

Admission criteria and arrangements for entry 2026

Section A: 11+ Admission to Year 7

1. Southend High School for Boys is a selective single-sex boys academy grammar school. The testing for admission to the school at age 11 is determined through a selection procedure administered by the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (CSSE). These admission criteria are to be read in conjunction with the locally agreed co-ordinated admissions scheme.

Full details of the admission process are published in the secondary booklet available from www.southend.gov.uk/admissions. The application process, in summary, involves five stages:

- i. test registration for your child;
- ii. test attendance by your child;
- iii. receipt of test results for your child;
- iv. application, naming this school as a preference, to your Local Authority; and
- v. allocation of places at this school by the Local Authority.

This document provides additional detail about each of these steps, waiting lists and appeals.

Test Registration

2. The CSSE Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must be completed in order to register a child to sit the selection tests and should be returned to the CSSE by the published deadline. It can also be completed on line and accessed through the CSSE website at: www.csse.org.uk. Parents intending to seek 'preferential consideration' (note A) must indicate their reason, at the time of test registration, on the SIF.
3. Registration to sit the tests is open to children who will be aged 11 on 31st August immediately prior to admission in September. Younger or older children may, exceptionally, be allowed to sit the tests; but these applications must first be approved by the CSSE's Headteacher panel (note E).

Test Attendance

4. Tests in English and mathematics will be taken on a date and at a school determined by the CSSE. Parents may identify a preferred venue on the SIF. Sample practice papers are available free-of-charge on the CSSE website along with full details of the application process.

Test Results

5. The CSSE will issue individual results of the tests on a date specified on the CSSE website.

Application to the school

6. All applications will be processed through the Local Authority Co-ordinated Admissions Procedure. Parents must express a preference for this school on their Local Authority (LA) Single Application Form (or Common Application Form) in order for their child to be considered for a place. [The deadline for completing this form if you live within the Southend or Essex Local Authorities is 31st October (subject to confirmation).]
7. For the September 2026 intake, the school's published admission number (PAN) is 180. The PAN for each year group (8-11) for 2026 is 180.

Education Health and Care Plans

8. Children who have an EHCP are admitted under separate statutory procedures, and not under this policy. Any child who passes the selection tests and who has an EHCP (note C) that names this school, will be admitted prior to the allocation of places to other applicants, and the number of places available to other children within the PAN for Year 7 will be reduced.

Allocation of places

9. The offer of a place is dependent upon passing the selection tests. However, passing the selection tests is not a guarantee of being offered a place. A pass mark for the tests is set annually, which ensures that the entrance standard remains comparable to that which was applied in the period 1990 to 1994. No pupil, in any priority category, will be admitted below this pass mark. In each category, places are allocated in order of the mark achieved, higher passing candidates first.
10. The school determines admission in the order of priority set out below:
 - i) Looked after children and previously looked after children (note B) who have passed the selection tests.
 - ii) **Children whose normal/habitual place of residence (as assessed in the terms provided, annually, in the Southend Local Authority secondary admissions booklet) lies *within* the catchment area postcode areas SS0, SS1, SS2, SS3, SS4, SS5, SS6, SS7, SS8 and SS9, subject to their passing the selection tests.** A quota of up to 5/6ths of the published admissions number (PAN) is reserved at this school for children in this category (150). *10% of this quota* (15 out of 150) is designated for children from within the catchment area who are entitled to '**preferential consideration**' (note A).

First, the 10% of places designated for 'preferential consideration' (note A) from within the catchment area are allocated, in rank order of marks, to those exceeding the pass mark: candidates who score higher marks will be allocated places before those who pass at a lower level. Then, the remaining places within the quota are allocated, in rank order of marks, to any applicants from within the catchment area who have exceeded the pass mark: candidates who score higher marks will be allocated places before those who pass at a lower level. The school is 'full' in this category when the quota has been reached, or when there are no more candidates from within the catchment area who have passed and have listed the school as a preference.

- iii) **Children whose normal/habitual place of residence (as assessed in the terms provided, annually, in the Southend Local Authority secondary admissions booklet) lies *outside* the postcode areas SS0, SS1, SS2, SS3, SS4, SS5, SS6, SS7, SS8 and SS9, subject to their passing the selection tests.** 10% of the places remaining after the local quota has been deducted from the PAN (3 out of 30), is designated for children from outside the catchment area who are entitled to '**preferential consideration**' (note A).

The 10% of places designated for 'preferential consideration' (note A) from outside the catchment area are allocated, in rank order of marks, to those exceeding the pass mark: candidates who score higher marks will be allocated places before those who pass at a lower level. Then, all remaining places are allocated, in rank order of marks, to any applicants from outside the catchment area who have exceeded the pass mark: candidates who score higher marks will be allocated places before those who pass at a lower level. Places will be offered until the total PAN has been reached.

11. In the event of pupils achieving the same mark for the last available place, priority will be given to any child entitled to 'preferential consideration' (note A); then, if this does not differentiate, to the pupil who lives closest to the school as measured in a straight line from the front door of the child's normal/habitual place of residence (as assessed in the terms provided, annually, in the Southend Local Authority secondary admissions booklet) to the nearest pupil entrance to the school, with those living nearest being given preference. Distances will be measured using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system. If the same distance is shared by more than one pupil and only one place is available, the place will be awarded on the basis of a computerised random allocation process (supervised by someone independent of the Governing Body).

Waiting lists

12. Waiting lists, based on the test results, are maintained in each category until 31st December. If a place has been offered and is then declined, a new offer will be made to whichever candidate has the next highest score, exceeding the pass mark, in the same category. If there is no waiting list in the relevant category, the new offer is made from the waiting list in the next priority category, until the priority category limit is reached and/or the school's overall admission limit is met. Any additional applicants, prior to 31st December, will be added to the waiting list, which will be re-ordered and ranked in line with the published oversubscription criteria. After 1st January, waiting lists are maintained, and places are offered, in accordance with the school's in-year application process. This may include re-testing.

Section B: Post-11+ Admission ('in-year' admission)

The procedure for application to Year 7 prior to 1st January is detailed in the previous section.

On receipt of a completed In-Year Application Form, applicants will be informed, within 15 school days, of the next testing date for the relevant year group. The dates when testing takes place for each academic year are published in advance on the school's website. (There are at least two testing dates for each year group.) Applicants must submit the completed form at least two school weeks prior to the date of testing.

Applicants for the same year group will sit a series of tests at the school. Applicants for entry will sit tests in English, Maths and Science.

Requests for admission outside of the usual age group ('under age' or 'over age') should be provided in writing to the Headteacher.

There are no specimen papers available in advance of the tests.

Ability in English, Mathematics and Science is indicative of a pupil's ability to cope with the demands of academic subjects in general; therefore, a candidate must score at least in line with the average of our own pupils in the relevant year group in English, Mathematics and Science to be deemed suitable for entry into the year group.

If, based on the test performance, an applicant is deemed *not* to meet the required standard for entry into the relevant year group, the applicant will be refused a place. Such applicants who wish to re-apply must complete and return a new application form; they may apply for testing only once in any academic year.

If, based on the test performance, an applicant is deemed to meet the required standard for entry and there is a vacancy in the relevant year group, the Headteacher will offer a place on behalf of Governors. If there are more applicants deemed to have met the required standard than there are vacancies, then places will be awarded according to the school's published Admissions Criteria for that year group.

If, based on the test performance, an applicant is deemed to meet the required standard for entry into the relevant year group but there are insufficient vacancies, a waiting list (operated according to the stipulations of the School Admissions Code) will be kept (according to the school's published Admissions Criteria for that year group) until such time as a subsequent application is received from another individual for that year group. For so long as the waiting list is in operation, if a place becomes vacant in the relevant year group, the Headteacher will offer a place on behalf of Governors to the next applicant on the waiting list, according to the school's published Admissions Criteria for that year group.

Any applicant who is deemed to have met the required standard for entry, but nonetheless has been refused a place and therefore appears on the waiting list for so long as it is in operation, will be invited to any subsequent testing date in the same academic year. This does not affect their right to independent appeal following refusal of a place. (candidates can only appeal once in the academic year and that would be for the initial application and not for subsequent tests).

Any applicant who is refused a place has the right of appeal, once in the academic year, to an independent appeal panel. In this event, in the first instance, they should email the Admissions Officer at SHSB on admissions@shsb.org.uk

Section C: Admission to the Sixth Form

Applications are also welcomed for entry into the school at Sixth Form level. The Sixth Form brochure and application form are available from the school's website: www.shsb.org.uk. Students should complete and submit the online application form by the published deadline.

The number of places offered to students from outside the school will depend upon the number of our own Year 11 students who achieve the Sixth Form course entry requirements below. The minimum number to be admitted is 15.

A student must be under 17 years of age on 31st August of the calendar year of proposed admission.

Minimum entry criteria to the Sixth Form are as follows:

- Applicants will need to accrue at least 52 points from their 8 best GCSE grades (where numerical grades are scored at face value). Grades below 6 do not contribute to this points score. Short course GCSEs may be included within this calculation.
- Applicants must achieve at least GCSE Grade 5 in English and Mathematics.
- Applicants must achieve at least GCSE Grade 6 in subjects to be taken, individual subjects may have specific entry requirement which are outlined in the prospectus.

Preference will be given to looked after children or previously looked after children (note B) who have obtained the minimum entry criteria of 52 points.

Should there be more candidates of the required level than places in a subject, selection will be based on rank ordering of predicted GCSE points scores and the combination of subjects a student wishes to study.

Section D: General

Fraudulent applications

If a school place is obtained through fraudulent means, the offer of a place will be withdrawn. This can include the removal of a pupil once started at the school. Details on fraudulent applications are available in the secondary admissions booklet on Southend Borough Council's website.

Appeals

All parents have a statutory right of appeal against non-admission to this school if an application for a place has been refused. This right may be exercised only after school places have been offered, for example after National Offer Day (normally 1st March) for Year 6 applicants for Year 7, following confirmation of 'in-year' test results, or after GCSE results day for the Sixth Form. Appeals must be lodged with the school and will then be processed in accordance with the timescales outlined in the School Admissions Appeals Code (DfE).

Statement on admission to single-sex provision

Admission to schools is administered in line with statutory frameworks. The principal regulatory document is the School Admissions Code 2021. Schools are also subject to the provisions of all other relevant legal provisions including current equality legislation. Schools which are recognised by the Department for Education as a 'single sex girls school' or 'single sex boys school' may only make provision for that sex to enter the school into Years 7 to 11. This is a consequence of the legal definition of a 'boy' or 'girl', which as it stands, is a matter of biological sex as at birth. There is no provision in law, under the age of 18, for self-identification to override this prescription. Therefore, schools which are a 'single sex girls school' or 'single sex boys school' are unable, at present, to admit a transgender male/female into Years 7 to 11.

Notes:

- (A) 'Preferential consideration'** is available to children who pass the selection tests, are in any of the following categories and indicated this on the CSSE Supplementary Information Form when registering for the tests:

Children in receipt of Free School Meals, or identified as recipients of the Pupil Premium Grant (note D), at the time of test registration.

Applicants who are entitled to 'preferential consideration' will be included – at all stages of the admissions process, from the initial allocation of places to the operation of the waiting lists – both on the relevant ranked list for 'preferential consideration' and also on the full ranked list for that area, according to postcode.

- (B) Looked after children and previously looked after children** – Children who are in the care of local authorities as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. In relation to school admissions legislation a 'looked after child' is a 'child in public care at the time of application to the school'. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).

Looked after and previously looked after children are required to meet the required academic level before they can be considered for admission to selective schools.

This also includes children who appear to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

(C) Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

An education, health and care plan (EHCP) is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support. EHC plans identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs. Section 43 of the Children and Families Act 2014 says that all schools, must admit a child if their EHCP names the school. If a school is oversubscribed, the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan where the school is named in the Plan, is mandatory, except in those schools where the admissions criteria override this requirement.

Specifically, children with an EHCP are required to meet the required academic level before they can be considered for admission to selective schools. The school must have been named in the Plan.

- (D) Pupil Premium Grant** - The pupil premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England. It is designed to help disadvantaged pupils of all abilities perform better, and close the gap between them and their peers. Introduced in April 2011, the pupil premium is allocated to children including those who are, or have been, looked after by the local authority, those who have been eligible for FSM at any point in the last six years (also known as Ever 6 FSM) and for children whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces.

(E) Arrangements for 'under age' and 'over age' entry to the Selection Process at CSSE (Consortium) schools

The selection test for entry to selective places at the ten Consortium schools is normally available to children registered in Year 6 from the start of the academic year in which the test is to be taken and who are between 11 and 12 years of age on the following August 31, immediately prior to admission in September. Any test candidate who is 'under age' or 'over age' will need to demonstrate that their application is supported by the necessary relevant evidence.

The Governors of the ten Consortium Schools have jurisdiction over admissions to their schools. In the case of age at entry, this may be exercised through an investigation into the reasons for a child to be an under or over aged applicant, possibly leading to a refusal of admission where, in the Governors' view, the reasons given by parents fail to comply with the published rules. This jurisdiction is retained regardless of decisions made by the LA to accept or refuse under and over age applications.

A panel of Headteachers, selected from the Consortium Schools and with full delegated authority from those schools, will review all 'under age' and 'over age' applications. The panel's decision is binding.

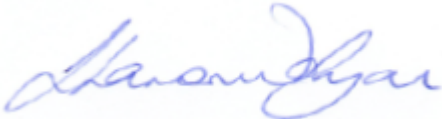
'Under age' applicants: An applicant is under age if he will be under 11 years of age on 31 August immediately prior to admission in September. Consortium schools will only accept applications from under aged applicants who are registered in Year 6 of their primary schools from the first day of the school academic year prior to secondary transfer. This effectively requires that the decision to promote the child to the year group above his chronological age group must be taken by the primary school prior to the end of the summer term in the calendar year in which the child is to sit the selection test. Confirmation of this is likely to be sought from the Headteacher of the primary school concerned by the Consortium Office.

'Over age' applicants: An applicant is over age if he is not under 12 years of age on 31 August immediately prior to admission in September. Consortium Schools do not accept over-aged applicants unless there are verified exceptional circumstances, for example of extended illness, for a child to repeat one of the primary school years or to have been admitted 'late' at the start of primary school. The Panel will seek verification from the Headteacher of the primary school concerned that an over-aged applicant has medically certifiable reasons or some other justifiable reason for being an over-aged applicant. The Panel will wish to investigate especially thoroughly the circumstances through which any child is found to be studying in Year 6 for the second time, especially if this should involve application to sit the selection tests for a second time. Medical evidence will be required for such applicants. Anyone who has submitted their 11+ registration as 'confidential' will need to send the CSSE a written authority to enable them to contact the child's primary school.

For example, test registration may be refused where an investigation concludes that:

- an over aged child who is repeating Year 6 does not have exceptional reasons for so doing;
- an under aged applicant was not registered in Year 6 from the start of the school year in which the selection test is to be taken.

Approved by Full Governing Body on 1st October 2024.



(Sharon O’Ryan, Chair)