



(formerly South London Jewish Primary School)

2018 Admissions Policy

Written:	March 2014	Reviewed:	February 2017
Approved:		Review Due:	March 2018

Admission Criteria 2018

Determined by the Governing Board on 15th March 2017

As our school has an ethos of inclusiveness and diversity it is important that our admission policy is structured in a way to help achieve a balance between children local to the school and those of Jewish faith from across the south and south west of London. We believe that the split between open and faith based places, as set out below is an effective way to achieve this. With regard to the faith based places, we have developed a broad and inclusive criteria for “Jewishness” that reflects our cross-community and pluralistic ethos and perspective. We want a school where everyone feels welcome and at home and our admissions criteria are intended to encourage this as much as possible. We are committed to a process that is transparent.

PLANNED ADMISSION NUMBERS

The school has an agreed admissions number of 60 pupils for entry into Reception in 2018.

CHILDREN WITH A STATEMENT OF SEN

The school will admit all pupils with a statement of SEN which names the school. If undersubscribed, the school will admit all applicants.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

If oversubscribed, the school will admit children under one of the two categories:

1. Faith based places
2. Open places

Category 1 – Faith based places

Up to 50% of places will be offered to children who satisfy any of the criteria below.

All aspects have equal weight:

1. Membership of a Jewish prayer group for at least 6 months in the 12 months before the application closing date.

2. Attendance by a parent / carer or child at a minimum of 4 synagogue or other organised Jewish prayer group services in the 12 months before the application closing date
3. A child's enrolment in any formal Jewish education for at least 6 months in the 12 months before the application closing date.
4. A parent /carer's regular (at least monthly) involvement as a volunteer in any Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activity of at least a year's duration in the 2 years before the application closing date.
5. A parent /carer's regular (at least 6 individual occurrences) involvement in any combination of the following in the year before the application closing date.
 - i. Private or family celebration of Shabbat or Jewish festivals.
 - ii. Organised Jewish learning (e g London Jewish Cultural Centre courses, Limmud sessions, Jewish Museum courses).
 - iii. Jewish youth movement activities.
 - iv. Organised Jewish community activities (eg Mitzvah Day, Jewish Community Centre events, Jewish Book Week events).

Applicants for faith based places must complete the school's Supplementary Information Form and provide the appropriate evidence.

Under category (e), for (i) evidence is required in the form of a letter from a non-family member who was actually present. Each event must have its own separate letter and author. For (ii), (iii) and (iv) evidence should be in the form of a letter from the organisation involved.

Where there is oversubscription the following order of priority will be used to distinguish between applicants:

Category 1 – Faith places

After the admission of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

Looked after children and those who ceased to be children looked after because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order (note 1);

Children with a professionally supported exceptional medical or social need for a place at the school as decided by the Governing Board (note 2);

Brothers and sisters of children on the roll of the school on the date of admission (note 3);

Children in order of straight-line distance from home to school as measured by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System (note 4).

Category 2 – Open Places

Remaining places will be offered in the following order, without reference to faith:

After the admission of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school, places will be allocated in the following order of priority”

Looked after children and those who ceased to be children looked after because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order (note 1);

Children with a professionally supported exceptional medical or social need for a place at the school as decided by the Governing Board (note 2);

Brothers and sisters of children on the roll of the school on the date of admission (note 3);

Children in order of straight line distance from home to school as measured by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System (note 4).

TIE BREAK

Where two applications have equal weighting, they will be considered in order of straight-line distance from home to school as measured by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System (note 4).

If 2 children live an equal distance from the school (e.g. in a block of flats), the available place will be given using a means of random allocation.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications, other than those from Looked After or Previously Looked After Children will be considered after on time applications. Where places are not

available, applicants will be placed on the relevant waiting list in the order of the oversubscription.

WAITING LISTS

Where in any year the School receives more applications for places than there are places available a waiting list will be maintained by Wandsworth until the end of August 2017. Any allocation of places from the waiting list will be in strict order of the oversubscription criteria.

Applications for in-year admission must be made on the Local Authority Common Application Form.

APPEALS AND ADHERENCE TO REGULATION AND CODES:

Parents who wish to appeal an admission decision with respect to their child have a right to appeal. The Governing Board will establish an Independent Appeal Panel and appeals should be made to the Wandsworth Education Appeals Service educationappeals@wandsworth.gov.uk. We intend to fully comply with the procedures and practices of the Local Authority in which the school is located.

We are committed to abiding by all relevant regulations, codes and laws that pertain to admissions, including the Social Admissions code, the School Admission Appeals code and admissions law as it applies to maintained schools.

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN BELOW COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE AND DEFERRED ENTRY TO SCHOOL

Children will normally be admitted to the reception year in the September following their fourth birthday.

In line with the Admissions Code, parents can defer their child's entry to the reception year until later in the school year, where they have been offered a place at a school to start before they are of compulsory school age. Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. However, entry cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the final term of the Reception Year. Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until he/she reaches compulsory school age.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Children will normally be admitted to the reception year in the September following their fourth birthday and the vast majority of pupils are educated within their normal chronological age group. Any request for admission outside of the child's chronological year of entry will be considered in accordance with paragraphs 2.17-2.17B of the Admissions Code. Such requests would normally apply to children that

are summer born and there are significant reasons that would benefit the child's academic, social and emotional development by starting Reception in the following year as opposed to Year 1.

The school's Governing Board will consider requests on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The headteacher's views will also be taken into account. Each case must be supported by a letter from a professional (e.g. GP, Hospital Consultant, Social Worker) that provides the reasons for admissions outside of the chronological year group. If the request is approved, the application will then be considered in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria in the event of oversubscription.

Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at the school but this right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

NOTES

1. A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989. Children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted are as defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or those who became subject to a residence order (under section 8 of the terms of the Children act 1989) or special guardianship order (under section 14A of the Children Act 1989).
2. Applications made on acute medical grounds must be supported by a current letter from a specialist health professional. Applications made on exceptional social grounds must be supported by a current letter from a social worker or other care professional working with the family. The letters must give reasons why the child's condition or circumstances make it necessary for the child to attend the school and the difficulties that would be caused if they had to attend an alternative school. If this information is not provided by the application closing date, the application will not be considered under this criterion.
3. A sibling is defined as a full brother or sister, a step/half brother or sister living at the same address, a child who is living at the same address as part of the family, by reason of a court order, or a child who has been placed with foster carers as a result of being looked after by a local authority.

4. The permanent address of the parent/guardian with whom the child is living on the closing date for applications will be used for this purpose. A childminder's address will not be accepted. In the case of parents who have shared responsibility for a child following the breakdown of their relationship and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the address at which the child lives for most of the week will be used for this purpose. If a child spends an equal amount of time at both addresses, the address that is registered with the child's GP will be used. Distance is measured by Wandsworth Borough Council on behalf of the school, using the GIS computerised system. Measurements produced by alternative measuring systems will not be taken into account in any circumstances. The distance is measured from the applicant's home to the front gates of the school, using a straight line measurement. The school reserves the right to verify applicants' addresses with primary schools and electoral registers.