

# **Open Evening 2021: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

We are aware that, as we are not able to run our usual Open Evening this year, that you may have some questions. Hopefully we can address a number of these questions below alongside our other transition resources, but if you still have any particular questions, please contact the school via email to [admin@stanway.school](mailto:admin@stanway.school).

The FAQs below are divided into 3 distinct question areas:

1. Admissions Questions
  2. Curriculum Questions
  3. Support Questions
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## **Section 1: Admission Questions**

### **Q. How many students will there be in the year group?**

There used to be 223 students in each year group, but from September 2017 we started to admit 280 students due to the growing number of new houses in our Priority Admissions Area. Our Published Admission Number for 2021-22 is 280 places, and we will not be able to admit a higher number of students than this figure. An overview of our admission criteria is below, but please see our Admissions Policy for full details of how places are allocated at The Stanway School ([Admissions Policy 2022-23](#)).

1 Child Looked After (CLA)

2 Sibling (current Yr7 to 10)

3 Live within the Priority Admission Area

4 Attend one of the following schools:

- Birch Church of England VA Primary School
- Chappel C of E Primary School
- Copford C of E Primary School
- Fordham All Saints Primary School
- Heathlands C of E Primary School
- Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Eight Ash Green & Aldham
- Layer-de-la-Haye C of E Primary School
- St Andrew's C of E Primary School, Marks Tey
- Stanway Fiveways Primary School
- Stanway Primary School

5 Children of Staff

6 All other applications (straight line distance from home to school)

You should apply via the Essex County Council website at:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>. You will be notified by email on 1st March 2022 whether your child has been allocated a place at The Stanway School. Further queries

regarding admissions should be directed via email to Mrs M. Jackson at:  
[min.jackson@stanway.school](mailto:min.jackson@stanway.school)

We are unable to make any guarantees for which criterion we will reach when we are full at 280 places. We strongly advise you to submit your application as soon as possible, and definitely prior to the deadline of 31st October, as late applications are likely to hinder the possibility of your child being awarded a place. Please visit the school website for a map of Stanway's Priority Admissions Area (<https://www.stanway.essex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/catchment-map1-scaled.jpg>).

**Q. Will my child qualify for school transport, and how do I arrange this?**

If The Stanway School is your closest school and you live more than 3 miles away (as determined by Essex County Council), then you will be able to apply for free school transport via Essex County Council. Please visit <https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-transport> for further information.

**Q. What do I do if I don't get offered a place?**

You will hear on the 1st March whether you have a place. In that letter from the Local Authority, you will be notified of the school in which your child has been allocated a place. If you are unhappy with your allocation at that time, you have the right to appeal.

**Q. My child is taking the 11+ exam for the grammar school. What should I do on the application form?**

If your child is taking the 11+ exam, you will need to put the grammar school as your first choice and Stanway as your second. If your child is unsuccessful for the grammar school, Stanway will automatically become your first choice.

**Q. In the past, the school has let more students in, so if I don't get a place, is there a chance I will get offered one later?**

Nothing can be guaranteed, but this is now very unlikely now that Stanway has expanded to receive additional places. After 1st March, all unsuccessful applications will form a waiting list based on criteria and straight-line distance from your house to the school. This year the school will be unable to offer more places unless other students decide to go to other schools, in which case the school will follow the order of the waiting list. The school will not be allocated more than 280 students.

**Q. I have 5 choices. Should I put Stanway as my first choice?**

If you want your child to start Year 7 at Stanway, it is strongly advisable that you put Stanway as your first preference, but check first which criteria you fall into in our admissions code. Places are allocated by Essex County Council who adhere strictly to the admissions criteria of each school or academy. Please ensure you know which criterion you fulfil.

**Q. Where can I purchase academy uniform and equipment?**

Uniform can be purchased online from: [www.yourschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.yourschoolwear.co.uk). For details of our Uniform, please see our [Uniform Page](#) on our website.

**Q. Can I arrange to visit the academy to have a look around?**

At this stage, we are not conducting tours of the School due to the current national picture regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. If we have the opportunity to do so later in the year, we will endeavour to run some tours and taster activities for students and parents.

## **Section 2: Curriculum Questions**

### **Q. What time do students have to be in school in the morning?**

Registration begins at 8.40am so students should be on site by 8.30am but not before 8.15 am. We recommend that new students practice their journey to school a few times before they join us in September. Please also be aware that our school is a closed site in the mornings and afternoons, so parents will not be able to drop students off at the school entrance. Please use the adjoining roads around the school site.

### **Q. How is the curriculum delivered?**

We have 5 lessons a day, all 60 minutes long and we follow a two-week timetable. At present, over a fortnightly cycle, students receive:

- 7 lessons of English, Maths and Science (each)
- 3 lessons of Geography and History
- 4 lessons of Physical Education
- 2 lessons of RE, Citizenship, Computing, Art, Music and Drama
- 3 lessons of Design & Technology
- 4 lessons of either French or German

Presently, students choose their options in the first term of Year 9 and begin studying for their GCSE courses from the middle of that year.

### **Q. How many form groups will there be?**

There will be 10 form groups. In each form group there will be around 28 students. There are 5 Houses (Gainsborough, Shakespeare, Rutherford, Wellington and Nightingale). In each House, there are two form groups in each Year group, for example, two Year 7 forms, two Year 8 forms all the way up to two Year 11 forms. The House system still operates for Interhouse competitions and Sports Day.

### **Q. How many teaching groups will there be?**

In the majority of non-practical, classroom-based subjects, there will be 10 teaching sets. Although the average size is 28 students, higher ability sets may have up to 31 or 32 students to create spaces in lower ability classes in order for additional support to be given. In practical subjects, such as PE, DT or the Arts, more teaching groups will be timetabled to create smaller class sizes that are appropriate to the working spaces of the subject.

### **Q. How will my child be assigned to a form group or House?**

A member of the Senior Leadership Team will liaise with the Primary Schools and will then arrange students into form groups and Houses. We cannot guarantee your child will be placed with their friends.

### **Q. PE kit and uniform**

Both the PE kit and the school uniform are clearly defined on the school website. Students should arrive each day in the correctly worn uniform. The school PE kit must be worn for all Physical Education lessons and school sports fixtures.

### **Q. Homework**

Homework will be set. We aim this is always meaningful, manageable and motivating. We do not issue a homework timetable but we do suggest that in Year 7, at least 30 minutes per evening should be spent completing homework. Warnings are given when work is not handed in or is late, and if this continues, after school detentions are issued. All homework is published through an app called ClassCharts which enables adults at home to know when it was set, when it is due and when it has been submitted. Staff also publish the worksheets and resources that students need to use through this format.

### **Q. Extra-Curricular Activities**

The school requests that each student in Year 7 signs up for at least one club or activity. These can run after school, but can also be held at lunch time. There are many sports activities to join as well as music, drama and many other activities, ranging from vocabulary club to a games club. If we know of a reasonable request to start a club, we will do our best to facilitate this.

### **Q. Are the students set from day 1 in all subjects?**

Yes. We set students according to their KS2 SAT scores. However, we are flexible and will look to move students if they appear to be out of place when we begin to collect assessment information from their teachers. Although students are set, they are put into appropriate groups in different subjects. For example, a student could be in a top set for English but a bottom set in Maths, if that's what the KS2 results suggest from Year 6. Some subjects, such as Art, Music, Drama, and DT, are mixed ability; the rest are set according to KS2 data.

### **Q. Will my child study languages?**

Each student will have the opportunity to study one language from the start of Year 7. This could be either French or German. We will determine this language unless you have specific reasons for your child's preference. In Year 9, when GCSE courses start, students have the option to study French, German or Spanish.

### **Q. What careers advice is available to my child?**

All students have access to a comprehensive careers programme as well as independent and impartial careers advice and guidance. We want to support and encourage students to make informed choices about their future and be well prepared for their next steps. As they go through the school, they will have access to careers interviews, business mentors, guidance on option choices and post-16 pathways, amongst others.

Please take a look at the Careers page on our website for further information:

<https://www.stanway.essex.sch.uk/careers/>

### **Section 3: Support Questions**

#### **Q. Who will look after my child?**

We have a Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year system for pastoral support. Therefore, there will be one Head of Year 7 and one Assistant Head of Year 7 looking after the pastoral and academic needs of your child. There will also be a form tutor who sees the form twice a day. For students on the Special Educational Needs register, there will also be a SENCO and a team of key workers and Learning Support Assistants.

#### **Q. Food and packed lunches**

Food is available at break time and lunch time from three different food outlets on site. Students pay for the meal using a card that will have been allocated money from home using an online system called Parent Pay, and those who receive free school meals will have funds added automatically on a daily basis. Students are welcome to bring in packed lunches instead of using the school kitchens.

The school offers a full range of hot and cold food at both break and lunchtime. This includes the choice of a full hot meal, “grab and go” items, salad bar, sandwiches, baguettes, paninis, salads etc. We also offer a good range of fresh fruit and a selection of drinks. There are also both vegetarian and vegan options available.

#### **Q. My child is worried about lunchtime and whether they will be able to get a seat, how does this work?**

We have staggered lunch breaks at The Stanway School. Years 7 and 8 start their lunch at 12:35 pm whilst Years 9-11 have a separate lunch break at 13:40 pm. This enables all students to have good access to all the dining facilities. Students can of course bring a packed lunch to school if they wish and we have designated areas for students to sit and eat these if they choose. Also, hot meals, cold meals, snacks and drinks are readily available to be purchased every day (Please see [The Stanway Times](#) page on our website for a quick overview of a menu for the week ahead).

#### **Q. Are there bullying issues at the school?**

Every school from time to time has to deal with some form of disagreements between students. We have a very effective pastoral team in our school, and the staff are very capable of dealing with these issues. If your son or daughter tells you about any issue, please communicate it to us via the form tutor, the Assistant Head of Year or the Head of Year, depending on how serious the issue is. The early we know about the issue, the sooner we can deal with it. If we don't know about it, we are unable to support your child. Every member of staff is sufficiently trained to log any incidents or concerns, which are linked immediately to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

#### **Q. Do the students have access to lockers?**

There are lockers in all form rooms, but padlocks need to be provided by students. There is a risk of damage or loss which is down to the individual families to take on when anything valuable is brought

into school. Cash does not need to be brought into school as we have a cashless catering system and all other payment can be made online

**Q. Is my child allowed to bring a phone to school?**

We recognise that students bring phones to school to ensure safety on their journeys. However, once school starts at 8:40 until the day ends at 3:15, student's phones are not seen or heard the entire time. Phones are put into school bags. If a phone is seen or heard, it is confiscated for the remainder of the school day. This applies to all break and lunch times.

**Q. If my child is unwell during the day, how will I be notified?**

If a student becomes unwell during the school day, they must tell their teacher or form tutor. There are fully trained first aid staff available at Student Services. If your child needs to be collected you will be telephoned directly. Children should not contact parents directly since this can create confusion and slow down our response. It is far safer for your child to come to Student Services and the appropriate action will be taken from there.

**Q. What specific SEN support will be available to my child?**

The goal of the SEND department at The Stanway School is to ensure that all students have equality of access to their learning, regardless of the position they start in. The provision we put in place is to enable that access to be fully inclusive for all students, and to place them in a position where they can achieve to the very best of their ability, and beyond, both academically and socially.

The Academy's SEN Information Report can be viewed on our website, via the following link: [SEN Department Policy](#).