

Strood Academy

Oversubscription criteria: 2016

Fair Banding Test

Strood Academy is an all ability school and in order to secure an all ability intake that is representative of the national ability range, all applicants for admission must take a fair banding test which is prescribed by NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research). This is not a 'pass or fail' test. This is to ensure that children across the ability range are admitted.

All applicants for places in the Academy will be banded according to the principles of fair banding, using the national profile.

The Academy will have five bands to ensure an intake with a spread of ability. The bands will be based on the national ability range (determined by NFER) and the bandings will be in the ratio 10:20:40:20:10.

If places become vacant in some bands, for example, because parents/carers accept offers of places at other schools, and no applicants in those bands remain without a place, they will be evenly filled by children falling into the next nearest bands (i.e. the bands on either side, or below or above, if the first child is from the band above then the next will be from the one below).

The tests will be administered during September/October – in the year preceding entry.

Parents and Carers can access the test for their child by filling in and returning a test registration form which will be available via the Academy website (www.stroodacademy.org.uk) and from the Academy reception during term 6 of Year 5. This test registration form should be returned within the prescribed deadlines as indicated on the registration form specifying the preferred test date.

All applicants for an Academy place, including those with a statement of SEN, will be required to take the Fair Banding test. All applicants will be offered fair access to the test and reminded of the dates, times and locations available to sit the test. Following the test, applicants will be divided into bands based on NFER scores within the national profile.

Any applicants who have not taken the banding test at the correct time will only be considered after children who have sat the banding test at the correct time. These children will still need to sit the test prior to starting at the Academy to ensure that they are placed in the correct band.

Procedures where Strood Academy is oversubscribed

After the admission of students with Statements of Special Educational Needs where Strood Academy is named on the statement, the oversubscription criteria shall be applied in the order in which they are set out below.

Within each band the criteria will be applied in the following order:

a) Children looked after (in the care of, or accommodated by, the local authority) or previously looked after who immediately after being looked after were adopted or subject to a residence or special guardianship order (as further defined in paragraph 1.7 of the School Admissions Code)

b) Current family association (i.e. elder brother or sister in the Academy at time of application who will still be attending when the applicant child is admitted. In this context, brother or sister means:

1. Natural brother or sister (including adopted siblings)
2. Step brother or sister
3. Foster brother or sister
4. Those who live as brother or sister living together as a family unit at the same address

c) Nearness of children's homes to the school

d) Random allocation will be used as a tie-break in category 'c' above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same.

This process will be independently verified.

POST 16 ADMISSION CRITERIA

The Published Admission Number for external entrants is 5. The capacity of Year 12 for both internal and external candidates is 150. To determine eligibility for admission, the Academy Trust will publish specific criteria in relation to minimum entrance requirements for courses of study in Year 12 based on GCSE grades or other measures of prior attainment. These arrangements will be published in the Academy's sixth form prospectus. These criteria will be the same for internal and external transfers and will be published in its prospectus and on the Academy's website.

Students failing to meet the grades for their preferred course option will be offered alternative courses if available. Students already on the Academy roll are entitled to transfer to Year 12 if they meet the published academic standards of entry. If Year 12 is oversubscribed then, after the admission of students with Special Educational Needs where the Academy is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

a. Students in looked after, or previously looked after (as defined in paragraph above).

b. Current family association (as defined above)

c. Nearness of students' homes (as defined in paragraph above)

d. Random allocation will be used as a tie-break in category 'c' above to decide who has

highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same.

This process will be independently verified.

Waiting Lists

Where in any year the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until December 31st. This will be maintained by the Academy Trust and it will be open to any parent /carer to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application. Waiting lists will comply with the School Admissions Code's provisions.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in this policy . Separate waiting lists will be maintained for each band and the oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine priority in the band in which the vacancy arises. A further waiting list will be maintained for post 16 applicants. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to students on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMITTING STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND

The Academy will be responsible for in-year applications and for applications for year groups other than the normal point(s) of entry. The Academy will provide application forms and local authority forms will also be accepted. All applicants for school years in which the Fair Banding Process applied at entry in year 7 will have to take the Fair Banding Test as described above (Fair Banding Applications).

The Academy Trust will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available in the appropriate band (for Fair Banding Applications) the Academy will admit the child unless the applicant has significant behavioural issues (other than at the normal admission point i.e. Year 7) in which case the child will be referred to the Local Authority Fair Access panel. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria above for Year 7 or for post-16 places shall apply.

The Appeals Process

If your application is refused you have right to appeal and details will be included in the refusal letter.

Important Footnotes

Nearness of children's homes

Distance will be measured by the shortest available safe walking route between home and school as measured by the council's geographical information system. Those living closer to the school will receive the higher priority. Medway Council's Geographical Information System measures the start point, end point and distance of each route in the following way.

The start point

The centre point of the road closest to the centre point of the student's home address. The centre point of the student's address is a grid reference taken from Ordnance Survey Mapping.

The end point

The centre point of the road closest to the Academy entrance in Carnation Road represented by a grid reference for the Academy defined within the geographical information system. The same end point is used for everybody.

The distance

The shortest available route between the start point and the end point uses the centre point of streets and any other available safe walking routes. 'In a situation where there is no available safe walking route between a child's home and the Academy, the shortest route by road, between the 'start point' as defined above and the 'end point' as defined above will be used purely to prioritise admission. In these circumstances there would be no expectation that the walk should be the one taken, or that it is a 'safe walking route'.

It is important to note that any roads that have been built recently (particularly in new developments) may not be included on the network. If this is the case, the measurement will start from the nearest available road on the network from the property.