



# The **Stanway** School



# 2025

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# A Message From The Head of School



Welcome to The Stanway School, a vibrant and ambitious 11-16 secondary school where we nurture the full potential of every student and establish a strong community culture through which every student can achieve and aspire.

We are a school that celebrates academic achievement, fosters a love of learning, and equips young people with the skills and confidence to thrive in the ever-changing world. As you explore this prospectus, I hope you get a sense of the unique and stimulating environment we offer. We are a dedicated and passionate team who believe in building strong relationships with our students, supporting their individual needs, and encouraging them to become well-rounded, responsible citizens.

Whether you are a parent or a prospective student, I invite you to delve deeper into what makes The Stanway School special. We sincerely hope that you get a chance to visit the school during our Open Week (25th - 29th September 2024 – further details to be announced on our website) to enable you to see the school in action and experience the quality of education we have on offer.

We are confident that we can provide a challenging and rewarding education that prepares students for the exciting journey ahead. We run transition programmes for prospective students from our feeder schools when they are in Year 6 and an Induction Day for all new students in July prior to their start in September. As a result, students make the transition from primary to secondary school very smoothly with confidence and assurance.

Parents and carers have a pivotal role to play in the success of The Stanway School. Much of our planning and endeavour is committed to developing and maintaining the partnership between home and school. We recognise success wherever it occurs and acknowledge it publicly. Our view is that success is a journey, not a destination, and we stress the view that education is a lifelong process. With your support, we will give your child the confidence and skills to be successful.

We would be delighted to welcome you into our school community.

*"You have successfully established a supportive and purposeful learning environment which is characterised by very good pupil behaviour and positive relationships."*

**(Ofsted)**

# The Stanway School Vision Statement

The Stanway School is a member of Sigma Trust. The Sigma Trust is a partnership of 13 schools located in North East Essex covering both Colchester and Tendring. It incorporates schools that share the same mission, vision and values and have a strong history of working collaboratively.



## Mission

To be "**Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts**" represents the mission statement for The Sigma Trust. We believe we are stronger and more successful working together than we would be as separate institutions.

The mission for each academy within The Sigma Trust is to ensure that no child is left behind. Education should foster in its learners a curiosity to discover who they are and what they are capable of, together with developing the resilience for them to test the boundaries of their abilities, and build the skills necessary to face the future with confidence.

## Vision

The Trust's vision is to ensure that all of its academies are at least "Good" with strong and improving outcomes and are able to demonstrate outstanding provision. We will achieve this by:

- Establishing a local family of academies that fully embrace the mission, vision and values of the Trust.
- Ensuring that best practice becomes shared practice so that no school is left behind.
- Recognising the uniqueness and achievements of each academy.
- Enabling every school to be a giver and receiver of support.
- Developing a relationship where autonomy and accountability go hand in hand.
- Creating a centre of educational excellence and innovation within the area.
- Working in collaboration with others to enhance the educational experience of children in the community.
- Training, recruiting and retaining teachers, leaders and support staff through high quality professional development.
- Requiring that services are delivered efficiently and represent outstanding value for money.

## Values

Sigma Trust values the following attributes:

- **Integrity** - be honest, transparent, trustworthy and true to your beliefs.
- **Passion** - be positive and enthusiastic about what you are trying to achieve.
- **Aspiration** - aim for your best and set high, realistic goals.
- **Resilience** - never give up and strive to improve.
- **Accountability** - take responsibility for your words, thoughts and actions.
- **Respect** - for yourself, your environment and other people.



# Our Values & Ethos

Together, the staff and students formed the 5 elements of the Stanway Standard that run through and underpin all that we do and say in our school community. At The Stanway School, we are:

**Considerate:** we are a community where each member is valued and success is celebrated

**Responsible:** we are each responsible for our words and actions towards each other and our environment

**Proud:** we are proud to be part of the Stanway community and take pride in the quality of our work, our achievements and our uniform

**Respectful:** we treat every member of our community with the respect we wish to be shown to ourselves

**Determined:** we show resilience through challenges and aspire to be the best we can be



Through our high expectations and high quality teaching by excellent, professional staff, each student has the opportunity to enjoy their learning and achieve their personal best. They receive excellent careers support and guidance for their next steps and embrace modern British values. All this is delivered through our knowledge-based, well sequenced, ambitious, inclusive and broad & balanced curriculum, enhanced by extra-curricular activities and a broad learning experience.

## Staffing

The Stanway School places a high priority on the quality of its staff, both teaching and support. We are committed to continuous professional development; all staff have access to a wide range of external and internal courses which help them to develop their pedagogy and practice. The Stanway School collaborate with several teacher training providers, including Ambition Institute. Every year this enables us to appoint highly qualified new teachers from our own local pool of expertise.



# Our Admissions Criteria

## Admission Arrangements for 2025/2026 for entry into Year Seven

For full details about our admission arrangements please visit our website at [www.stanway.essex.sch.uk](http://www.stanway.essex.sch.uk). The key elements of our policy are outlined below:



### 1 Making an Application

1.1 The Sigma Trust 'the Trust' is the admissions authority for The Stanway School, referred to as 'the Academy'. During the normal admissions round, Essex County Council operates the co-ordinated admissions scheme which includes the Academy. Parents wishing to apply for a place should submit applications online at [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions) and put the Academy down as a preference on the common application form.

1.2 The local authority will manage late applications to the Academy.

### 2 Published Admissions Number (PAN)

2.1 The Stanway School has a PAN of 280 for entry into Year 7 for 2025/26. If the number of applications exceeds the PAN, the oversubscription criteria (below) will be used to determine which applicants will be provided with a place.

2.2 All children who have an EHCP that name the Academy will be provided with a place.

### 3 Oversubscription Criteria

Where applications for admissions exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below:

3.1 Looked after children and previously looked after children including those who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

3.2 Children with a sibling attending the Academy who will still be on roll at the date of admission.

3.3 Children who reside within the Priority Admission Area.

### 3.4 Children who attend the following schools:

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

3.5 Children of staff at The Stanway School who have been employed for two or more years at the time of the application or are recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. To qualify under this criterion, the staff member must be a 'direct employee'.

This includes any member of staff (teaching or non-teaching) with two years' continuous employment with the Academy. Staff contracted in to provide services to the Academy do not count as 'direct employees'. For the purposes of this criterion, 'children of staff' is taken to include a son, daughter or step-son/daughter, or child who is adopted or fostered or for whom a special guardianship order is in place.



### 3.6 Any other applicants.

Within each of the above criteria, proximity of the home to the Academy will be taken into consideration, with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority. (Straight-line distance between home and the Academy will be used as a tie breaker with those living closest to the Academy having highest priority.)



*"Parents are similarly supportive of the school and recognise your efforts to ensure that 'no child is left behind'. For example, one parent commented, 'Stanway is a family unit that strives for every child to reach their fullest potential'." (Ofsted)*

# Why Stanway is the right choice

## Attendance & Punctuality

An electronic register is taken every morning, afternoon and at the start of every lesson. The information collected is used to collect attendance and punctuality figures and for our attendance officer to make first day calls. Our target is to ensure the best possible attendance by all of our students so it is very important for us all to work hard and together to achieve this. We hope that parents and carers will only allow children to stay at home when they are too ill to cope with a full day in school. All students are encouraged to achieve 100% attendance and there are numerous prizes, rewards and certificates that are awarded to individuals, tutor groups and houses each term.



## Absence from School

All absences should be reported to school as early as possible on the first day of absence. If only one day's absence has occurred, then a phone call/email is sufficient. However, if your child is likely to be absent for more than one day, then a phone call/email to the school should be made on the first day, and a note sent in with the child on the day of return. If we do not receive contact from you, one of our office staff will be in touch during the school day.

## Catering

Food served in school is provided by in-house caterers in our brand new catering facilities. We aim to provide a variety of good food, at reasonable cost, available at both break and lunchtime from our three outlets. Students may bring their own food or buy a lunch, hot or cold, or snacks and drinks from the Cafeteria or our outside food outlets. At lunchtimes daily there is a 'meal deal' available

The school operates a cashless catering system provided by ParentPay. Students are given a 'swipe card' which allows them to buy food and drink at break and lunch times. A weekly menu is published on our School Bulletin and available on our website. Parents and carers add money to their child's account through ParentPay (this site is also used for trips and other payments).

*Pupils told inspectors how much they enjoy attending and, importantly, learning at their school. Pupil comments such as, 'I love it here, it is so welcoming,' and, 'teachers inspire us to learn' characterise many of the views expressed by pupils.*  
**(Ofsted)**





## Books & Equipment

Students should prepare themselves adequately for all lessons and they should provide themselves with the following basic equipment:

- Black Pens
- Ruler (cm and ins)
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- Coloured pencils
- Dictionaries
- Eraser
- Calculator
- Mathematical equipment, such as compasses



It is advisable that each student has a rucksack or similar bag so that books may be protected whilst being carried about the school. All items of clothing and equipment should be clearly named.

## Homework

All students will be given homework regularly and we aim to make the homework meaningful, manageable and motivating. In Years 7-9 students will get weekly homework in English, Mathematics, Science and Languages. These will be mostly through online portals such as Sparx Maths. In other subjects, students will set a menu of tasks to be completed on a rotation basis per half term, provided by the relevant department. The menu will be shared on Google Classroom at the start of each term. The completion week will also be listed.

The teacher will talk to the students about the tasks so they ensure they understand what they should do. They will also guide some pupils towards particular tasks to ensure the tasks either support, secure or stretch their learning.



In Years 10 & 11 the GCSE students should be spending at least one to two hours each evening on homework / coursework tasks to develop their knowledge and understanding of their examination subjects. Time should also be given to reading around the subject wherever possible, revision for upcoming assessments and preparation for examinations.

Support is available for all students with their homework, including peer support from older students in the school and Homework Clubs.



## Uniform

At The Stanway School we believe that it is a valuable part of a child's education to learn to present him or herself publicly in a neat and appropriate manner. This is especially so in a formal environment such as a school or place of work. The high standards of appearance we expect at the Stanway School have a positive impact upon the standing of our school within the wider community. The name and reputation of our school will be associated with your son or daughter for the rest of their lives.

Our school uniform can be purchased from online from: [www.yourschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.yourschoolwear.co.uk). For a more comprehensive explanation of our uniform, please visit <https://stanway.essex.sch.uk/uniform/>.

## Student Progress

Throughout the year, teachers will assess the progress your child is making in all of their subjects to ensure that they are making at least the expected progress needed at each point on their learning journey. These progress reviews take place regularly as students move through the school and begin in Year 7. To help your child make progress, teachers will provide clear feedback on the specific skills, knowledge and concepts that they have demonstrated, as well as what areas specifically they need to focus on next to make further progress.

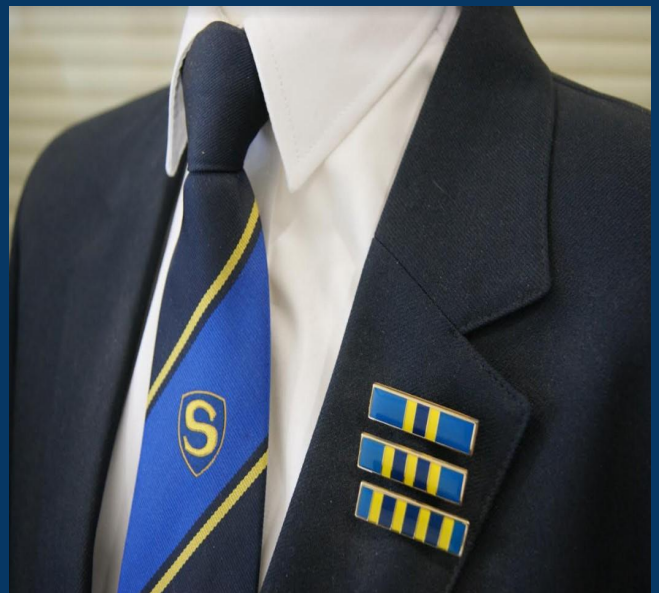
Every term, teachers will also assess your child's attitude to learning in all the subjects they are studying. This information is then available to parents or carers so that you can see how well they are doing or where we might have to work together to help support your child further.

## The Stanway Standard Awards

As an award for taking a positive approach to their learning, teachers will give out Standards Points, or perhaps award your child as 'Star Student' in a lesson. Standards points are awarded for students who demonstrate a commitment to their learning that goes above and beyond the normal expectation and exemplifies the 'Stanway Standard'.

## The Stanway Standard Ribbon - Single Stripe Awarded at The end of Year 7

In Order to be awarded the Single Stripe Ribbon students must demonstrate that they have conducted themselves in a productive, polite and helpful manner, exemplifying the Stanway Standard. This will be evidenced by the number of House Points, behaviour points and observations from staff and prefects. Students must show commitment and resilience towards their own learning and home learning. This is evidenced through the reporting cycle looking at the home learning and learner profile sections of the report. Students must also demonstrate how they have contributed to the wider Stanway School community, possibly through participating in school events, representing the school, being a long standing member of a school club or holding a position of responsibility.





## Transport

Home-to-school transport remains the responsibility of the Local Education Authority. Enquiries should be made to the County Planning Department at County Hall, Chelmsford on 0345 603 2200. In school, a member of staff has responsibility for school transport on a day-to-day basis.



Students travelling on contract buses must carry their tickets at all times so that they are available for inspection by the driver. Tickets are valid for a particular bus and are not transferable. Drivers have the right to refuse to carry students who do not show a valid, undamaged bus pass or may charge for their journey.

School staff supervise the arrival and departure of contract buses. Students who, for any reason, do not intend to return home on their regular bus must inform a member of staff on each occasion.



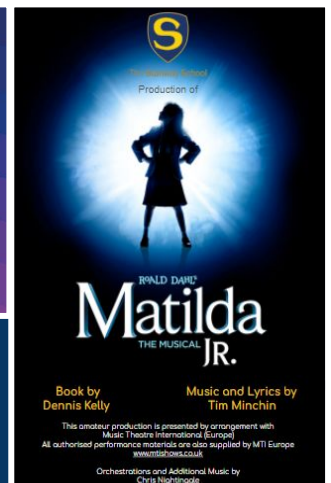
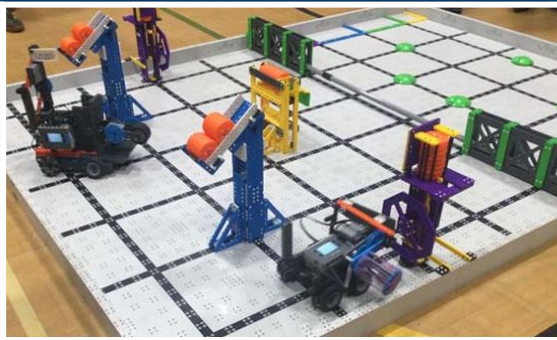
Students riding bicycles to school are asked to take great care at all times. During peak times - 8.20-8.35am and 3.10-3.30pm - they are requested to dismount and WALK their bicycles onto and from the premises via the side pedestrian gate. All students who ride to school are expected to wear a cycle helmet and show full consideration for pedestrians / other road users.



Students travelling by car: At peak travel times the road outside the school becomes particularly congested, especially when the buses are arriving and leaving. We request that in the interests of safety, parents transporting their son/daughter by car do not park in the immediate vicinity of the school or in the school car parks at the beginning and end of the day to avoid causing an obstruction for students, pedestrians, cyclists and bus drivers. Parents and carers can request a permit to bring a car onto the school site if necessary (please contact the School Reception for details).

*"Pupils at Stanway are polite, considerate and respectful. Leaders model high expectations." (Ofsted)*

# Extra Curricular Opportunities



The Stanway School has a rich tradition of extra-curricular activities. Whether your child is an aspiring musician, a charismatic performer, an ambitious sportsperson, an enthusiastic scientist, a budding author or even a keen RPG fan, we are sure we can find an opportunity for them!

Here you can see just a few of the extra-curricular activities that pupils have been getting involved with over the past few years at The Stanway School...





# Term Dates 2025-2026

## The Stanway School

### Term dates for Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
									1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
29	30																										

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4							1							1			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
														30	31												

May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																					31						

- = Schooldays
- = School holidays
- = Bank holidays
- = Weekends
- = Inset days

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 <i>Half Term 27 October – 31 October</i>	75 days
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 <i>Half Term 16 February - 20 February</i>	55 days
<b>Summer Term:</b>	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026 <i>Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May</i>	65 days
		195 days

“Pupils are offered a broad range of opportunities outside of the classroom. These include extra-curricular clubs such as science, technology, engineering and maths club. Pupils are encouraged to build character through their involvement in leadership roles, such as school councillors and mental health ambassadors.” (Ofsted)

# Our Facilities



Since opening in 1956 with just 183 students, the Stanway School has undergone a number of major transformations. By 1973 the school was officially a comprehensive school and had been re-named as The Stanway School with 56 full time teachers. Throughout the years the school continued to grow and now has almost 1400 students. Most recently, the 50 year old Gainsborough wing was demolished in 2018 to make way for our new Arts block. The school currently has three blocks of buildings, with a large playing field and 4G Muga pitch on the site. There are specialist rooms for all subjects, bespoke ICT suites and recently refurbished dining areas. Our facilities include:

- Tennis/Netball Courts
- Gymnasium
- Sports Hall
- 10 Science Laboratories
- 5 Computer Suites
- 3 Music Rooms
- 6 Music Practice Rooms
- 2 Art Rooms, incl ceramics / printing/ photography
- 1 Digital Arts Room
- 2 Design Technology (Food) Rooms
- 2 Design Technology (Graphics) Rooms
- 1 Design Technology (Electronics) Room
- 2 Design Technology Workshops
- 3 History Rooms
- 3 Geography Rooms
- 2 Religious Studies Rooms
- 2 Drama Studios
- 10 Mathematics Rooms
- 10 English Rooms
- 5 Modern Languages Rooms
- PE Fitness Suite
- Learning Resource Centre
- Reprographics and Printing Area
- 2 Learning Support Hubs
- New Dining Hall and Kitchen
- Atrium (additional dining area, assembly & production venue)
- 2 Outdoor food outlets
- Covered Outside Dining Areas

# Our Learning Resource Centre (LRC)



The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) plays a vital role in promoting the aims of the school and is located right at the centre of the main building to help students make the best use of the resources available to them. Students are able to access information for their schoolwork from reference books, specialist subject books, newspapers, magazines, journals and ICT facilities. We also stock fiction books to suit all reading ages and our classification system follows that of the Essex Public Library Service. Permission from a parent or guardian is required for students below Year 9 to read Young Adult (YA) or Adult fiction. Permission slips will be given to all Year 7 students at the start of the term. Every student is automatically a member of the LRC when they join The Stanway School.

Reading Club, for all years, is held in the LRC once a week at lunchtime. During the autumn and spring terms we read the Essex Book Award (EBA) books and in the summer term we 'Shadow the Carnegie'. Both awards are a fun time for all and include reading as many of the shortlisted books and voting for our group winner. Book Club members have the opportunity to attend the EBA award presentation and meet the author of the winning book. Authors who have won the award include Morris Gleitzman and Siobhan Dowd.

Students are encouraged to become members of the LRC Team who assist in the smooth running of the LRC during break and lunchtimes. Selected students in Year 10 can become Reading Coaches, undergoing training to enable them to support and assist younger students with their literacy skills.

The LRC is open daily and stays open at break, lunch and after school. Students can choose books and research homework tasks at these times. Students also use the LRC during lesson times, either as a whole class activity or in smaller groups. Reading lessons also take place in the LRC to help develop students' reading skills.

The school works closely with the Essex School Library Service which supports us with topic and artefact loans and professional advice on all matters relating to libraries.





# Our Curriculum

Each lesson is 60 minutes long and there are five lessons a day. There is a 2-week timetable for all year groups which totals to 50 lessons (see diagram below).

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students study the following core curriculum subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, DT (Design & Technology), Languages (French or German), Computing, Geography, History, RE (Religious Education), Art, Drama, Music, PE (Physical Education) and PDC (Personal Development & Citizenship).



During Year 9 students are given the opportunity to choose which subjects to continue with to GCSE from the beginning of Year 10. In Years 10 and 11, in addition to the core subjects already mentioned for study, there are choices such as Construction, Child Development, Media Studies, Travel & Tourism, Health & Social Care, Business Studies, Graphic Design and PE. (Our offer may change in line with Government Guidance.)

## Our Year 7 Curriculum:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
English							Mathematics							
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Science							Physical Education				Religious Education		Personal Development & Citizenship	
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41			
History			Geography			Languages				Computer Science				
42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50						
Art		Drama		Music		Design & Technology								

\* Selected students will have a combination of Language lessons and some supportive Literacy lessons. Within Language lessons, students will be taught a modern foreign language such as French, German or Spanish (the languages available depends upon curriculum and staffing constraints). For further details about our curriculum offer, including some detail about the content being delivered in each subject area, please visit the following web address: <https://stanway.essex.sch.uk/curriculum-main-page/>.

*"Leaders are committed to improving opportunities for pupils. Governors and trustees have a clear understanding of the changing needs of the community... Leaders act quickly when pupils require support." (Ofsted)*

# The School Day

A typical day begins at 08:40, with students arriving to a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Our morning registration period provides an opportunity for students to connect with their form tutors and discuss any concerns or questions. In these registration sessions, students have a range of activities across the week, including a year group Assembly, PSHE sessions, Votes for Schools and Literacy programmes.

Lessons follow, each carefully planned to inspire curiosity and critical thinking. Each lesson is 60 minutes long. and We understand the importance of breaks, and our students enjoy a break mid-morning, providing a chance to relax, socialise, and recharge. Lunchtime is a social highlight, with a variety of options available across our food outlets and a number of clubs being available for students every day. Our extensive grounds also offer the perfect space for outdoor activities.

Extra-curricular activities are a cornerstone of our school, and students have the opportunity to explore their passions in areas such as sports, arts, music, and drama.

8.40am - 9.05am	Morning Registration/Assembly
9.05am - 10.05am	Lesson 1
10.05am - 11.05am	Lesson 2
11.05am - 11.30am	BREAK
11.30am - 12.30pm	Lesson 3
12.30am - 1.30pm	Lesson 4
1.30pm - 2.10pm	LUNCH
2.10pm - 3.10pm	Lesson 5



Our school day concludes at 15:10 leaving ample time for homework, hobbies, and family time. We believe in creating a harmonious balance between academic achievement and personal well-being, ensuring that our students thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Across the year and beyond their usual curriculum, students have a number of special event days, such as Enterprise Challenge Days, Careers Days, Interhouse events, STEM subject days and our annual Sports Day.

Every day is a busy day at The Stanway School.

*"The student voice is taken seriously at Stanway. The views of pupils are considered carefully and directly influence the programme content for PSHE. The careers curriculum is well sequenced, and leadership of this area is strong. There are planned opportunities for pupils to experience apprenticeships, further education, and work experience placements." (Ofsted)*

# Sport At Stanway



At The Stanway School all students study Physical Education throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, as well as having the opportunity to study a formal PE qualification through the option process.

Our aim is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, encompassing team games (netball, football, rugby, basketball, hockey, volleyball, badminton, tennis, cricket and rounders), athletics, gymnastics and outdoor pursuits (Year 7 Danbury Camp, problem-solving activities and orienteering).

Within this framework, we strive to ensure that each student acquires the knowledge, skill and understanding appropriate to their stage of learning and physical development. Students are actively encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and to take on leadership roles within lessons. Sport for all and the pursuit of excellence is the ethos of the department.

Extra-curricular activities are considered a fundamental part of our PE Department's work and we aim to provide all interested individuals with the opportunities to participate in clubs at either a competitive or recreational level. A variety of clubs are run throughout the year and students of all abilities and experiences are welcome to attend. Below is a list of regular activities:

Netball \*

Gymnastics

Tennis

Football (boys & girls) \*

Rounders \*

Trampolining

Rugby \*

Tag Rugby \*

Cross Country \*

Badminton

Fitness

Basketball\*

Cricket (boys & girls)\*

Athletics \*

Golf\*

Table Tennis \*

Dance

Volleyball

Clubs marked with an \* have teams that enter inter-school and district/national level competitions. Throughout the year the department runs various inter-house activities. This culminates in the annual Sports Day with points contributing to the inter-house trophy at the end of the year. Sporting facilities at The Stanway School include sports hall, gymnasium, eight tennis and netball courts, a multi-use games area and a large playing field which is marked for football, rugby and hockey in the winter and all athletics events, rounders and cricket in the summer.



*"By the end of key stage 4, many groups of pupils achieved significantly better than their peers nationally in English, Mathematics, Science and the Humanities subjects"*  
**(Ofsted)**

# Our House Structure

Despite pastoral teams working in Year Groups from September 2020, The Stanway School continues to hold on to our tradition of our five Houses – Gainsborough, Nightingale, Rutherford, Shakespeare and Wellington. When students join the school they are placed in a form group in one of these houses. They will normally stay in this form for the duration of their time at the school. This system provides continuity for both students and parents as the form tutor remains the first point of contact during their time at the school.



Throughout the school year inter-house competitions are organised and students will be expected to take part in as many events as possible. The winners of each competition are awarded a house trophy, which is then placed on display. Another important role of the Houses is to raise funds and awareness for chosen charities. Each House organises events during the year from individual sponsored silences to whole school runs. We hope that everyone gets involved and tries new activities in the spirit of coming together as a community to compete, challenge and learn.

## Gainsborough



Named after Thomas Gainsborough, the famous local portrait and landscape artist, born in Sudbury, Suffolk in 1727, and one of the original three Houses here at Stanway.

**Head of House: Mrs Charlotte Spurr.**

## Nightingale



The Nightingale house has been established since the 2017/18 academic year and is named after one of England's most inspiring women in history – Florence Nightingale (The "Lady with the Lamp").

**Head of House: Miss Elise Conway**

## Rutherford



Rutherford House is named after the famous scientist Ernest Rutherford who was known as the father of nuclear physics and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1908.

**Head of House: Mr Sam Johnson**

## Shakespeare



Shakespeare House is one of the original three Houses at Stanway, formed in 2001 and is named after the famous poet, playwright and actor, William Shakespeare.

**Head of House: Mr Celyn Evans**

## Wellington



Named after perhaps Britain's greatest military hero and the victorious General from the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, the 'Iron Duke' is also one of the three original Houses at Stanway.

**Head of House: Miss Laura Parker.**

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## **Q: I live *HERE*/my child goes to *THIS SCHOOL* – will they get in this year?**

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 2024. as late applications are likely to hinder the possibility of your child being awarded a place. Please visit our school website for a map of Stanway's Priority Admissions Area and other details:

(<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. For further information, please visit <https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-transport>.

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

You will hear on the 1st March 2025 whether you have a place. In the 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. 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. 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.





**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: 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/>

**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. 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 earlier we know about the issue, the sooner we can deal with it. Every member of staff is sufficiently trained to log any safeguarding incidents or concerns, which are then elevated immediately to a designated member of the Senior Leadership Team.



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

Lockers are available, but padlocks will 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 payments 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 3:10, student's phones are not to be seen or heard the entire time (this includes break and lunch times). We request that all phones are put into school bags. If a phone is seen or heard, it is confiscated for the remainder of the school day then returned to the student at the end of the day.

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

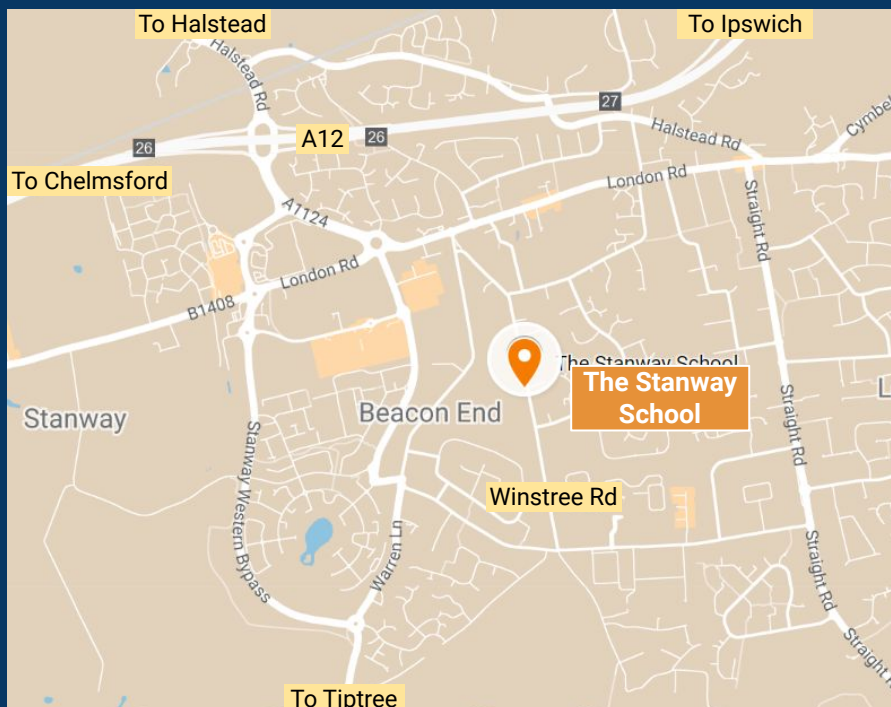
If a student becomes unwell during the school day, they must tell their teacher or form tutor. There are fully trained first aid staff available at Student Services. If your child needs to be collected you will be telephoned directly. Children should not contact parents directly since this can create 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 at the following web address: [www.stanway.essex.sch.uk/policies-procedures/](http://www.stanway.essex.sch.uk/policies-procedures/).



*"Leaders ensure that the curriculum is well sequenced. It is ambitious for all pupils. Teachers have good subject knowledge. They present and model information precisely. Assessment is generally used effectively and enables pupils to identify gaps in their understanding. As a result, pupils know more and remember more." (Ofsted)*



## The Stanway School

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The Stanway School is a mixed, 11-16 Humanities and Maths & Computing College