

# **STRATFORD NATIONAL SCHOOL**

*(under the auspices of Dublin Talmud Torah)*

## **Admission Policy of Stratford National School**

**School Address: 1 Zion Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6**

**Roll Number: 16966J**

**School Patron/s 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 (BOM), 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 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022. It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy on request.

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.

### **2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of Stratford National School**

**Stratford National School, (Stratford NS)**, was founded by the Dublin Jewish Community and provides a primary education within a Jewish ethos, as defined by the Office of 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 individuals makes our school truly unique. We welcome all children who share our commitment to such cultural and religious diversity.

Stratford NS commits itself 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, supportive surroundings.

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- Welcome and encourage constructive communication between parents and teachers, in our shared commitment to our children's 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**

##### ***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.

##### ***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.

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

Stratford National School does not currently have special educational needs classes. It is seeking sanction to open one Early Intervention Autism Class (ages 3-5 years) for September 2023. The application process for autism-specific classes is likely to begin in January 2023. A separate admission notice & policy for Early Intervention and/or regular Autism classes (ages 5-12 years) will be outlined on our school website in due course.

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## 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.

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

Stratford NS 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.

Applicant children must be at least four years of age on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March of the school commencement year. In exceptional circumstances, a Jewish child whose birthday is on or between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> August and who is four years of age on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year of enrolment will be eligible for admission where, in the opinion of the School Principal, that child is ready and able for primary school admission.

Our school supports the principles of inclusiveness. Likewise, we recognise the principle of access to and participation in the school and parental choice in the area of enrolment. We respect diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life.

However, in the event of significant and enduring educational needs parents should engage with the school as early as possible to determine how or if our resources can be redeployed to provide an appropriate learning environment. Some students might be better supported by alternative specialist units, enhanced resources and/or facilities we currently do not provide.

## 6. Oversubscription

In the event, that the school is oversubscribed, the school will, in deciding on applications for admission, apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below, to those applications that are received within the time line for receipt of applications, as set out in the School's Annual Admissions Notice:

### Selection Criteria

1. Jewish Students (halachic): An Applicant's Parent/Guardian must provide documentary evidence from an Orthodox Beth Din or Rabbinate, must provide a letter stating they are happy for their child to attend Jewish religious studies each school day from 8.30-9.30am and proof that they live within geographical proximity to the school\*

*In respect of Priority Category 1 above, the Applicant's Parent/Guardian must provide the above documentation in order for the Application to be complete, as the School must satisfy itself that the Applicant Student is a member of a minority religion and understands that the*

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*school provides a programme of religious education which is the same as the religious ethos of the minority religion of the Applicant Student.*

2. Other Jewish Students: An Applicant's Parent/Guardian must provide documentary evidence from a recognised Jewish synagogue or authority and live within geographical proximity to the school\*
3. Siblings of current pupils of Stratford National School and children of staff of Stratford National School.
4. Siblings of current pupils of Stratford College which shares the common educational philosophy and ethos of Stratford National School and children of staff of Stratford College.
5. Applicant Students of all faiths and none, who live within geographical proximity to the school\*
6. Applicant Students of all faiths and none, who do not live within geographical proximity to the school.

*\*In respect of categories 1,2 & 5 above, an Applicant's Parent/Guardian must provide proof of address of the family home in which the Applicant Student is ordinarily resident. Such proof should be a utility bill or similar. The ranking will be based on the absolute distance (i.e. as the crow flies) from the school to the home address as measured by Stratford National School using Google maps or other such mapping tool as it may determine suitable from time to time. Applicant Students will be prioritised in order of those living the closest distance to the school.*

Spaces are allocated under criterion 1 and if space is still available, then criterion 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 categories above (the number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places), the following arrangements will apply: **Random Selection by Lottery**

All children enrolled are expected to comply with and support the school's Code of Behaviour, as well as the school's designated policies on curriculum, organisation and management.

Stratford NS compiles a waiting list for each class level where necessary. The waiting list is maintained in priority order and valid for one school year.

## 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:

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- (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;
  - (e) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, 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:

- Our school's 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 our annual admission notice for receiving applications

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. 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 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 18-19 below for further details).

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

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Parents who receive an offer of a place at Stratford NS must indicate in **writing** that they accept the offer.

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

## **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**

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In the event of there being more applications for the school year concerned than places available, a waiting list of students 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.

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 this admission policy.

Applicants whose applications are received after the closing date, outlined in the Annual Admission Notice, will be placed at the end of the waiting list in order of the date of receipt of the application and in the order of the priority assigned to the students' applications.

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.

## **14. 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.

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

In general, students will not be admitted to the school after 30<sup>th</sup> September each school year. We encourage those interested in Stratford National School to apply for the following school year during the Admissions window, opening in October each year.

**Class Placement:** In placing students in each class grouping, we are cognisant of over-all multigrade numbers (which will not exceed 26 students in Junior & Senior Infants, and will not exceed 28 students in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes), as well as keeping children with their age-based peers. The principal's decision regarding class placement offered is final.

**Junior Infants:** Children aged 4.5-5.5 years on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry.

**Senior Infants:** Children aged 5.5-6.5 years on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry.

**First Class:** Children aged 6.5-7.5 years on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry.

**Second Class:** Children aged 7.5-8.5 years on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry.

**Third Class:** Children aged 8.5-9.5 years on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry.

**Fourth Class:** Children aged 9.5-10.5 years on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry.

**Fifth Class:** Children aged 10.5-11.5 years on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry.

**Sixth Class:** Children aged 11.5-12.5 years on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry.

Selection criteria for other classes in cases of over-subscription are the same as **Section 6** of this policy. In the event there are no places in the Applicant student's class, they will be placed on the class waiting list in accordance with **Section 13** of this policy.

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

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

The Board of Stratford National School 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 Religious Instruction**

Pupils not receiving Jewish instruction are offered supervision on the yard from 8:50 a.m.

## **18. Review of Decisions by the Board of Management, (BOM)**

The parent of a pupil may request the BOM 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 and Skills.

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 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 BOM prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education 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 BOM prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 2018.

## **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.

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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 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.

## **20. Communication to Board of Management, (BOM)**

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 her by the BOM in line with this Policy, any such refusal shall be communicated to the BOM at the earliest opportunity.

This policy will be reviewed by the staff and BOM regularly.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Daniel Miller,  
Chairperson, BOM

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Sarah Cormican  
Principal

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Appendix 1

### STRATFORD NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL ADMISSION NOTICE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2023/24

Copies of the school's **Admission Policy** and the **Application Form for Admission** for the 2023/24 school year are available as follows: –

To download at: [www.stratfordns.ie](http://www.stratfordns.ie)

On request: By emailing [info@stratfordns.ie](mailto:info@stratfordns.ie) or writing to: Stratford National School, 1 Zion Road, Rathgar Dublin 6, D06E161

#### 1. Application and Decision Dates for admission to Stratford NS for 2023/24

1.	The school will commence accepting applications for admission on	<b>27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 12 noon</b>
2.	The school will cease accepting applications for admission on	<b>17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 12 noon</b>
3.	Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision on their application by	<b>24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 before 5pm</b>
4.	Applicants must confirm* acceptance of an offer of admission by	<b>1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 before 5pm</b>

\*Failure by an applicant to accept an offer by the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 may result in the offer being withdrawn.

#### 2. Number of places being made available in the 2023/24 school year

The number of places being made available in Junior Infants is	12
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\*As our classes are multi-grade, places may be offered to applicants for Senior Infants based on the selection criteria (Section 15) which may reduce the number of places available in Junior Infants. The maximum that will be considered in the combined Junior and Senior Infant group is 26.

#### 3. Number of places in Junior Infants for the 2022/23 school year which were offered and accepted before 1 February 2020

The number of places for Junior Infants that were offered and accepted prior to the coming into operation of section 62 of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 on 1 February 2020 is	0
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The total number of applications for admission received by Stratford NS for Junior Infants in the 2022/23 school year was

Breakdown of pupil places allocated for Junior Infants for the 2022/23 school year:	
Number of places available	14
Number of applications received	84
Number of Offers made and accepted under each criteria	Criteria 1: 13 Criteria 2: 0 Criteria 3: 1 Criteria 4: 0 Criteria 5: 0 Criteria 6: 0
Number of names placed on waiting list for the school year concerned	70