the employee is the natural parent or guardian of that child.
17. For Stratford School Academy to consider the child of an employee then one or other of the following circumstances must apply : a) the employee has been employed at the school

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for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and /or b) the employee is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

18. **Home Address:** proof of residence will be required by the co-ordinated scheme. The offer of a place may be withdrawn if proof of residency is not met or a place has been offered under fraudulent or intentionally misleading grounds.
19. **Where a child lives part of the week** with one parent and part of the week with another member of the family the **'home address'** will be considered to be the residence where the child spends at least three nights of the school week each week.
20. **Looked After:** A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see definition in Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the school. This **does not** include Looked After Children from overseas that are in public care.
21. **Previously Looked After:** A previously looked after child is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).

## Admissions criteria

22. Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan that names Stratford School Academy will be admitted before any other applicants and these admissions will count toward the admission number.
23. If there are fewer applications made than places available, then every child will be offered a place.

## Oversubscription criteria

24. In the event of over subscription we will offer places to applicants in this order:

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- a. Category 1: Children in public care (looked after children) and all previously looked after children

*And then*

- b. Category 2: Children of employees of Stratford School Academy (see definitions above)

*And then*

- c. Category 3: Children who are eligible for the service premium (additional funding paid annually to schools under section 14 of the Education Act 2002 for the purposes of supporting the pastoral needs of the children of Armed Services personnel)

*And then*

- d. Category 4: Children who attend a linked primary school and who have a sibling at Stratford School Academy who is on school roll at the time of application

*And then*

- e. Category 5: Children who have a sibling at Stratford School Academy who is on school roll at the time of application

*And then*

- f. Category 6: Children who attend a linked primary school

*And then*

- g. Category 7: Other children.

## **Tie breaker**

25. If there are more applications than places available, then all applicants will be allocated a number via a random allocation (lottery) process. This number will decide a child's priority

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within each of the admission criterion set out above. It will only be used if there are not enough available places left to accommodate all the applicants falling under that criterion. Places will then be offered to applicants in accordance with the randomly allocated number, starting with the lowest number first. This process will be independently verified.

## **Applications made outside the normal admissions round**

26. Admissions for places for children in all other year groups will be dealt with in accordance with this policy. If the Academy is unable to offer a place to an applicant then the name of the child will be included in the Academy's waiting list.

## **The Academy waiting list**

27. The Academy will hold a single waiting list.
28. In regard to applicants for Year 7 places, all children whose Year 7 applications were unsuccessful (that is, children who were allocated a place at a school for which they had not expressed a preference or for which they had expressed a preference that was lower than that expressed for Stratford School Academy) in the normal admission round will be included on the waiting list on 1<sup>st</sup> March of the academic year in which the child's parents apply for a place in Year 7 at the Academy.
29. All children whose parents applied unsuccessfully for Year 7 places outside the normal admissions round will be included on the waiting list on the date that their application was rejected or 1<sup>st</sup> March of the year of the normal admission round whichever is the later.
30. All children whose parents apply for places in other years and for whom the Academy is unable to offer a place will be included on the waiting list on the date their application is rejected.
31. The names of children will remain on the waiting list until whichever of the following dates falls soonest after the first anniversary of their name being included on the list: 31<sup>st</sup> March; 30<sup>th</sup> June; 31<sup>st</sup> October; 31<sup>st</sup> December.

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32. So if a child's name is included on the list on the 31<sup>st</sup> March it will be removed on the 31<sup>st</sup> March of the following year. And if a pupil's name is included on the list on the 8<sup>th</sup> April it will be removed on the 30<sup>th</sup> June of the following year.
33. When places become available, if there are more children in the relevant year group(s) on the waiting list than there are places available, then all those on the waiting list will be allocated a number via a fresh random allocation (lottery) process (any number allocated in a previous random allocation will be discounted.). This number will decide a child's priority within the highest relevant oversubscription criterion set out above which they meet. It will only be used if there are not enough available places left to accommodate all those on the waiting list in the relevant year group(s) falling under that criterion. If it is used places will be offered to children in order of the randomly allocated number, starting with the lowest number first.

## **Example of how places will be allocated through the normal admission round**

34. By the deadline set Stratford School Academy receives 1174 Year 7 applications for 300 places.
  - a. Separately 3 children have a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plans that name Stratford School Academy and so are offered places. This means there are 1171 applicants for the remaining 297 places.
  - b. Therefore each of the remaining 1171 applicants is randomly allocated a number from 1 to 1171.
  - c. 1 applicant falls into Category 1. The school can offer the applicant a place and so does. This leaves 296 places available
  - d. 2 applicants fall into Category 2. The school can offer both applicants places and so does. This leaves 294 places available.

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- e. 1 applicant falls into Category 3. The school can offer the applicant a place and so does. This leaves 293 places available
- f. 46 applicants fall into category 4. The school can offer all 46 applicants places and so does. This leaves 247 places available.
- g. 21 applicants fall into category 5. The school can offer all 21 applicants places and so does. This leaves 226 places available.
- h. 122 applicants fall into criterion 6. The school can offer places to all 122 applicants and so does. This leaves 104 places available.
- i. 981 applicants fall into category 7 but the school now only has 104 places available. So the numbers allocated under the random allocation procedure will be used to decide which of these applicants will be offered places. The 981 applicants who fall into category 7 will each have been randomly allocated a number between from 1 to 1174 at the start of the process, so it will be the 104 applicants with the lowest numbers who will be offered a place.

**Example** The school receives 1174 applications for 300 places

Category	Applicants satisfying criteria	Offer places to	Places remaining
Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan that names	3	3	297

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Stratford School Academy; then			
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Category	Applicants satisfying criteria	Offer places to	Places remaining
Category 1: Children in public care (looked after children) and all previously looked after children	1	1	296
Category 2: Children of employees of Stratford School Academy	2	2	294
Category 3: Children who are eligible for the service premium	1	1	293
Category 4: Children who attend a linked primary school and who have a sibling at Stratford School Academy who is on school roll at the time of application	46	46	247
Category 5: Children who have a sibling at	21	21	226



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Stratford School Academy who is on school roll at the time of application			
Category 6: Children who attend a linked primary school	122	122	104
Category 7: Other children	981	104	Process complete, all places have been offered

*Please remember this is an example and that the figures will vary from year to year.*

## The Academy's Resourced Provision for Children with Autism

35. The Academy has a Resourced Provision for Children with Autism. Places in the Resourced Provision are reserved for children with a diagnosis of autism. The maximum planned capacity of the Resourced Provision is 25 pupils and the Academy would expect that these pupils are divided roughly equally between Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with no more than 6 in any year group.

### Admissions Criteria

36. Subject to paragraph 39 below, if there are fewer suitable applications made than places available, then every child will be offered a place.
37. Children with a diagnosis of autism who have a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan naming Stratford School Academy's Resourced Provision for Children with Autism.

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38. Children with a diagnosis of autism who do not have a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan but are in receipt of high needs funding as determined by their home local authority and who would benefit from placement in the Academy's Resourced Provision for Children with Autism. Suitability for admission under this criterion will be determined by Governors having taken into consideration the recommendation and supporting evidence of the child's home local authority.
39. If a place is available at the Resourced Provision Governors will be entitled to leave that place unfilled if, having carefully considered the recommendations and supporting evidence provided by the home local authorities of the applicants or of those children on the waiting list, they reach the following conclusion: that none would benefit from attending the Resourced Provision more than some other educational establishment or that were they to do so, their attendance would have a detrimental effect on the education of those already attending the Provision.
40. In such circumstances the Governors will fill the place at the earliest opportunity

## **Waiting Lists**

41. When place(s) becomes available, if there are more children in the relevant year group(s) on the waiting list than the number of places available, then the Governors will go through the process described in paragraphs 37 to 39 and offer place(s) to those children it judges will most benefit from attending the Academy's Resourced Provision

## **The Academy's Resources Provision for Children with Speech Language and Communication Needs**

42. The Academy has a Resourced Provision for Children with Speech Language and Communication Needs. The Resourced Provision is intended for children who can be educated in mainstream lessons for at least half the week. The provision is not resourced to meet the needs of

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children whose language difficulties are secondary to a cognitive delay. The maximum planned capacity of the Resourced Provision is 25 pupils and the Academy would expect that these pupils are divided roughly equally between Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with no more than 6 in any year group.

## Admission Criteria

43. Subject to paragraph 46 below, if there are fewer suitable applications made than places available, then every child will be offered a place.
44. Children who have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan for Speech Language and Communication Need in which Communication and Interaction is identified as the pupil's primary area of need and which names Stratford School Academy's Resourced Provision for pupils with Speech Language and Communication Needs will be admitted before any other pupils.
45. Other children who have a Special Educational Need for Speech Language and Communication in which Communication and Interaction is identified as the pupil's primary area of need, who do not have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan, but who are in receipt of high needs funding as determined by their home local authority and who would benefit from placement in the Academy's Resourced Provision for Children with Speech Language and Communication Needs will then be admitted.

These applications must be supported by a report from a Speech Language and Communication Therapist which diagnoses a primary speech language communication need. Suitability for admission under this criterion will be determined by Governors having taken into consideration the recommendation and supporting evidence of the child's home local authority.

46. If a place is available at the Resourced Provision Governors will be entitled to leave that place unfilled if, having carefully considered the recommendations and supporting evidence provided by the home local authorities of the applicants or

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of those children on the waiting list, they reach the following conclusion: that none would benefit from attending the Resourced Provision more than some other educational establishment or that were they to do so, their attendance would have a detrimental effect on the education of those already attending the Provision.

47. In such circumstances the Governors will fill the place at the earliest opportunity

## **Waiting Lists**

48. When place(s) becomes available, if there are more children in the relevant year group(s) on the waiting list than the number of places available, then the Governors will go through the process described in paragraphs 43 to 45 and offer place(s) to those children it judges will most benefit from attending the Academy's Resourced Provision

## **Fair Access Protocol**

49. As per the legal requirement, Newham Council has a fair access protocol which is adopted by Stratford School Academy.
50. This explains that children who come under certain vulnerable groups, for example, children in the care of a local authority; without a school place; who are the main carer in their family; with physical disabilities; and those who are from traveller families, will be given priority admission to a school if necessary.
51. This Protocol only applies for families applies outside of normal admissions, it only applies to In-year admissions.
52. As specified in the Department of Education's School Admissions Code – December 2014, consideration is given to all vulnerable and hard to place pupils, which must include:
  - a. Children from the criminal justice system or Pupil Referral Units who need to be reintegrated into mainstream education;

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- b. Children who have been out of education for two months or more;
  - c. Children of Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers;
  - d. Children who are homeless;
  - e. Children with unsupportive family backgrounds for whom a place has not been sought;
  - f. Children who are carers;
  - g. Children with special educational needs, disabilities or medical conditions (but without a Statement or Education Health and Care Plan).
53. Newham also considers other vulnerable groups under this protocol and may add new vulnerable and hard to place groups as agreed by the council's Admissions Forum and the CYPs Pupil Placement Panels (all head teachers and senior CYPs education officers are members of this panel).
54. Children with an EHCP or those who are Looked After cannot be placed using our Fair Access Protocol, these are placed using specific regulations.
55. A copy of Newham's latest Fair Access protocol is available on the Newham website or by calling 020 8430 2000.

## **Twins, children of multiple births and siblings who are not twins but are born in the same school year**

56. Normal Admissions for entry into Year 7 in September: Twins, children from multiple births and siblings who are not twins but are born within a period that means they are in the same academic year group will be admitted over the limit if required.
57. In-year admissions: Twins, children from multiple births and siblings who are not twins but are born in the same within a period that means they are in the same academic year group may not be admitted over the limit if required.

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## Children from overseas - Right to attend school in England

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-admissions-applications-from-overseaschildren?utm\\_source=b032f9ef-6c9c-43b9-9634-b2f29f01544c&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-admissions-applications-from-overseaschildren?utm_source=b032f9ef-6c9c-43b9-9634-b2f29f01544c&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily)

58. In most cases, children arriving from overseas have the right to attend schools in England. School admission authorities must not refuse to admit a child on the basis of their nationality or immigration status nor remove them from roll on this basis.
59. It is the responsibility of parents/carers, not the local authority nor a school, to check that their children have a right, under their visa entry conditions, to study at a school.
60. Information on how to determine rights can be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/right-of-abode>
61. Any EEA or Swiss national arriving in the UK by 31 December 2020 is eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, and continue to be able to study in schools in England as they do now if their application is successful.
62. Children aged under 18 are classed as dependant children if they are the children of foreign nationals who have settled status in the UK, or who are entering the UK on a work visa or Student visa, or who are part of a family entering or residing in the UK under the immigration route for British National (Overseas) citizens and their dependants. These children are entitled to enter the country with their family, or to join their family and study at a state-funded or independent school once in the UK.
63. Foreign nationals cannot use the 6-month Standard Visitor visa, or 11-month Short-term Study (English language) visa, to enter the UK to enrol as a pupil at a school.

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64. Stratford School Academy adopts the Newham Local Authority process for managing Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Children – overseas state care (IAPLAC) to ensure continuity of approach across schools in Newham.

## **The Ethos of Stratford School Academy**

65. Stratford School Academy is a non selective, mixed non-faith school that believes in the equality of all peoples, whatever their faith, ethnicity or sexual preference: we believe that what unites us as a human race is more important than what divides us.
66. To the extent that it does not conflict with this principle, or with the law, or with our obligation to educate our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we will do our best to accommodate the religious and cultural practices of the communities we serve.
67. So, for example, in almost all cases, including some PE lessons, students are taught in mixed classes; but at the same time Stratford School Academy has sought and been granted by the Local Authority a ‘Determination’ which allows us to organise our daily acts of collective worship as times of reflection that have the right flavour for our school and setting and do not have to be wholly or mainly Christian.
68. We believe that the one thing that Stratford School Academy, as a school, can uniquely offer its students is a good education. So the school will take very seriously behaviour that interrupts our students learning.
69. We expect any student whose behaviour interferes with their learning or the learning of others to take responsibility for their behaviour and work with us to change it and to put matters right. We will not accept continued poor behaviour. We expect parents to support us and their children in this work.
70. Stratford School Academy believes its students are members of its community and represent the School from the time they leave home to come to school until the time

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they return. Stratford School Academy expects all its students to wear its uniform whilst at school and on the way to and from school.

71. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community.