STRABANE ACADEMY
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Principal: Mr C Johnston B.Ed PQH(NI)
Chair of the Board of Governors: Mr Samuel Atcheson

Controlled Grammar
Boys and Girls
Age Range 11-18

Admissions No: 110

Enrolment No: 700

Roll: 672

Open Evening - Thursday 21 January 2027

TO PARENTS / GUARDIANS naming Strabane Academy (hereinafter referred to as 'the school') as a preference on your child's Transfer Application.

The Board of Governors has determined that all children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected for admission before any child not so resident.

Entrance Assessment Results

Please ensure that you enter the Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) awarded by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG), together with the SEAG Unique Pupil Number, on the Transfer Application and please note it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make sure that the Statement of Outcome received from SEAG, indicating their child's SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS), is uploaded with the Transfer Application.

SEAG is very clear that its Entrance Assessment consists of two papers. A pupil who only takes one paper (i.e. either Paper 1 or Paper 2 but not both) will not have completed the full Entrance Assessment. Such pupils will, however, have their "single paper" marked and will receive a Statement of Outcomes. Outcomes for pupils who only sit one paper will have the designation "e" (for estimate) immediately after the Outcome, e.g. Total Standardised Age Score TSAS 196e; Band 4e. Such pupils may be considered for admission by Strabane Academy under Special Provisions.

Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

If you are making a claim for your child to be considered under Special Circumstances or Special Provisions, please read carefully the information given in the relevant section below. **Please note that you are required to upload with the Transfer Application all such material as you consider will assist the Admissions Committee in determining if Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions apply.**

Claims for consideration for a child under Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions will be examined and decided upon **before the application of any of the Admissions Criteria.**

Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions should complete the SC form and/or the SP form obtainable from the school and upload it with appropriate documentation described in section 2.

Parents/Guardians should note that they are required to produce documents verifying information pertinent to the School's Admissions Criteria. If the documents are not uploaded with the Transfer Application, as detailed below, they will be requested after notification of an offer of a place at the school.

Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to Admissions to the School

In the event of the school being oversubscribed the Board of Governors has approved the criteria described below. Decisions in respect of "Special Circumstances" and "Special Provisions" are taken by the Board of Governors in consultation with the Admissions Sub-Committee. Further reference, therefore, to the Board of Governors may imply the Admissions Sub-Committee.
The school will not use as a criterion the position of preference given to the school on the Transfer Form; for example, a child who has chosen the school as a second preference school will be considered in the same way as all first preference applicants.

1. ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY OF PUPILS TO YEAR 8 IN SEPTEMBER 2027

The application procedure opens on 27 January 2027 at 12 noon (GMT). Applications must be submitted by the closing date of 3 March 2027 at 12 noon (GMT). After 12 noon on 3 March 2027, applicants cannot apply until after the close of procedure on 8 May 2027.(see Waiting Lists Policy below).

Route 1 – Academic based entry
Academic ability entry is used to admit 50% of our Admissions Number, 55 pupils. Its purpose is to further the all-ability aim of the school and to ensure that each year group caters for students of all abilities including the most academically able. Consideration will also be given to those children claiming Special Circumstances or Special Provisions as defined in section 2 below.

Criterion 1
When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Admissions Committee will **only** take into account information which is detailed on or uploaded with the Transfer Application, including the Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) provided by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG) as a result of the child's performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment (or the score assigned as a result of consideration of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions). It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make sure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria, as outlined below, is stated on, or uploaded with, the Transfer Application.

Parents/Guardians should note that they are required to produce documents verifying information pertinent to the School's Admissions Criteria.

SEAG will provide parents with a Total Standardised Age Score. Pupils will be allocated a place using a strict rank order of marks, so that higher scores precede lower scores up to the Admissions Number (55). The TSAS should be entered along with the SEAG Unique Pupil Number on the Transfer Application.

Please note: It is the parents/guardians' responsibility to make sure that the original Statement of Outcomes received from SEAG, indicating their child's SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS), is uploaded with the Transfer Application.

In the event that applications considered for Route 1 exceed the number of places available, the strict rank order of marks will be applied to admit students. A**ll applications which are not admitted via Route 1 will automatically be considered for Route 2.**

Tie-breaker
In the unlikely event, two or more children having the same TSAS for the last available place, children will be selected by establishing a rank order determined on the basis of surnames using the order laid out below. This will be in accordance with the surname as entered on the Birth Certificate or Adopted Children's Register.

T Y I R O Mc N B G Q U M J E H P A L X D W V S K Mac Z C F

In the event that two or more such children have identical surnames then the rank order will be determined on the basis of the order of the initials of the forenames (as entered on the birth certificate) using the same order laid out above.

Route 2 – All ability-based entry
The all-ability entry will be selected with no reference to test scores. If the number of applications is greater than the Admissions Number, the following criteria shall be applied in the order set down below until the point where the admissions number is reached.

1.

[1]Child of the family covers: a child born to a married couple or to a couple in a civil partnership; a child born to a co-habiting couple; a child born to a single parent; a child of either/any of those people by a previous marriage, civil partnership or relationship; a child living with a couple who has been treated as a "child of the family" whether there is a marriage or a civil partnership or not; a child living with an individual, who has been treated as a "child of the family";

an adopted or fostered child; a situation where, for example, an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family or individual.
2 Twins and other multiple birth applicants will be regarded as joint eldest. Eldest 'child of the family' eligible to transfer includes cases where all older children in the family have completed their post-primary education, the eldest child of a reconstituted family or where the eldest child of the family was statemented or attended a special school.

Proof of eldest child should be uploaded with the Transfer Application – a letter on headed note paper, stating that the child is the eldest eligible child and that the family is known to the verifier, from one of the following who is not a family member of the applicant: a Primary School Principal, a medical practitioner, a solicitor, an elected public representative, a member of the clergy or a police officer.

In the event of being over-subscribed in any of the above criteria then selection for places remaining at that stage will be in accordance with the Tie-breaker criterion set out below.

Tie-breaker
Children meeting the tie-breaker criterion will be selected by establishing a rank order determined on the basis of surnames using the order laid out below. This will be in accordance with the surname as entered on the Birth Certificate or Adopted Children's Register.

T Y I R O Mc N B G Q U M J E H P A L X D W V S K Mac Z C F

In the event that two or more such children have identical surnames then the rank order will be determined on the basis of the order of the initials of the forenames (as entered on the birth certificate) using the same order laid out above.

Special Educational Needs
The procedures for children in receipt of a Statement of Special Educational Needs will operate outside the normal enrolment procedures in order to ensure that such children are provided with the most appropriate school placement. Further advice may be obtained from the Education Authority as appropriate.

2. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES and SPECIAL PROVISIONS

General
The purpose of a claim for special circumstances and/or special provisions is so that a child can be assigned a Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) equivalent to that which he or she would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal conditions. Consideration of a claim for special circumstances and/or special provisions consists of two parts: the first requires the consideration of whether there is sufficient material to permit a child to be considered as having special circumstances or attracting special provisions, or both; if a child is permitted to be considered as having special circumstances or as attracting special provisions or both, the second part of the consideration requires an educational judgement to be made on the totality of the material presented to the Admissions Committee so that a Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) equivalent to that which the child would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal conditions can be assigned.

Please note, parents/guardians are required to upload with the Transfer Application all such material that will assist the Admissions Committee in performing both parts of the consideration described above. It should be noted by parents/guardians that both parts of the consideration referred to involve an exercise in educational judgement and not precise calculation.

Educational Evidence to be provided in support of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

In reaching the educational judgement needed to assign a Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) that the child would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal circumstances, the Admissions Committee will consider any material uploaded with the Transfer Application by the parents/guardians. This material may include any or all of the following:

i) The Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) awarded by SEAG in the Entrance Assessment (if the child sits both SEAG Entrance Assessments) or the TSAS estimate provided by SEAG (if the child only sits one of the Entrance Assessments, due to the child's illness or other unforeseen circumstances).

ii) The results for the child of any standardised tests conducted in Year 6 and Year 7 ;
iii) Any other relevant material.

Special Circumstances

Strabane Academy has academic performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment as one of its criteria, subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and which are supported by documentary evidence of a medical or other appropriate nature. These 'medical or other problems' are commonly referred to as 'Special Circumstances.

Please note that if a claim for the consideration of Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Access Arrangements were granted for a child, the Admissions Committee will take into account the fact that the child was granted Access Arrangements for those matters.

Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Circumstances should complete the SC Form, obtainable from the School, stating the precise reason why they believe the child should be considered for Special Circumstances. The SC Form and appropriate documentary evidence should be uploaded with the Transfer Application.

The Admissions Committee will consider each application for Special Circumstances. Where a Special Circumstances claim is upheld, the Admissions Committee will assign, on the basis of the information available, an equivalent Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) for the child. Such children will then be considered with all other children who have received a SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) and the Admissions Criteria applied.

Details of Medical or Other Problems

Where it is claimed that a child's performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment has been affected by a medical or other problem, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to set out in the SC Form precise details of the problem and upload with the Transfer Application the evidence to corroborate its existence.

Where the problem is a medical one of short-term duration which affected the child only at the time of the SEAG Entrance Assessments, parents/guardians should be aware that the Admissions Committee will attach greater weight to evidence indicating that the child was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the assessments. Where the problem is of a non-medical nature the parents/guardians should set out in the SC Form precise details of the problem and upload appropriate documentary evidence with the Transfer Application. It should be noted that independent evidence will carry greater weight.

Special Provisions

Special provisions will apply for:

(a) Children, whose parents/guardians wish them to transfer from schools outside Northern Ireland;
(b) Children, who have received more than half their primary education outside Northern Ireland;
(c) Children, who due to a serious medical or other problem, supported by appropriate documentary evidence or for a demonstrably valid reason also supported by appropriate documentary evidence, were either unable to sit both the SEAG Entrance Assessment papers OR have an estimated outcome from SEAG because they only sat one of the two Entrance Assessment papers.
(d) children who were not registered for the SEAG Entrance Assessment due to a serious medical or other problem supported by appropriate documentary evidence or for a demonstrably valid reason supported by appropriate documentary evidence.

Note: All those seeking admission should sit the SEAG Entrance Assessments, with the exception of those children who take up residence in Northern Ireland after Tuesday 20 October 2026.

Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Provisions should contact the school as soon as possible. In addition, they should complete the SP Form, obtainable from the school, stating the precise reason why they believe the child is eligible for consideration under Special Provisions and upload appropriate documentary evidence with the Transfer Application.

The Admissions Committee will consider each application for Special Provisions. Where Special Provisions are accepted, the Admissions Committee will assign, on the basis of the information available, an equivalent Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) for the child. Such children will then be considered with all other children who have received a SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) and the Admissions Criteria applied.

3. NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that the Transfer Application is completed in full and that all relevant information is uploaded with the Transfer Application.

If the Board of Governors becomes aware of any irregularity in the details uploaded or included on the Transfer Application, it reserves the right to reject the application made on behalf of the child for admission to the school.

4. DUTY TO VERIFY - THE VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION PROVIDED

Those making applications should note that the information contained within an application that qualifies the child for admission will be verified. The Board of Governors therefore reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Transfer Application. Those making applications should also note the provision of false information or incorrect information, or the failure to provide verifying documents according to the required deadline, may result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the school to offer a place.

5. WAITING LISTS POLICY

Strabane Academy operates a Waiting Lists Policy. For Year 8, all applications for admission to Year 8 that were initially refused will be automatically placed on the Year 8 Waiting List. New applications and applications where new information has been provided will also be added to the Year 8 Waiting List. This Waiting List will be in place until **30 June 2027**, that is, the end of Year 8. Please contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the Year 8 Waiting List.

Should a vacancy arise after the date upon which placement letters have been issued from the Education Authority, the procedure outlined in the Admissions Criteria for entry to Year 8 will be followed in relation to those applications on the Year 8 Waiting List. The school will contact you if your child gains a place in the school by this method.

6. ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE TRANSFER PROCESS

Should the Board of Governors determine that a child who has arrived in Northern Ireland after the Transfer Process has been concluded is suitable for admission and our Admissions Number has been reached, it will seek approval from the Department of Education to admit the child through the allocation of an additional place.
Parents/Guardians who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after the beginning of the school year should write to the Principal stating this. An acknowledgement will be issued. If any place(s) become available after 1 September 2027 and there are more applicants than places available, then decisions will be made on application of the Year 8 Admissions Criteria to those children seeking admission at the time the place(s) become available. When the Board of Governors considers that the admission of the child would prejudice the efficient use of resources, it may refuse admission.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admission Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2024/25	110	123	121*
2025/26	110	100	109*
2026/27	110	135	136*

*Includes statemented pupils and/or a Temporary Variation

*****The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 includes all Year 8 children admitted to the school including those who have a statement of special educational needs and/or may be attending SPiMS.***

(SPiMS = Specialist Provision in Mainstream School)

7. ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9 – 12

Applications should be made in writing, to the school using the relevant application form obtainable from the school (AP1 form). All those seeking admission will be required to provide reports from their present school.

Following receipt of an application, the school will advise as to the next steps to be taken and subsequently provide written notification of any decision to admit the pupil or otherwise.