

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY OF PUPILS TO FORM 1 (YEAR 8) IN SEPTEMBER 2010

Strathearn (the 'School') is an all girls grammar school offering a wide-ranging curriculum of academic courses. The School will initially consider only those pupils who have taken the Common Entrance Assessment (CEA) provided by the Association for Quality Education (AQE). The School will use the 'score' as awarded by AQE to a pupil in the CEA, subject only to the consideration by the Board of Governors of those pupils claiming Special Circumstances or Special Provisions as explained below. Information on the CEA is available from the School or the AQE website (www.aqe.org.uk).

The score in the AQE CEA should be entered in Section C of the transfer Form in the following format: 'AQE CEA score', followed by the score and the AQE Candidate number.

This information will be verified by the School with AQE.

Strathearn will **not** use as a criterion the position of preference given to the school by the applicant on the Transfer Form. Therefore, a girl who has listed Strathearn as a second or subsequent preference school will be considered in the same way as those who have placed Strathearn first on the list.

Girls resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the School will be selected for admission before any girl not so resident.

- 1 The first 95 places from the admissions total of 110 will be allocated to girls on the basis of the rank order of their respective scores; those achieving higher scores being allocated places before those with lower scores. If more than one girl is eligible for the 95th place because they have equal scores, then all such girls will be allocated places up to the School's admission number, using, if necessary, the criteria listed in 4 below.
- 2 Following the allocation of places as described in criterion 1, a pool of 25 girls will be identified on the basis of the rank order of their respective scores; those achieving higher scores being allocated places to the pool before those with lower scores. If more than one girl is eligible for the 25th place because they have equal scores, then all such girls will be allocated to the pool. Girls from this pool, irrespective of their CEA score, will be allocated to the remaining places on application of the criteria listed in 4 below.
3. If, following the application of criteria 1 and 2 above, all the available places have not been filled, the School will consider for admission any girls who have not taken the CEA. Allocation of the remaining places will be made by applying the criteria listed in 4 below.
4. If as specified above, the number of applications exceeds the number of available places, the following further criteria will then apply, in the order stated:
 - (i) girls enrolled in the School's Preparatory Department as of 1 September 2009;

- (ii) girls with a child of the family currently enrolled in the School's Secondary Department (details to be supplied) or accepted for enrolment in September 2010;
- (iii) girls who are the eldest child of the family to be eligible to be admitted in September 2010 (details to be supplied);
- (iv) girls who are entitled to Free School Meals*;
- (v) girls with a sibling who has attended the School's Secondary Department (name and date of attendance to be supplied);
- (vi) girls with a sibling, currently enrolled in Years 8 to 14 or accepted for enrolment in September 2010, in Campbell College or RBAI (Senior School) (details to be supplied);
- (vii) girls having a parent currently employed by the School for a continuous minimum period of one year at the date of transfer;
- (viii) girls with a parent or guardian who has attended the School's Secondary Department (name and date of attendance to be supplied);
- (ix) the School wishes to continue its tradition of accepting girls from a wide catchment area, irrespective of the proximity of their homes from the School. If however, after all the criteria 4(i) to 4(viii) have been exhausted it becomes necessary to make a final selection, priority will be given to the girl whose home is closer to the School. Distance will be measured in a straight line using an Ordnance Survey web distance measurement tool from the front door of the girl's home to the front entrance of the School's main administrative building. Home will be taken to mean the girl's address appearing at the commencement of the Transfer Application Form.

* "entitled to Free School Meals" will mean girls who are listed on the Education and Library Board/ ESA register as entitled to Free School Meals at the date on which their parent or guardian has signed their post-primary Transfer Form, or at any date up to and including 12 May 2010.

The School emphasises that it is the responsibility of the applicants to notify the School on the Transfer Form where the above criteria apply, and to furnish relevant details.

Duty to verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application.

To this end, the School will adhere to the Department of Education's verification procedures (Circular 2009/07) which state:

'the provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's Transfer Form'

'if you state within your application that your child is currently registered as Free School Meal Entitled, and that claim is decisive in qualifying her for admission, then that information will be verified. If it is found to be incorrect, then any place offered because of it will be withdrawn.'

Special Circumstances

Strathearn School has academic performance as its first criterion, subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the Common Entrance Assessment (CEA) 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, if a claim for the consideration of Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Special Access arrangements were granted for a pupil, the School will take into account the fact that the pupil was granted Special Access arrangements for those matters;

Parents who wish to apply to the School under Special Circumstances should complete Form SC09 obtainable from the School or AQE, and attach it with appropriate documentary evidence to the Transfer Form, as detailed below.

- **Details of Medical or Other Problems**

Where it is claimed that a pupil's performance in the CEA has been affected by a medical or other problem, it is the responsibility of the parents to set out in the Form SC09 precise details of the problem and append evidence to corroborate its existence.

Where the problem is a medical one of short term duration which affected the pupil only at the time of the CEA, the School will give greater weight to evidence that the pupil 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 should append appropriate evidence.

It should be noted that in all cases independent evidence will carry greater weight.

- **Educational Evidence**

It is the responsibility of the parents to provide the educational evidence as detailed in the Form SC09. This should include (where they exist):

the score awarded in the Common Entrance Assessment;

the results for the pupil of any standardised tests conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 and the results in any end of year tests in English and Mathematics in Years 5 and 6;

additional comparative information from the Primary School for other pupils in the pupil's Year 7 class (without names) and which should include the results of any standardised tests conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7, the results in any end of year tests in English and

Mathematics in Years 5 and 6, and, where available, the respective CEA scores.

A panel of Governors will consider the application for Special Circumstances. Where Special Circumstances are accepted, the panel will determine, on the basis of the information available, a score for the pupil. Such pupils will then be considered with all other pupils who have received a CEA score and the admissions criteria applied.

Special Provisions

Special provisions will apply for:

- a) pupils whose parents wish them to transfer from schools outside Northern Ireland;
- b) pupils who have received more than half their primary education outside Northern Ireland;
- c) pupils, entered for the AQE Common Entrance Assessment, who because of unforeseen and **serious** medical or other problems were unable to participate in any of the assessments.

Note: It is expected that all those seeking admission should sit the AQE CEA, with the exception of those pupils who take up residence in Northern Ireland after the start of the Year 7.

Parents who wish to apply to the School under Special Provisions should contact the School as soon as possible. In addition they should complete Form SC 09, obtainable from the School or AQE, stating the precise reason why they believe their daughter is eligible for consideration under Special Provisions and provide appropriate independent documentary evidence. A copy of SC 09 and all the documentary evidence should be attached to the Transfer Form.

For those pupils whose parents wish them to transfer from schools outside Northern Ireland, applications for Special Provisions should be received by the School by 27 April 2010.

A panel of Governors will consider the application for Special Provisions. Where Special Provisions are accepted, the following procedure will apply:

- a) the School will consider any assessment information and may choose to commission an independent assessment of the pupil's ability in English, Mathematics and Verbal Reasoning;
- b) a panel of Governors will determine, on the basis of all the available assessment information, an appropriate score for the pupil. The pupil will then be considered with all other pupils who have received a CEA score and the admissions criteria applied.

Note

The admissions criteria have been drawn up and approved by the Board of Governors; their application has been delegated to the Principal.

SEPTEMBER 2007 - 2009 APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

	Grade A		Grade B1		Grade B2		Grade C1		Grade C2		Grade D		Others		Appeal	Total
	App	Adm	App	Adm	App	Adm	App	Adm	App	Adm	App	Adm	App	Adm	Upheld	Adm
2007	67	67	26	26	16	16	6	1	5	-	9	-	-	-	-	110
2008	85	85	17	17	18	8	29	-	13	-	9	-	2	-	-	110
2009	87	87	19	19	19	4	20	-	14	-	10	-	-	-	-	110