Stretford Grammar School

Aspirat primo fortuna labori

Admissions Policy

for entry in September 2027

Ratified by Governors :

Admissions Policy for Entry: 2027

Date of Policy: September 2026

Member of staff with overall responsibility: AHT with responsibility for Admissions

Governing Body Sub-Committee with reviewing responsibility: Admissions

Admissions Policy 2027
Stretford Grammar School is a foundation mixed Grammar School. The student admission number is **160**. The School has no religious affiliation.

The Test will take place in September 2026.
The Closing Date for ALL applications will be June 2026

Definitions (for the purpose of this Admissions Policy)

- 'Looked after children' has the meaning set out in S22 of the Children Act 1989
- 'Residence' means the address where the child normally and permanently lives
- 'The School' means Stretford Grammar School
- 'Sibling' means any person (full, half, step, adopted or foster brother or sister) of admissions age who is residing permanently at the same address as the candidate and will be in attendance at the School at the time of the proposed admission.
- 'Pupil Premium' is funding for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years or who are currently eligible for free school meals.
- Service Premium is allocated if one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve); they have been registered as a 'service child' on the January school census at any point since 2015; one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.

Admission at Age 11

The number of admissions into Year 7 for the year commencing 1st September 2027 will be **160**. Candidates who attain the required standard in the School's testing arrangements for selection by ability (as set out in this Policy) will be eligible for admission to the School.

Applicants should normally have a date of birth between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016.

Provision for Admission outside a Child's Normal Age Group

If a parent would like to apply for admission of their child outside their normal age group, they should submit their request, alongside any supporting evidence, prior to the deadline for the Entrance Test. Decisions will be made on an individual basis taking into account information regarding the applicant's academic, social and emotional development in addition to factors detailed in Sections 2.18, 2.19 and 2.20 of the School Admissions Code (2021).

a) Application Procedure for Admission to Year 7 September 2027

1. All parents/carers of candidates who wish to take the Tests for entry to Stretford Grammar School in September 2026 must complete the School Registration Form online, via the school website, by June 2026 (Actual date advised on the website). If the closing date is missed the next testing date will be **after** National Allocation Day which is 1st March 2027. Assistance in completing the form is available should it be required.

2. The School is part of the Trafford Local Authority Co-ordinated Scheme. Parents/carers of children who wish to apply for a place at the School **must indicate** Stretford Grammar School on their home Local Authority Admissions Form.

3. Candidates who move into the area (as defined by criterion 5 of the oversubscription criteria) after the closing date for applications and who submit an on line application to their Local Authority including Stretford Grammar School as a preference will be given consideration from the address given on the application to sit the Entrance Test until after the first round of offers. Thereafter, the new address will only be considered if and when the following evidence and legal documentation in relation to the change of residency have been supplied to the School:
   i) Evidence and legal documentation to the effect they have purchased or exchanged contracts on a property is produced and proof of disposal of the previous home.
   ii) For leasing agreements, a minimum of 12 months is required and legally supported documentation produced and proof of disposal of the previous home.
   iii) The applicant and his/her parents/carers became resident at the new home.

Applicants who move further away from the School after the date of application will be considered from their new address with immediate effect.

4. Access Arrangements will be agreed before the Entrance Test. They allow candidates with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access the test and show what they can do without changing the demands of the test. The intention behind an access arrangement is to meet the particular needs of an individual applicant without affecting the integrity of the exam. Access arrangements are the principal way in which the School complies with the duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make 'reasonable adjustments'.

   The Equality Act 2010 requires the School to make reasonable adjustments where a candidate, who is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010, would be at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled.

   Whether an adjustment will be considered reasonable will depend on a number of factors which will include, but are not limited to:

   - the needs of the disabled applicant;
   - the effectiveness of the adjustment;
   - the cost of the adjustment; and
   - the likely impact of the adjustment upon the applicant and the other applicants.

   The evidence of need required by the School will vary depending on the disability and the access arrangement(s) being applied for. Each case will be considered on its own merit. Information must be forwarded to the School by parents at the time they register their child for the Entrance Test or as soon as possible thereafter but MUST be before noon on the June date specified on the website for the Entrance Test. Access arrangements must not give an applicant an unfair advantage over other applicants. Where a request for 25% extra time is made, therefore, it will only be granted where there is evidence of substantial impairment or exceptional circumstances. In order to evidence such circumstances, parents should provide the School with a Local Authority Statement of Special Educational Needs, an Education, Health and Care Plan or primary school SEND support information. Information from the primary school should also be provided which details the applicant's normal way of working; the primary school may be consulted.

   All reports and documentation must be current and dated no more than 2 years before the testing date. All documentation provided must also show the Assessors full details including qualifications and how the assessment results were reached and be on official letterhead.

b) Arrangements for Testing

1. Arrangements for the Stretford Grammar School Entrance Test will be available on the website from TBC. (Actual date advised on the website)

2. The Stretford Grammar School Entrance Test will consist of Verbal, Non Verbal and Mathematic questions, set and standardised by our service provider. The standardisation will take into account the applicants' date of birth.

3. To be eligible for consideration of a place at the School a candidate must achieve a score of 334 or above. This does not in itself guarantee a place. Outcomes and scores for the main testing will be communicated by the School to parents/carers prior to the 31st October 2026.

c) Automatic Review for Pupil Premium Candidates

The Automatic Review criteria applies to all candidates who have provided proof of being Pupil Premium. This enables candidates who achieve a score between 324 to 333 (inclusive) of having their score automatically overturned to 334R.

The result e-mail for automatic review candidates will be communicated by the School to parents/carers prior to the 31st October 2026.

Results for all other candidates will be communicated to parents via an e-mail from Applicaa advising that the portal can now be accessed to view the candidates results. A subsequent e-mail will follow advising the schools over-subscription criteria.

No results will be given over the telephone or via e-mail. The result for any other testing will be when it is available.

d) Local Review

A Local Review is conducted for all candidates who score between 324 to 333 (inclusive) but have not had their result overturned at automatic review.

A Local Review will be heard by the Review Panel, and will be upon receipt of the Local Review Forms from both the Parents and Primary School along with optional supporting documentation. The Review Panel will consist of the Headteacher, the deputy Headteacher, the Head of English and the Head of Mathematics.

Those candidates whom the Local Review Panel deem to have qualified for admission will have their Test score amended to 334R

The decision of the Local Review Panel will be notified by post **after** the closing date for the submission of the Common Application Form, 31st October 2026.

Parents awaiting the results of the review are advised to include Stretford Grammar School as a preferred school on the Common Application Form.

This process does not replace your statutory to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel - see "Right of Appeal" section.

e) The Over-Subscription Criteria

1. **Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Children**. 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 (as defined in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). Previously Looked After Children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order (Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians)).

2. Children who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

3. Applicants residing with the school's catchment area, as per category 5, who are in receipt of pupil premium/service premium.

4. Children who will have a sibling attending the School within Years 7 to 11 at the time of admission (September 2027).

5. Successful candidates who live within the catchment area of the school; being M32, M33, M41, M15 and M16 (both within Trafford and Manchester) M17, and including M21, this being the next closest postcode to the school.

6. Applicants residing outside the school's catchment area who are in receipt of Pupil Premium/Service Premium with priority given to those living nearest to the school, measured in a direct straight line from the child's permanent place of residence to the school.

7. Children who live nearest to the School, measured in a direct straight line from the child's permanent place of residence to the School.

If there are more successful applicants than can be accommodated at the School in criterions 1 to 6, places will be offered to those children in each criteria whose place of residence is nearest to the School as defined in criterion 7. This will be measured using property coordinates provided through a combination of the Trafford Local Land and Property Gazetteer (557666), other LA data and Royal Mail Postal Address Information. In the case of a child living in a block of flats, the distance will be measured in the same manner.

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has the highest priority for admission where the qualifying score and the distance between two applicants' home and the school is the same.

Parents/carers should note that although Stretford Grammar School will inform them of their child's assessment result prior to 31st October 2026, allocation letters will be sent on National Allocation Day, 1st March (or the next working day) by their home authority on behalf of the Governing Body of the School.

Home Address

The criteria used by Trafford in determining admissions to Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools refer, in every instance, to the child's home address. This means the address where the child normally and permanently lives. In the case of parents who are separated the application will also be considered from the address where the child normally and permanently lives, even though the child may regularly spend some time at another address. Where it is claimed that the child's residency is shared equally between two addresses the average distance of the two addresses will be used for the purpose of determining priority for admission.

It is always assumed that the correct factual information will be provided when an application for a school place is submitted. However, proof of the child's residency may be requested so that the application can be considered correctly alongside other applicants.

e) Waiting List

Following the allocation of places on 1st March, the School will commence a waiting list for Year 7 admissions in September and this will be held until 31st August at the end of Year 7. Applicants for in year admission may join the waiting list if a place is not available within the relevant year group and will be assessed should a vacancy come up. Positions on the waiting list are subject to change and as such a candidate may move up or down the list.

f) Right of Appeal

Under the terms of The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, all parents/carers of candidates refused admission have the right to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel against any decision made by the School. The decision of the Independent Appeals Panel is binding on both the School and parents/carers. An appeals timetable is published on the School website by 28th February each year.

Appellants considering making a complaint regarding an appeal may contact:
The Local Government Ombudsman PO Box 4771 Coventry CV4 0EH

In Year Admissions - Years 7 to 11

Stretford Grammar School is currently oversubscribed and there are no places available in year 7 – 11.

Should you wish to register your child's interest for a place that may become available, please complete an application using the Local Education Authority portal: www.trafford.gov.uk/admissions. School will be notified of the applications and we will contact parents. Your child's name will be added to the in-year register and kept until the end of the academic year. Candidates may re-apply from the 1st September.

Should a place become available, we will contact all applicants on the register for that particular year group to arrange an assessment to ensure grammar school suitability. Those applicants who are successful in the assessment will be ranked in accordance with our Oversubscription Criteria.

1. These procedures apply both to candidates who have previously been unsuccessful in the School's Testing procedure and to candidates who have not previously been tested. Candidates who have previously applied and sat the School's In-Year Testing and who have not achieved the qualifying score for admission cannot re-apply in the same academic year and must leave a minimum of 12 months before applying for reassessment.

2. Candidates who have previously been unsuccessful in the School's Entrance Examination procedure are able to register to be reassessed in Summer Term after starting year 7.

3. Applicants applying to enter Years 7 – 8 will be assessed using mathematics, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning papers (CAT Testing).

4. The minimum qualifying score is 353 which is 83% of the total mark. Applicants who can demonstrate they are LAC or in receipt of Pupil Premium are expected to achieve 78% which is 332.

5. Applicants applying to enter Years 9 – 11 will be assessed using mathematics, English, a modern foreign language and science papers consisting of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

6. The minimum qualifying scores will be English 75%, mathematics 65% and science 70%. Applicants who can demonstrate they are LAC or in receipt of Pupil Premium are expected to achieve English 70%, mathematics 65% and science 65%.

7. Under the terms of The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, all parents/carers of candidates refused admission have the right to an Independent Appeals Panel against any decision made by the School. The decision of the Independent Appeals Panel is binding on both the School and parents/carers.

8. Applications for candidates in Years 7 to 9 who have previously qualified for Stretford Grammar School will be considered in light of the availability of places and their position on the waiting list. Applicants who are currently in Year 9 and above who have previously qualified will be required to re-qualify.

9. Please note a successful outcome from an assessment does not guarantee a place at the School. If any places are available, we apply our over-subscription criteria.

10. Positions on the waiting list are subject to change and as such a candidate may move up or down the list.

Admission to the Sixth Form

1. The Sixth Form intake will be dependent on the number of students in Years 7-11 and the maximum capacity of the school. When Years 7-11 are fully subscribed, admission to Year 12 will be such that the total number of Sixth Form students does not exceed 192. The school does not enrol students at the beginning of Year 13.

2. For those offered a place in the Sixth Form the requirement for entry is that students **must** have achieved an Attainment 8 score of 60 or higher, which must include Mathematics and English Language to at least Grade 5:
   - Students must also attain a grade 6 in the subjects they want to study.
   - Where students are taking a subject they have not studied at GCSE e.g. Psychology, Sociology, Politics, then grade 6s in English and a subject with an equivalent skill base, e.g. History/Geography, would be expected.
   - Students must attain a grade 6 in Maths to study one of the Sciences.
   - Where students are taking more than one of Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Biology we strongly recommend grade 7s in these subjects at GCSE.

3. Applicants who have completed their secondary education in schools other than in England and Wales and have taken IGCSE or equivalent qualifications will be subject to the same requirements as stated in paragraphs three and four. Students who take qualifications other than GCSE, or IGCSE or must have equivalent qualifications as defined and verified by NARIC (www.ecctis.co.uk/naric) and be able to demonstrate that they are working at a level comparable to the minimum academic requirement for entry into the sixth form. Equivalent qualifications will only be accepted if the course content provides suitable preparation for A Level study and students will only be enrolled once qualifications have been verified in writing.

4. Internal Year 11 students will be asked to indicate whether they wish to progress to Sixth Form in the first half of the Spring Term and to give an initial choice of subjects.

5. Internal applicants, who meet the entry requirements and who enrol on or before GCSE Results and Enrolment Day, will be given priority over all other applicants and guaranteed a place in the Sixth Form provided spaces in their chosen subjects are available and they have followed the application procedure. Internal applicants who enrol between GCSE Results and Enrolment Day and the first school day of the Autumn Term may be enrolled, subject to availability of places on the courses of their choice. We will aim to keep the maximum class size for any A Level class at 20.

6. Year 11 applicants from other schools should return completed application using Applicaa+ between October and mid-February each year; the deadline date is the end of the first half of the spring term. Their school will be asked to provide information to verify the suitability of the candidate's choice of courses and to ensure Stretford

Grammar School is able to provide appropriate support to meet individual student needs. Proof of qualifications, identity and residency, will also be required.

7. Year 11 students from other schools (external applicants), who apply and accept a conditional offer during the Spring Term, meet the entry requirements and enrol on or before 21st August will be allocated a place in the Sixth Form, on courses of their choice, within the option lines available, should places remain after internal students have been enrolled.

8. Year 11 external applicants, who apply after the February deadline, will only be offered places subject to availability and only once all qualifying students in paragraphs 6 to 9 have received conditional offers.

9. Any student who enrols in the Sixth Form but fails to attend on the first day of the Autumn Term, without prior notice being given, may have their place withdrawn.

10. Applications to re-take Year 12 will only be considered if there are places available after all qualifying year 11 students have enrolled. Such applications will be considered on an individual basis, taking account of any extenuating circumstances and priority will be given to students already at the school. Following discussions with the student and their parent/carer to ascertain whether it is in the student's best educational interest, the school may refuse requests to retake Year 12.

Over-Subscription Criteria for Sixth Form Places

Where eligible applications for admission exceed the number of places in the Sixth Form, or the number of applications for a course exceeds the places available on that course, the following criteria will apply:

1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order (Under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 (adoption orders)).

2. Those highest in rank order based on their Attainment 8 score.

3. In the event of tied scores resulting in more than one applicant being eligible for places then the applicant living nearest to the school as measured using the property coordinates provided through a combination of the Trafford Local Land and Property Gazetteer (BS7666), other LA data and Royal Mail Postal Address Information. In the case of a child living in a block of flats, the distance will be measured from the communal entrance of the building.

4. Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has the highest priority for admission where the qualifying score and the distance between two applicants' home and the school is the same.

Progression to Year 13

Students who fail to achieve a record of continuous effort to make good progress in their Y12 studies, at the end of Year 12, will be invited, with their parents/carers, to a consultation to discuss whether progression to Year 13 is in the best interest for their continuing education. The school may advise that the student should retake Year 12 or seek alternative qualifications more suited to their individual needs.

Please Note:
Proof of qualifications, identity and residence may be required from applicants. The School will withdraw a place at a later date if false, incorrect or misleading information has been provided. Parents/carers must inform the School of any changes to their address or circumstances.

Right of Appeal

Under the terms of Education Act 1998, all candidates and parents/carers of candidates refused admission have the right to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel against any decision made by the School. The decision of the Independent Appeals Panel is binding on both the School and parents/carers. Appeals will be heard within 40 school days and acknowledged within 30 days.