

Admissions FAQ

Q. What are the admissions criteria for a place at The Gilbert School?

A. Where applications exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will apply:

273 PLACES FOR:

1. Looked After Children/Children in Care
2. Children of teaching and non-teaching staff
3. Sibling link
4. Student's eligible for Service Pupil Premium (SPP)
5. Straight line distance from the child's home address

15 PLACES FOR:

Children attending Boxted St Peter's CEVC Primary School or Langham Primary School

32 PLACES FOR:

Children with the highest scores in our musical aptitude test



Admissions FAQ

Q. What is the 'catchment area' of The Gilbert School?

A. We no longer use a catchment area. We do use straight line distance to prioritise applications.

For our **Year 7 September 2025** intake, the maximum distance from which applicants were accepted was **1.165 miles**.

Last offers reduced by distance as follows:

2024 1.177 miles

2023 0.913 miles

2022 0.941 miles

2021 0.737 miles

2020 0.998 miles



Admissions FAQ

- Q. Why has The Gilberd School introduced Musical Aptitude as part of their admissions policy?**
- A. The school is one which has traditionally been strong in the arts and in particular, Music. Despite the national decline in Music in schools, we have continued to invest in our Arts department. We feel it is important to maintain this crucial area of school life.



Admissions FAQ

Q. Do I need to submit a 'Supplementary Information Form'?

A. The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) is for those parents/carers in the Colchester Borough or Tendring area applying for a place on behalf of their child under Criterion C (musical aptitude).

There will be up to 32 places in Year 7 allocated under this criteria.
Tests will take place week beginning Monday 6th October 2025.



Admissions FAQ

Q. When do I need to submit the Supplementary Information Form by?

A. Thursday 25th September 2025. Please place in the box on the Admissions stand or by email to admissions@gilberd.com

Remember you still need to put The Gilbert School as your first preference on your Common Application Form (second preference if you are applying for the 11+).



Admissions FAQ

Q. When will the musical aptitude tests take place?

A. All tests will take place during week beginning Monday 6th October 2025 and the results sent to you via email expressed as a position out of the total students who sat the test e.g. 8 of 98. The highest 32 students will receive an offer. If 11+ students who have also sat the aptitude tests are successful at gaining a place at a Grammar School, we will offer their position to number 33 on the list until all 32 spaces are filled.



Admissions FAQ

- Q. I have put The Gilbert School down as my second preference as I wish my child to sit the selection (11+) exam, will that jeopardise my chance of a place with The Gilbert School if my child does not pass?**
- A. No. Your child will be placed on each of your chosen school(s) waiting list according to their individual admission criteria. School Admissions will offer the highest preference that can be met.**



Admissions FAQ

Q. How do I apply for a secondary school place for my child?

A. You will need to complete an online application at:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>



Admissions FAQ

Q. Is there a deadline for sending back the application forms to School Admissions?

A. Yes, the closing date for applications for entry to Year 7 in September 2026 is **31st October 2025.**

We will let you know the outcome of the Music Aptitude tests before this date.



Admissions FAQ

Q. What if I move house whilst waiting for a place?

A. Please let School Admissions know immediately, together with verification of your new address. If you move nearer the school, this could change your position on the waiting list for your chosen school or affect transport needs.



Admissions FAQ

- Q. When will I hear that my child has a place at a secondary school?**
- A.** The National Offer date is Monday 2nd March 2026. If you do not hear from School Admissions by Friday 6th March 2026 you should contact the Local Authority School Admissions Team on 0345 603 2200.



Admissions FAQ

Q. Can I put The Gilberd School down as a preference even if I do not live in the area?

A. Yes, but you may receive a refusal letter. However, you will be added to our waiting list by School Admissions.

If applying under the musical aptitude criteria, distance is irrelevant as long as you reside within the Colchester Borough or Tendring area.



Admissions FAQ

Q. How long does The Gilberd School keep a Year 7 waiting list for once the Autumn Term has started?

A. The waiting list for Year 7 is held until the end of the Autumn Term. (The waiting list is provided by Essex County Council School Admissions. All applications on the waiting list are ranked according to the Admissions Policy).

After this date it is your responsibility to notify us in writing if you wish to remain on the waiting list.

