



Stratford College
Co-educational Secondary School

Admissions Policy 2020

Admissions Policy of Stratford College
School Address: 1 Zion Road Rathgar Dublin 6
Roll number: 61020A
School Patron/s: Dublin Talmud Torah

Introduction

Our Mission

Stratford College aims to provide a teaching and learning community committed to quality and excellence in education.

We are dedicated to:

Providing a nurturing environment where each individual can develop self-esteem and a sense of their place in, and responsibility to, society.

Instructing Jewish students in their religion while fostering mutual respect for all traditions.

Promoting personal achievement and academic success.

Respecting the unique potential of every student and encouraging each to maximise it.

*The founding values continue to inspire the school today; those of educating our students in **an inclusive academic environment** which seeks to foster in young people a sense of **personal and academic achievement**, of **respect** for diversity and of **service** to the community.*



Our Guiding Principles

Quality; Our Teaching and Learning will offer all learners a high quality education, characterised by high expectations of the learner and the pursuit of excellence. It will aim to generate engagement and enthusiasm and encourage participation.

Inclusive education; the experience of Senior Cycle will be inclusive of all learners and contribute to the achievement of equality of opportunity, participation and outcome for all

Continuity; the curriculum will build on students' learning to date, actively support their progress in learning, and facilitate them in preparing and planning for future learning

Lifelong learning; Students will develop the skills of managing and directing their own learning that will assist them in meeting the challenges of life beyond school, in further and continuing education, and in working life.

These principles will continue to guide our thinking as new subject specifications become available and short courses are considered.

We communicate our progress and national developments on our website, in our annual School Improvement Plans, at our annual curriculum evening and information evenings and regularly at our Board meetings.

School Self Evaluation (SSE) and School Improvement Planning (SIP) will continue to prioritise areas of development in teaching and learning and by so doing improve students' learning experiences and outcomes in this and all our programmes.

This Admission Policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1998, the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Equal Status Act 2000. In drafting this policy, the board of management of the school has consulted with school staff, the school patron and with parents of children attending the school.

The policy was approved by the school patron on 29 April 2020.

It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request, to any person who requests it.

The relevant dates and timelines for Stratford College admission process are set out in the school's annual admission notice which is published annually on the school's website at least one week before the commencement of the admission process for the school year concerned.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the annual admission notice for the school year concerned.

The application form for admissions is available in hardcopy on request to any person who requests it.

1. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

Originally founded by the Jewish community, today Stratford College welcomes students of all faiths and none. This commitment to cultural and religious diversity is what makes our school truly unique.

Stratford College was founded by the Dublin Jewish Community and provides a secondary education within a Jewish ethos, as defined by The Chief Rabbi of Ireland. It also welcomes pupils from other denominations and those of none. This richness of heritage combined with our experience of valuing other minority groups and of individuals makes our school truly unique. We welcome students from primary schools who share our commitment to such cultural and religious diversity.

Our Mission Statement aims to provide a teaching and learning community committed to quality and excellence in education. We are dedicated to:

- Providing a nurturing environment where everyone can develop self-esteem and a sense of their place in, and responsibility to, society.
- Instructing Jewish students in their religion while fostering mutual respect for all traditions.
- Promoting personal achievement and academic success.
- Respecting the unique potential of every student and encouraging each to maximise it.

The founding values continue to inspire the school today; those of educating our students in an inclusive academic environment which seeks to foster in young people a sense of personal and academic achievement, of respect for diversity and of service to the community.

2. Admission Statement

Stratford College will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

- (a) the gender ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (b) the civil status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (c) the family status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (d) the sexual orientation ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (e) the religion ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,

- (f) the disability ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (g) the ground of race of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (h) the Traveller community ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned, or
- (i) the ground that the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned has special educational needs

As per section 61(3) of the Education Act 1998, 'civil status ground', 'disability ground', 'discriminate', 'family status ground', 'gender ground', 'ground of race', 'religion ground', 'sexual orientation ground' and 'Traveller community ground' shall be construed in accordance with section 3 of the Equal Status Act 2000.

Stratford College is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it admits a student of the Jewish faith in preference to others.

Stratford College is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not of the Jewish faith and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Stratford College will cooperate with the NCSE in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 in relation to the provision of education to children with special educational needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a special class or classes when requested to do so by the Council.

Stratford College will comply with any direction served on the Board or the Patron under section 37A and 67(4)(b).

3. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission on payment of a non-refundable deposit except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see [section 6](#) below for further details)
- b) a parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the **Code of Behaviour** of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student.

Incoming 1st Years

Places will be offered to applications on our 1st Year waiting lists 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025 received before 1st February 2020. If oversubscribed offers will be made in the order outlined in section 4 below. **Please refer to our Admissions FAQ section @ [Applications to Stratford College | Stratford College Secondary School Dublin](#) for our 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025.**

Stratford College may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the Jewish faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Stratford College is a **fee-paying school**. Offers of places are confirmed following the payment of a non-refundable **deposit** (deducted off incoming years fees). Please refer to our Fees and Arrears Policy.

The Board of Management has a duty of care to ensure as far as practicable the health and safety of the students and staff of the school. In addition, the board of management is required under section 15(1) of the Education Act 1998 to provide, or cause to be provided, an appropriate education for each student at the school for which that board has responsibility.

An application for admission may be refused, therefore, where the admission of the applicant would pose a significant risk to the health and safety of the applicant or students and staff of the school, or risk significantly interfering with the right of other students to an appropriate education.

Furthermore, some students might be better supported by alternative academic programmes, subject options, specialist units, enhanced resources and/or facilities we currently do not provide.

4. Oversubscription

In the event that the school is oversubscribed, the school will, when deciding on applications for admission, apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below to those applications that are received within the timeline for receipt of applications as set out in the school's annual admission notice:

Places will be offered to applications on our waiting lists 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025 received before 1st February 2020. If oversubscribed offers will be made in the following order.

1. Jewish Students.
2. Siblings of current students of Stratford College.
3. Pupils of Stratford National School which shares the common educational philosophy and ethos of Stratford College.
4. Children of past pupils
In relation to (4) parents and grandparents having attended, a school may only apply this criterion to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice).
5. Children of staff of Stratford College.
6. Children of staff of Stratford National School
7. Geographical proximity
8. Others

In the event that there are two or more students tied for a place or places in any of the selection criteria categories above (the number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places), the following arrangements will apply:

Random Selection

5. What will not be considered or taken into account

In accordance with section 62(7)(e) of the Education Act, the school will not consider or take into account any of the following in deciding on applications for admission or when placing a student on a waiting list for admission to the school:

- (a) a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí,
- (b) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude;
- (c) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;

- (d) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- (e) a student's connection to the school by virtue of a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school;
(other than, in the case of the school wishing to include a selection criterion based on (1) siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and/or (2) parents or grandparents of a student having attended the school.

In relation to (2) parents and grandparents having attended, a school may only apply this criterion to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice).

- (f) the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school,

This is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

This is also subject to the school making offers based on existing waiting lists (up until 31st January 2025 only).

6. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Stratford College will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's annual admission notice (where applicable)
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications

(Please see [section 14](#) below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and [section 15](#) below in relation to applications for places in years other than the intake group.)

Selection criteria that are not included in our school admission policy will not be used to make a decision on an application for a place in our school.

7. Notifying applicants of decisions

Applicants will be informed in writing as to the decision of the school, within the timeline outlined in the annual admissions notice.

If a student is not offered a place in our school, the reasons why they were not offered a place will be communicated in writing to the applicant, including, where applicable, details of the student's ranking against the selection criteria and details of the student's place on the waiting list for the school year concerned.

Applicants will be informed of the right to seek a review/right of appeal of the school's decision (see [section 18](#) below for further details).

8. Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant

In accepting an offer of admission from Stratford College, you must indicate—

- (i) whether or not you have accepted an offer of admission for another school or schools. If you have accepted such an offer, you must also provide details of the offer or offers concerned and
- (ii) whether or not you have applied for and awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school or schools, and if so, you must provide details of the other school or schools concerned.

Applicants should be aware that failure to disclose this information on the acceptance of a place may lead to an offer being withdrawn by the school.

9. Circumstances in which offers may not be made or may be withdrawn

An offer of admission may not be made or may be withdrawn by Stratford College where—

- (i) it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- (ii) an applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission on or before the date set out in the annual admission notice of the school.
- (iii) the parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student; or
- (iv) an applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of 'acceptance of an offer' as set out in [section 8](#) above.
- (v) Stratford College may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the Jewish faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.
- (vi) Stratford College is a **fee- paying school**. Offers of places are confirmed following the payment of a non-refundable **deposit** (deducted off incoming years fees). Please refer to our Fees and Arrears Policy.
- (vii) The Board of Management has a duty of care to ensure as far as practicable the health and safety of the students and staff of the school. In addition, the

board of management is required under section 15(1) of the Education Act 1998 to provide, or cause to be provided, an appropriate education for each student at the school for which that board has responsibility. An application for admission may be refused, therefore, where the admission of the applicant would pose a significant risk to the health and safety of the applicant or students and staff of the school, or risk significantly interfering with the right of other students to an appropriate education. Furthermore, some students might be better supported by alternative academic programmes, subject options, specialist units, enhanced resources and/or facilities we currently do not provide.

10. Sharing of Data with other schools

Applicants should be aware that section 66(6) of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 allows for the sharing of data between schools in order to facilitate the efficient admission of students. Section 66(6) allows a school to provide a patron or another board of management with a list of the students in relation to whom—

- (i) an application for admission to the school has been received,
- (ii) an offer of admission to the school has been made, or
- (iii) an offer of admission to the school has been accepted.

The list may include any or all the following:

- (i) the date on which an application for admission was received by the school;
- (ii) the date on which an offer of admission was made by the school;
- (iii) the date on which an offer of admission was accepted by an applicant;
- (iv) a student's personal details including his or her name, address, date of birth and personal public service number (within the meaning of section 262 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005).

11. Waiting list in the event of oversubscription

In the event of there being more applications to the school year concerned than places available, a waiting list of students whose applications for admission to Stratford College were unsuccessful due to the school being oversubscribed will be compiled and will remain valid for the school year in which admission is being sought.

Placement on the waiting list of Stratford College is in the order of priority assigned to the students' applications after the school has applied the selection criteria in accordance with this admission policy.

Offers of any subsequent places that become available for and during the school year in relation to which admission is being sought will be made to those students on the waiting list, in accordance with the order of priority in relation to which the students have been placed on the list.

12. Late Applications

All applications for admission received after the closing date as outlined in the annual admission notice will be considered and decided upon in accordance with our school's admissions policy, the Education Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.

Late applicants will be notified of the decision in respect of their application not later than three weeks after the date on which the school received the application. Late applicants will be offered a place if there is a place available. In the event that there is no place available, the name of the applicant will be added to the waiting list.

13. Procedures for admission of students to other years and during the school year

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school to classes or years other than the school's intake group are as follows:

- a) Stratford College is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it admits a student of the Jewish faith in preference to others.
- b) Stratford College is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not of the Jewish faith and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.
- c) Any applicants for vacancies in classes other than 1st Year, will be interviewed by the Principal, on behalf of the Board. The prospective student will be required to show that his/her behaviour and general progress up that point would be deemed to be compatible with the school ethos, aims and objectives and that they would have made sufficient academic progress to allow them to cope with the demands of a particular year. To this end information will be requested from the student's former schools concerning attendance, educational progress, disabilities and special needs.
- d) Transition Year is compulsory in Stratford College and applications from students wishing to transfer into 5th Year from junior cycle will not, save in exceptional circumstances, be considered. Enrolment for such applicants would normally take place at the beginning of the academic year.
- e) A parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the **Code of Behaviour** of the school is acceptable to him or her and

that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student.

- f) Stratford College is a **fee- paying school**. Offers of places are confirmed following the payment of a non-refundable **deposit** (deducted off incoming years fees). Please refer to our Fees and Arrears Policy.
- g) With the best interest of the student in mind and his/her educational welfare and considering the issues relating to mid-year transfer which may include subject choices, class sizes and available resources, the management of the school may decide to refuse admission at that time and advise parents/guardians to reapply if they so wish for the following year.
- h) The Board of Management has a duty of care to ensure as far as practicable the health and safety of the students and staff of the school. In addition, the board of management is required under section 15(1) of the Education Act 1998 to provide, or cause to be provided, an appropriate education for each student at the school for which that board has responsibility. An application for admission may be refused, therefore, where the admission of the applicant would pose a significant risk to the health and safety of the applicant or students and staff of the school, or risk significantly interfering with the right of other students to an appropriate education. Furthermore, some students might be better supported by alternative academic programmes, subject options, specialist units, enhanced resources and/or facilities we currently do not provide.
- i) Transfers, if any, **from** Stratford College should be notified to the Principal in writing well in advance, that is a term's notice. Failure to do so may result in the incurring of a half- year's fees in lieu, exceptional circumstances excluded. References are not provided for schools which are not recognised by the Department of Education and Science

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school, after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought, are as follows:

1. Jewish Students.
2. Siblings of current students of Stratford College.
3. Pupils of Stratford National School which shares the common educational philosophy and ethos of Stratford College.
4. Children of past pupils and staff of Stratford College.
In relation to (4) parents and grandparents having attended, a school may only apply this criterion to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice).
5. Children of staff of Stratford College
6. Children of staff of Stratford National School
7. Geographical proximity
8. Others

14. Arrangements regarding Students not attending religious instruction

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, who has requested that the student attend the school without attending religious instruction in the school. These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such students:

In Stratford College we distinguish between "religious education" - which we define as learning about religion, and "instruction", such as faith formation in a specific religion.

Jewish Studies for Junior Cycle is a Cultural Studies Programme.

Daily prayers, TY, 5th and 6th Year Jewish Studies are 'religious instruction'. Attendance at Prayers (don't count as part of the school day) is voluntary.

Subject Options (Hebrew Studies & Classics) in TY
Subject Options (Classics, Computer Science, Physical Education or Honours Irish) in 5th and 6th Year.

Reviews/appeals

Review of decisions by the board of Management

The parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may request the board to review a decision to refuse admission. Such requests must be made in accordance with Section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

The timeline within which such a review must be requested and the other requirements applicable to such reviews are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

The board will conduct such reviews in accordance with the requirements of the procedures determined under Section 29B and with section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

Note: Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. Where an applicant has been refused admission due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **may request a review** of that decision by the

board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

Right of appeal

Under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, the parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may appeal a decision of this school to refuse admission.

An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1)(c)(i) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due to the school being oversubscribed.

An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1)(c)(ii) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due a reason other than the school being oversubscribed.

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of management **prior to making an appeal** under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **may request a review** of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Appeals under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 will be considered and determined by an independent appeals committee appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills.

The timeline within which such an appeal must be made and the other requirements applicable to such appeals are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

Signed: John Rafter
Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed: Patricia Gordon
Secretary to Board of Management

Dated: 2nd December 2022

Dated: 2nd December 2022

Chairperson of Dublin Talmud Torah (Patron)

Dated: 2nd December 2022