



Westcliff High School for Girls

Open Evening – June 2026 Frequently Asked Questions

Can you tell me what WHSG's ethos is?

The ethos of the school is centred on providing a broad and balanced education that nurtures curiosity and personal growth. The school fosters an ambitious and challenging environment where high expectations inspire all students to strive for excellence. This commitment to achievement and strong outcomes reflects the school's dedication to preparing learners for success both academically and in life.

What is the curriculum model at WHSG?

At key stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9), students study a broad curriculum of 17 subjects. Following option choices in Year 9, we challenge students academically by introducing them to elements of GCSE content. Similarly, we introduce A-level concepts during key stage 4. Early exposure provides intellectual challenge, stimulates curiosity, and encourages deeper engagement with more advanced material. By accessing higher-level concepts early, students are better prepared for the demands of exams and further academic progression. In the Sixth Form, students choose to study three or four A-levels, and many also complete an Extended Project qualification. We are proud of our examination results, which can be found on the website.

How many girls are there in a year group?

From 2026 the intake will be 192.

What languages are offered?

All students will study both French and Spanish in Years 7, 8 and 9. There is an expectation that students will study either French, Spanish or both for GCSE in Years 10 and 11. They may choose to continue their language studies in the Sixth Form.

Will my child study different science subjects?

All students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate sciences from Year 9 onwards and continue to study these subjects at GCSE level and beyond if they wish.

Do we set?

We set in Mathematics in Years 8 to 11 and in science in Years 10 and 11.

How is success celebrated?

At WHSG we want to see the students excelling and demonstrating our four key values: leadership, scholarship, enrichment, and kindness. Students are awarded points for demonstrating these values within the school day and these equate to badges and awards.

What is the pastoral system?

The first point of contact for your child is their form tutor. This member of staff plays a central pastoral and academic role. They support the wellbeing and personal development of each student in their tutor group, building positive relationships, monitoring academic progress, upholding standards, and providing guidance on school routines and expectations. Their consistent presence helps ensure students feel known, cared for, and supported throughout their school journey. Form tutors are supported by a robust pastoral team including Heads of Year and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

What is the House System?

There are four houses, Bohun, Bourchier, Devereux and Mandeville – these are based on the four Earls of Essex. Each student is placed in a house. If a parent or sibling was at WHSG then we aim to put them in the same house. Students compete in array of events throughout the year, and thrive on the opportunity to earn points for their house in their quest to win the house cup.

Can my child take music or LAMDA lessons?

Yes! We would encourage this. Prices vary and a letter is sent out with the welcome pack that is sent to students when they arrive in Year 7.

My child is worried about getting lost

This is a common concern shared by many of our new students. Our students are incredibly supportive and will help Year 7 students if they get lost. Your child will be with their form group for all their lessons so will always have friends with them. As part of their induction they will have tasks that support them finding their way around school.

I am concerned that my child could be the only child from her school to get a place at WHSG

On average our Year 7 students come from over 100 primary schools. We invest time helping them to settle in and make new friends. This includes the Year 6 transition day before they leave primary school and a number of days in their first week in September. We find pupils soon make new friends with others who share similar interests.

Will my child get course outlines for each subject?

Curriculum documents for each subject can be found on the school website. These documents are reviewed periodically. There is also reference to a range of resources available.

How much homework will my child get?

In the region of one to one and a half hours per night. Homework is assigned on Edulink, a comprehensive school information platform accessible to all students.

What Clubs are there?

Lots! A timetable is given to students in September. There is a wealth of information regarding our extra-curricular provision on our website under Curriculum -> Extra Curricular Activities (Clubs).

Admissions**How do I apply to WHSG?**

Complete the online application to register with the CSSE (Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex) to take the 11+. If the online application system is closed you can still apply, but you need to use the printed form which can be found in the CSSE Booklet. The selection test will be held on Saturday, 19th September 2026.

What is the minimum 11+ score needed in order to gain a place at WHSG?

The minimum score to gain a place at WHSG is 303, in area places are allocated in rank order. The raw scores from the English and Mathematics papers are separately standardised, age adjusted and then combined (50% each) to create the final score. The out of area places are allocated in rank order to those meeting the criteria. Last year, the lowest score for the out of area pupils on National Offer Day was 332.

Is my child eligible for 'Preferential Consideration'?

For September 2027 (i.e. current Year 5 pupils in primary schools) 15 places in area and four places out of area are prioritised for pupils entitled to preferential consideration; these are children with an EHCP, Looked After Children, previously Looked After Children and those entitled to Free School Meals. A full definition can be found in the notes at the end of the 'Admissions Criteria and Arrangements for Entry 2026'.

What is the application process?

Results of the tests will be sent on Monday 12th October (after the close of business). You will receive information to help you choose a school for your child and allow you time to assess whether your child has a realistic chance of securing a selective place. Once your child's results are known, you should complete the secondary school application form provided (or online form) from the authority where you live, no later than 31st October 2026. If you live outside of Southend City Council you will need to use your own Local Authority form, but make sure you list WHSG among your preferences. If you put another school above WHSG and you fulfil that school's criteria, you will be allocated that school should space be available. If you move into the priority area, Southend City Council must be advised by the closing date of **20th November 2026**. Further information is available on their website.

Can we still obtain a place at WHSG if we put you as second choice?

Yes – if the school you give preference to is oversubscribed and you do not meet the criteria (i.e. your child may not have scored highly enough in their test or you live too far away), your child may still have scored highly enough to be offered a place at WHSG.

Are practice papers available?

Sample practice papers are available free-of-charge on the CSSE website (csse.org.uk) along with full details of the application process. You may also purchase additional past papers through the CSSE.

What are your arrangements for SEND pupils?

When registering your child for the 11+ you can communicate any medical conditions or access arrangement requirements. The CSSE publish a deadline for this information to be shared. Adjustments are made in accordance with the Equalities Act (2010) with reference to independent specialist advisors, whose decision will be binding on the CSSE and candidates. At school we have a SENDCo, Mrs Wilkin, who can provide specific advice this evening.

Travel**Can you give me information about transport?**

There are a range of transport providers and routes administered by the CSSE. Further details are on the CSSE website. We also have students that travel on the C2C railway line. The nearest station is Chalkwell, which is a 15-minute walk from school. Sixth Form students using this line may purchase discounted season tickets; details are available on our school website.

If students use the Greater Anglia line to Southend Victoria, there are bus routes available for their onward journey to school. A map showing the transport routes to WHSG is available to view this evening.