

Sutton Grammar School

Sutton, United Kingdom



A 1899 south London boys' grammar where Olympiad-trained mathematicians and 2,000 annual 11+ hopefuls chase 150 places.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	61/100
Academic outcomes	66/100
University placement	63/100
Prestige & heritage	60/100
Alumni network	59/100
Facilities	55/100
Transparency	52/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Sutton Grammar School occupies a very specific corner of the London market: a selective state day school for academically strong boys aged 11–18, with a co-educational sixth form and a scale that matters. Founded in 1899, it takes ****150**** boys a year at 11+ and adds about ****50**** external students into Year 12. That combination gives it two advantages. First, entry is fiercely contested, which sets the academic pace from the start. Second, the sixth form is not a closed shop, which keeps the senior years outward-looking. With ****1,034**** pupils on roll in 2022, including ****355**** in the sixth form, this is not a tiny grammar trading on intimacy; it is a substantial, established institution with enough depth to support serious subject teaching and a broad extracurricular life. The draw is clear: **hard academic competition**,

public exam ambition, and a school culture that expects boys to keep up.

What marks Sutton Grammar out is not pastoral rhetoric but academic seriousness. The school itself leads with “record-breaking results” and “the strongest performance in the school’s history”, and its own tagline points to Olympiad-trained mathematicians. That matters. It signals a school that prizes stretch, not mere competence. Parents looking for a grammar where able pupils can disappear into the middle of the pack should look elsewhere; Sutton works for boys who want to test themselves against strong peers and who do not need constant hand-holding. The student-teacher ratio of **14:1** and average class size of **27** tell a mixed story: this is not boutique education, but neither is it impersonal. Expect *serious classrooms*, *a brisk pace*, and teachers used to teaching able students at scale.

It belongs on a shortlist for families who want selective education without independent-school fees, and who value outcomes, structure and intellectual edge over polish. The best fit is a boy with strong underlying academic confidence, high tolerance for competition, and genuine appetite for subjects rather than just marks. By sixth form, it also suits girls and boys who want entry into an established academic environment with a substantial peer group. The less suitable candidate is the child who needs a soft landing, extensive therapeutic pastoral scaffolding, or a school that defines itself through sport, performance or glossy campus life. Sutton Grammar offers something else: *earned confidence*, *high expectations*, and a *close-knit* but demanding culture. For the right student, that is exactly the point.

STRENGTHS

- Selective state grammar admitting around 150 students per year
- A co-educational sixth form adding about 50 extra places each year
- Free, English-medium 11–18 British curriculum
- Student-teacher ratio of 14:1 is relatively favourable
- Facilities include a historic main hall dating to 1899 and a sports hall, with off-site playing fields in Cheam

TRADE-OFFS

- Average class size is 27, not especially small
- Selective entry at 11 limits accessibility for newcomers
- Boys-only until sixth form, which may not suit families wanting co-education from 11
- Public materials emphasise academics over pastoral and personal-development detail

ADMISSIONS

Sutton Grammar School is a selective state day school for boys aged 11-18, with the main entry at Year 7 (age 11). The school states that it admits 150 students per year and also takes about 50 additional students (male and female) into Year 12; the sixth form is co-educational, so girls may join at that stage. The website refers prospective families to a Selective Eligibility Test registration page, which strongly indicates that Year 7 admission is via the local grammar-school testing route, though the assessment format is not fully set out in the public materials. Sixth-form entry is available for external applicants, though published detail on any testing or grade thresholds is limited.

Parents should expect the usual need to track registration and local authority timelines carefully via the admissions pages. As a state academy, tuition is free; no bursary or means-tested financial aid information is relevant in this context. The distinctive point is straightforward: selective entry at 11+, then a notable second intake into a co-educational sixth form.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_3f1f8f1459.