



Admission Policy of Stratford National School

School Address: 1 Zion Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6

Roll Number: 16966J

School Patron: Dublin Talmud Torah

1. Introduction

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.

This policy was approved by the school patron on 15 October 2024. It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request to the school office, to any person who requests it.

The relevant dates and timelines for Stratford National School's 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 admission is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request to the school office, to any person who requests it.

2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of Stratford National School

Stratford National School ("Stratford NS") is a co-educational primary school. It was founded by the Dublin Jewish Community and provides a primary education within a Jewish ethos, as defined by The Chief Rabbi of Ireland. Stratford NS is unique in that it is the only Jewish ethos national primary school in Ireland, and has close links with, and immediately adjoins, Stratford College, the only Jewish ethos secondary school in Ireland. Stratford NS maintains its commitment to cultural and religious diversity by welcoming students of all faiths and none. Stratford NS endeavours to develop the full potential of all children in the school, in light of Jewish ethos and values of the Jewish community in Ireland.

Stratford NS is dedicated to:

- Provide an education within a Jewish ethos, where children of all denominations and none, can together develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, creatively and socially.
- Promote an atmosphere of tolerance and celebration of difference, mutual respect and understanding, thus providing our pupils with a positive model for life in a pluralist society.
- Cultivate good relationships based on respect, fairness, inclusion, empathy, nurturance and safety between pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.
- Provide an atmosphere of warmth and understanding where all children and adults will feel loved and cherished and pupils will enjoy learning in pleasant and supportive surroundings.
- Welcome and encourage constructive communication between parents and teachers, in our shared commitment to our children's development, education and welfare.
- Grá dar n-oidhreacht a chothú, go háirithe ár dteanga, ar gcultúr agus ar gcluichí féin (Develop a love of our heritage, especially our language, culture and games).



- Promote respect for the individual's needs, abilities and uniqueness and foster self-esteem.
- Awaken in our school community an appreciation and responsibility for our environment.
- Provide a holistic education enabling our pupils to reach their full potential as human beings.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for all children, staff and wider community.

3. Admission Statement

Stratford NS 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, '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.

Additional information

Stratford NS will, as required by law, cooperate with the National Council for Special Education in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 relating 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 NS will, as required by law, comply with any direction served on the patron or the Board of Management, as the case may be, under section 37A and any direction served on the Board of Management under section 67(4B) of the Education Act.

Primary schools receiving applications from applicants of a minority religion

Stratford NS 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 in accordance with section 7A of the Equal Status Act 2000. This includes the prioritisation of students of the Jewish faith when the school is oversubscribed.

All denominational schools

Stratford NS 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.

School with special education classes

Stratford NS is a school which has established two special education classes, being one Early Intervention Autism Class and one Primary Level Autism Class, with the approval of the Minister of



Education. These special education classes provide an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

4. Categories of Special Educational Needs Catered for in the School/Special Class

Stratford NS, with the approval of the Minister for Education and the school patron, has established the following two classes to provide an education exclusively for students with autism:

- one Early Intervention Autism Class (ages 3 – 5 years). Early Intervention Autism Class students must be 3 or 4 years of age by 1st September on the proposed academic year of entry and must not enrol in the academic year they turn 6 years of age; and
- one Primary Level Autism Class (ages 4 – 12 years). Primary Level Autism Class students must be 4 years of age on 31st March on the proposed academic year of entry (as per mainstream Junior Infant admissions).

5. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where:

- (a) the school is oversubscribed, (please see Section 6 below).
- (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/her and that he/she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student.

Stratford NS is a Jewish school and 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 Jewish ethos of the school.

The Early Intervention Autism Class and Primary Level Autism Class in Stratford NS will provide an education exclusively for children with a diagnosis of Autism meeting DSM IV/5 or ICT diagnostic criteria, irrespective of cognitive ability and the school may refuse admission to these classes where a child does not have this diagnosis.

Code Of Behaviour

In accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, when parents are offered a place in Stratford NS, they will be asked to confirm that the school's Code of Behaviour is acceptable to them and that they shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by their child. The school's code of behaviour is available at:

https://www.stratfordns.ie/files/ugd/984911_81fbec30d49440b3b9dde0eaa5291764.pdf

School Policies

All students enrolled are expected to comply with and support the school's designated policies on curriculum, organisation and management.

Pupil Online Database

Since 2015, the school is obliged to upload all relevant information regarding students in the school to the Primary Online Database (POD), as the Department of Education uses this information to form the basis for funding and support to the primary school sector. Parents are asked to provide their child's PPS number, as this is the unique identifier used by the Department of Education on the Pupil



Online Database, when determining enrolment numbers on 30th September of each year for funding and support purposes.

6. Oversubscription

In each of Sections 6a, 6b and 6c below, spaces are allocated under Priority Category 1 and if space is still available, then Priority Category 2 comes into play and so on. This prioritization proceeds until all places have been allocated.

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

a) Priority Selection Criteria for Mainstream Classes

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 applications which are received within the timeframe for receipt of applications as set out in the school's Annual Admission Notice:

Priority Category 1: An Applicant who is Jewish.

In respect of Priority Category 1 above, the Applicant's parent/guardian must satisfy the school (as guided by the Chief Rabbi of Ireland) that the Applicant is Jewish by providing the following documentation with their application form:

(i) a statement from the Applicant's parent/guardian confirming that the Applicant is Jewish; and

(ii) evidence to support the statement that the Applicant is Jewish. This evidence may consist of a letter from the Chief Rabbi of Ireland confirming that the Applicant is Jewish; and

(iii) a statement from the Applicant's parent/guardian that she/he wishes the Applicant to be educated in a school that provides Jewish education for Jewish students.

Priority Category 2: An Applicant who is a sibling of current pupil/pupils of Stratford NS.

Priority Category 3: An Applicant who is a child of a current staff member of Stratford NS.

Priority Category 4: An Applicant who is a sibling of current pupil/pupils of Stratford College, which shares a common educational philosophy and Jewish ethos of Stratford NS.

Priority Category 5: An Applicant who is a child of a current staff member of Stratford College.

Priority Category 6: An Applicant who lives within a 3 kilometre radius of Stratford NS.

In respect of Priority Category 6 above, an Applicant's parent/guardian must provide proof of address of the family home in which the Applicant is ordinarily resident. Such proof should be a utility bill or similar. The ranking will be based on the absolute distance from the school to the home address as measured by Stratford NS using Google maps.

Priority Category 7: Any other Applicant who does not fall into any of the previous categories.

b) Priority Selection Criteria for the Early Intervention Autism Class

Students must be at least 3 years of age by 1st September on the proposed academic year of entry for the Early Intervention Autism Class in the school, and must not enrol in the academic year they turn 6 years of age.



Enrolment to the Early Intervention Autism Class for children with Autism is for one year only. There is no entitlement to remain in the school following the end of the school year. The only exception is where a child remains eligible for the ECCE programme. In this case, the child maintains their place in the Early Intervention Autism Class for a second year. The child must have a diagnosis of Autism meeting DSM IV/5 or ICT diagnostic criteria, irrespective of cognitive ability.

In the event that the Early Intervention Autism Class for children with Autism is oversubscribed, the school will, when deciding on applications for admission, apply the selection criteria in the priority category order detailed in Section 6a above to those applications which are received within the timeframe for receipt of applications as set out in the school's Annual Admission Notice for this class.

c) Priority Selection Criteria for Primary Level Autism Class

Students must be 4 years of age on 31st March on the proposed academic year of entry (as per mainstream Junior Infant admissions) for the Primary Level Autism Class in the school. The child must have a diagnosis of Autism meeting DSM IV/5 or ICT diagnostic criteria, irrespective of cognitive ability and must include a recommendation for placement in a special class within a mainstream school.

In the event that the Primary Level Autism Class for children is oversubscribed, the school will, when deciding on applications for admission, apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below to those applications which are received within the timeframe for receipt of applications as set out in the school's Annual Admission Notice for this class:

Priority Category 1: An Applicant who is Jewish (see Section 6a, Priority Category 1 above).

Priority Category 2: An Applicant who is a sibling of current pupil/pupils of Stratford NS.

Priority Category 3: An Applicant who is a child of a current staff member of Stratford NS.

Priority Category 4: An Applicant who is a sibling of current pupil/pupils of Stratford College, which shares a common educational philosophy and Jewish ethos of Stratford NS.

Priority Category 5: An Applicant who is a child of a current staff member of Stratford College.

Priority Category 6: An Applicant who has completed at least one full year in the Early Intervention Autism Class for children with Autism in Stratford NS and who will have turned 4 by 31st March prior to the September in the year of entry.

Priority Category 7: An Applicant who lives within a 3 kilometre radius of Stratford NS.

In respect of Priority Category 7 above, an Applicant's parent/guardian must provide proof of address of the family home in which the Applicant is ordinarily resident. Such proof should be a utility bill or similar. The ranking will be based on the absolute distance from the school to the home address as measured by Stratford NS using Google maps.

Priority Category 8: Any other Applicant who does not fall into any of the previous categories.

7. What will not be considered

In accordance with section 62(7)(e) of the Education Act, the school will not consider 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) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school;
- (c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude;
- (d) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents/guardians;
- (e) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents/guardians, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- (f) 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 criteria based on siblings of a student attending the school);
- (g) 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).

8. Decisions on Applications

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

- This Admission Policy
- The school's Annual Admission Notice
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in the school's Annual Admission Notice for receiving applications

Selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy will not be used to make a decision on an application for a place in Stratford NS. 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.

9. Notifying Applicants of Decisions

Applicants will be informed in writing by the school office as to the decision of the school, within the timeframe outlined in the school's Annual Admission Notice.

If a student is not offered a place in Stratford NS, 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 18-19](#) below for further details).

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

Parents who receive an offer of a place at Stratford NS must indicate in **writing** that they accept the offer as per the dates in the school's Annual Admission Notice (see page 14).

In accepting an offer of admission from Stratford NS, 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 are 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; and
- III. whether or not the school's Code of Behaviour is acceptable to them and that they shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by their child.

11. 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 NS 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 10 above.

12. 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 certain information 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:

- an application for admission to the school has been received,
- an offer of admission to the school has been made, or
- an offer of admission to the school has been accepted.

The list may include any or all the following:

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

13. Waiting list in the event of Oversubscription

In the event of there being more applications for a class level for the school year concerned than places available, a waiting list of students for that class level whose application for admission to Stratford NS was unsuccessful due to the school being oversubscribed will be compiled and will remain valid for the school year in which admission is being sought. The waiting list is valid for one school year only.



Placement on the waiting list of Stratford NS is in the order of priority assigned to the students' applications after the school has applied the selection criteria in accordance with Section 6 of 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 order of priority. Applicants will be informed of these decisions by the school office.

14. Late Applications

All applications for admission received after the closing date as outlined in the school's Annual Admission Notice will be considered and decided upon in accordance with this Admissions Policy, the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.

Late applicants are applicants who submit an application after the closing date as outlined in the Annual Admission Notice. Late applicants will be notified by the school office 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, late applicants will be added to the end of the waiting list after the school has applied the selection criteria in accordance with Section 6 of this Admission Policy.

15. Procedures for Admission of Students to other years and during the school year

Class Placement: In placing students in each mainstream class grouping, Stratford NS is cognisant of the over-all multigrade numbers (which will not exceed 24 students in each classroom, save in exceptional circumstances), as well as keeping children with their age-based peers. The Principal's decision, in consultation with the Board of Management, regarding class placement offered is final.

Early Intervention Autism Class: Children aged 3-4.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

Primary Level Autism Class: Children aged 4.5-5.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

Junior Infants: Children aged 4.5-5.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

Senior Infants: Children aged 5.5-6.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

First Class: Children aged 6.5-7.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

Second Class: Children aged 7.5-8.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

Third Class: Children aged 8.5-9.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

Fourth Class: Children aged 9.5-10.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

Fifth Class: Children aged 10.5-11.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

Sixth Class: Children aged 11.5-12.5 years on September 1st of the year of entry.

Selection criteria for other classes in cases of over-subscription are the same as Section 6 of this Admission Policy. In the event there are no places in the Applicant's class, the Applicant will be placed on the class waiting list in accordance with Section 13 of this Admission Policy if the application is received within the admission's window, and in accordance with Section 14 of this Admission Policy if the application is received after the admission's window has closed.

Transfers from Stratford NS: Transfers from Stratford NS should be notified to the Principal in writing well in advance where possible, i.e. a term's notice.



16. Declaration in relation to the non-charging of fees

The Board of Management of Stratford NS or any persons acting on its behalf will not charge fees for, or seek payment or contributions (howsoever described), as a condition of:

- (a) an application for admission of a student to the school; or
- (b) the admission or continued enrolment of a student in the school.

17. Arrangements Regarding Students Not Attending Jewish Education

Pupils not receiving Jewish instruction / education are offered supervision on the yard from 8:50 am.

18. Review of Decisions by the Board of Management

The parent/guardian of a pupil may request the Board of Management to review a decision to refuse admission. Such requests must be made in accordance with Section 29C of the Education Act 2018.

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 2018 which are published on the website of the Department of Education.

The Board of Management will conduct such reviews in accordance with the requirements of the procedures determined under Section 29B and with section 29C of the Education Act (Admissions to Schools) 2018.

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 (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018.

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.

19. Right of Appeal

Under Section 29 of the Education Act 2018, the parent of a pupil 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 2018 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 2018 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 2018. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management.)



Appeals under Section 29 of the Education Act 2018 will be considered and determined by an independent appeals committee appointed by the Minister for Education.

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.

20. Communication to Board of Management

The Principal will report to the Board of Management regarding the process of enrolment in December each year and regularly thereafter until enrolment is complete. Where the Principal refuses admission to any applicant, by the authority delegated to the Principal by the Board of Management in line with this Admission Policy, any such refusal shall be communicated to the Board of Management at the earliest opportunity.

This Admission Policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management and the Dublin Talmud Torah regularly.

Signed Elaine Nerney
Ms. Elaine Nerney, Chairperson,
Board of Management

Date: 13th November 2024

Signed Beryl Healy
Ms. Beryl Healy, Principal

Date: 13th November 2024