



Admissions – Frequently Asked Questions FAQ

Year 7 Admissions Applications

Why us?

- Our Christian Vision of Belong, Be More, Be Esher is at 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 have an early lunch break before the rest of the school.
- Our pastoral support is exceptional. We have a team of 4 student wellbeing coordinators, non-teaching safeguarding staff who are attached to the Year 7 year group.
- 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 in addition to exceptional teaching of the core subjects, English, Maths and Science.
- 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?

Applications are allocated according to our oversubscription criteria in our Admissions Policy - we no longer operate a catchment area. Please refer to our website for a copy or contact our admissions manager – erobertson@esherhigh.surrey.sch.uk

Please note, all feeder schools are given equal consideration under the admissions process. However, if we have more children meeting the same criterion, places will be allocated based on the distance from home to school. The system allocates places starting with the closest distance and works outward from there.

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. The waitlist is ordered in accordance with our admissions criteria.

Are there school buses provided?

There are a number of buses bringing our students to school every day. For more information, please visit our website [Esher Church of England High School - School Transport](#). 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 for a place on a school bus. 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.

How is our SEND provision structured?

We have a dedicated SENCO who is an Assistant Headteacher. Whole staff training is delivered 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.

If you have any questions regarding our SEND provision, please take a look at our SEND FAQs page using this [link](#).