



Admissions – Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ – Year 7 Admissions Applications

Why us?

- Our Christian Vision of Belong, Be More, Be Esher is the heart of what we do each day.
- Our focus on the formal curriculum, the wider curriculum, routines, and habits are rooted in a philosophy to educate the whole child and educate for life, not just for a set of exams.
- We have a Year 7 transition program that includes 1 full induction day in summer term and 2 days of summer camp fun activities during the summer holiday.
- We have a Year 7 only playground and Year 7s eat early lunch before the rest of the school.
- Our pastoral support is exceptional. We have a team of 4 student wellbeing coordinators non-teaching safeguarding staff. One is attached to 2 tutor groups to help year 7 settle and get to know them.
- Year 7 students are supported by trained Peer Mentors from Year 10 and Year 11, a friendly face and ear to help them navigate the challenges of high school and teenage years. The mentoring from older students is greatly appreciated by our Year 7s.
- We offer a wider range of subjects at GCSE than any other local school, offering vocational courses to give breadth. These include catering, construction, creative media, health and social care.
- Our wider curriculum is far reaching, it includes the Arts (Art, Drama and Music), PE and Sports Teams, Design and Technology, Cooking, Robotics, Debating, Chess, Coding, Creative writing and many more.
- As a large established secondary school, we have a great track record of results.

Will I get in? Over the past two years, everyone who designated Esher High School as their first or second choice place, was made an offer. We would strongly advise following this guidance to avoid being offered a place further away/out of the area. In previous years, anyone outside the catchment ie, those who are in criteria 11 (anyone who wants a place) have been allocated.

How do waiting lists work? If an applicant does not get their first-choice school, they will remain on the waiting list.

For example, an applicant has choices of 1st School A, 2nd School B, 3rd School C. They are allocated School C so will remain on the list for School A and School B. If they are then allocated School A, they will be removed from the School B list as they have been allocated a preference higher than School B. If they are allocated School B they will then remain on School A list.

Are there school buses provided? School buses run from the catchment area to school or the K3 public bus for Claygate. Out of the catchment (ie, Walton) there is a public bus - the 663. If a student lives more

than 3 miles WALKING and we are the closest school, they should get a free pass otherwise the parent may have to pay. Surrey County Council manage the school transport service so any questions should be directed to the SCC team on travel.assist@surreycc.gov.uk – 0300 200 1004.

What are the deadlines? Applications need to be in by 31 October. Late applications may be accepted up to around 10 December with legitimate reasons for being late. After that they would automatically go on the waiting list whatever their priority on the admissions criteria.

FAQ's General

What is your average class size? In general, pupils are taught in classes of 30 for the majority of their curriculum. Some GCSE options classes are smaller than this. Design & Technology groups are also smaller due to the limits of the practical spaces.

What subjects do you stream and is this based on SAT results? We generally do not stream our students; the tutor groups are mixed ability. However, we do set in Maths from October Half term of Year 7. This is primarily informed by in-school assessments as well as pupil knowledge. These are relatively 'broad' sets however, and setting remains dynamic and with some movement after assessments, depending on the data. We then set broadly in English and Science for GCSEs.

How do we stretch the most able? We have expert subject teachers in every classroom who benefit from dedicated department CPD to develop best practice for teaching in that subject. We also organise trips to Universities and Colleges and offer mentors and programs to experience life at university.

Oh, and we also offer after-school lessons in Latin.

How is our SEND provision structured? We have a dedicated SENCO who is an Assistant Headteacher who delivers whole staff training on best practice to support all learners and their needs. Our team of LSAs, who have been working at the school for a long time, know the school and students very well.

Those children with special educational needs will follow their own plan, which goes through a review cycle and is adjusted during the student's time with us. And for children with significant needs, we will tailor their curriculum to build essential skills.

We engage with external agencies to provide support, eg, Speech and Language Therapist, STIPS (Specialist teachers for inclusive practice). We also give 1:1 support, training and advice for staff.