

27 November 2019

## **Goldfinch Primary Admission Arrangements Consultation for the year 2021-22**

Goldfinch Primary and Dunraven Educational Trust are currently determining admission arrangements for Goldfinch Primary for the 2021-22 academic year. As determined by the School Admissions Code (2014), we are required to consult on these arrangements, and are inviting comments on the proposed changes. The consultation will run from **28 November 2019 to 17 January 2020**.

The proposed Admissions Policy is attached and/or is available on the school's website <https://www.goldfinchprimary.org.uk/1303/key-information/category/36/admissions>. The proposed changes or points of clarification to the policy are summarised below. All other admission arrangements remain unchanged.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES**

#### ***Published Admissions Number (PAN)***

The Governing Body proposes reducing the PAN for Reception entry from 75 to 60. There will be no change to existing year groups at the school. Projections show that there will be sufficient school places available in the local area if the PAN is reduced. Should the demand for places increase the Governing Body will consider raising the PAN in the future. The Local Authority supports the proposal for the reduction in the PAN.

#### ***Siblings (Oversubscription Criterion)***

The existing criteria has been moved from third to second priority. Clarification of the existing criteria to state that siblings does not include cousins or other relatives. The policy previously included 'a child who is living as part of the family by reason of a court order'.

#### ***Medical and/or Social Reasons (Oversubscription Criterion)***

The existing criteria has been moved from second to third priority. The evidence requested for consideration under this criteria has also been amended.

#### ***NEW - Children of Staff at the School (Oversubscription Criterion)***

The Governing Body is proposing the introduction of an additional oversubscription criteria which would allow the admission of children of staff at the school. This is in accordance with paragraph 1.39 of the School Admissions Code (2014).

#### ***Home Address***

For 'shared living arrangements' the distance to the Home measured as nearest to the School will be used. Previous definition stated 'the address where the child spends the majority of the week should be used by parents for the school application'.

#### ***Oversubscription Within Criteria***

If there are more applications than places within any criterion, the remaining criteria will be used to sort applications into priority order. Previous policy stated 'If there are more applications than places within any criterion, applications will be considered in order of straight line distance.'

#### ***Late Applications***

Clarification of wording to state that late applications will be processed after National Offer Day after all on-time applicants have been considered for a place.



**Waiting List**

The waiting list will be maintained until 31 December in the school year of admission, in accordance with paragraph 2.14 of the School Admissions Code (2014).

**SUBMITTING FEEDBACK**

If you wish to comment on the proposed changes to our admission arrangements, please send your response by email or post to:

FAO: **Mr Jason White, Admissions and Appeals Officer**

Email: **info@det.org.uk**

Post: **Dunraven Educational Trust, 94-98 Leigham Court Road, London SW16 2QB**

Comments should be received by no later than **Friday 17 January 2020**

Once the public consultation has ended the Governing Body will consider all feedback to the proposed admissions arrangements and will make recommendations for final changes, where relevant. The final admissions arrangements will be determined by 28 February 2020 and will be published on the school's website by 15 March 2020.



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## Reception Admissions

**Published Admission Number (PAN):** Goldfinch Primary will have a PAN of 60 for Reception. The PAN is the number of places available to children being admitted to the year group.

### Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Children with an EHCP are not required to submit a Common Application Form. Applications are made through consultation with Goldfinch Primary via your home Local Authority's Special Educational Needs (SEN) department. Where Goldfinch Primary is then named in a child's EHCP, they will be admitted as part of the year group's PAN.

Where there are more applicants than places available, the remaining places will be allocated according to the following criteria, which are stated in order of priority:

1. **Looked after children:** applicants who are in the care of a Local Authority or provided with Local Authority accommodation by that Authority and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). (According to the Children Act 1989 and/or the Adoption and Children Act 2002)

2. **Siblings:** applicants with another child from the same family already at the school who is expected to be on roll in September 2021.

"Sibling" is defined as a full, half or step brother or sister living at the same home address (see definition below). It also includes an adopted or fostered child living at the same home address and dependent on the same primary carer. It does not include cousins or other relatives. In all cases the sibling must be expected to be on the roll of the school at the time of admission.

3. **Medical and/or social reasons:** applications must be professionally supported. Medical reasons **must** be supported by written medical evidence. The evidence should come from at least two registered health professionals. An application being made for social reasons **must** be supported by written evidence from registered professionals such as social workers or other social care professionals. Medical or social applications **must** set out the particular reasons why Goldfinch Primary is the most suitable school and what difficulties would occur if the child had to go elsewhere. Any such applications will be considered objectively by the Admissions Committee of the school based on the evidence provided. Application under this criteria does not guarantee a priority place and cannot be considered without the appropriate supporting evidence.

4. **Children of staff at the school:** applications for children of staff at the school. The member of staff must be employed by Dunraven Educational Trust for a minimum of 0.6fte (21 hours support staff / 16.5 hours teaching staff) and have been employed at the school for at least 3 years at the time of submitting the application (i.e. their employment must have started no later than September 2017).

5. **Distance:** proximity of the child's home address (see definition below) to the school. It is measured using a straight line from the home address to the central point of the school site (as identified by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information system) with those living nearest accorded the highest priority. Distance measurements are calculated using Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System. Measurements by alternative systems and/or to other points will not be taken into account in any circumstances.

"Home address" is the address at which the child should live permanently and full time as the principal residence. It does not include short term rental or lease and does not include the address of a relative or carer, unless they have legal custody of the child. Where parents have **shared custody/responsibility** for a child and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the distance from Home to the School will be taken as the Home measured as nearest to the School (proof of joint custody/shared living arrangements must be provided).

**Tie-breaker:** In the event that applicants fall at the exact same position (who cannot be separated by the above oversubscription criteria), the place will be allocated by drawing lots.

Please note, there is no automatic right of transfer from the nursery class to the infant Reception class at Goldfinch Primary. If there are more applications than places available, priority will be based on the oversubscription criteria alone.

**Application Forms:** Applications to the school are made using the Common Application Form for your home Local Authority.

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In all the above criteria, documentary proof of residence will be required at the time of offer. Normally this will be a current Council Tax Bill. Any change in your application details during the process, including change of address, must be notified your Local Authority as soon as possible. Any false or deliberately misleading information given may render the application invalid or lead to the offer of a place being withdrawn.

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#### **Late Applications**

Late applications may be made and will be considered after National Offer Day after all on-time applicants have been considered for a place.

#### **Waiting List**

Any child not offered a place (including any applications received after the closing deadline) will be added to the waiting list. Following National Offer Day the waiting list is maintained with applicants ranked in order according to the admissions oversubscription criteria, without regard to the date that the application was received. Each applicant added to the waiting list will require the list to be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria. **After 31 December 2021 the waiting list is no longer maintained. If you wish to remain on the waiting list after that date you must notify the school in writing.**

#### **Fair Access Protocol**

Children who are the subject of a direction by a Local Authority to admit or who are allocated in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol must take precedence over those on the waiting list.

#### **Appeals**

Any child not offered a place at the school will have the statutory right of appeal. Appeals against an admissions decision are heard by an Independent Admissions Appeals Panel established under the School Admissions Appeals Code. The school will publish an appeals timetable annually on its website showing the relevant deadlines.

#### **Date of Admission/Deferred Entry**

Where a child is offered a place at Goldfinch Primary in Reception:

1. this is a full-time place from the September following the child's fourth birthday;
2. the child's parent/guardian can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made;
3. where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

#### **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Children are normally educated in school with others of their age group; however, in exceptional circumstances parents/guardians may seek a place outside their child's normal age group (in line with the School Admissions Code). The decision of the school will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. Such requests would normally apply to children that are summer born (for Admissions purposes summer born is defined as born between 1 April and 31 August) and there are significant reasons that would benefit the child's academic, social and emotional development by starting Reception a year later.

It is recommended that you discuss this with the school before making a formal request. If parents/guardians wish to proceed with the request, an application **must be received in the correct year in the relevant admissions round**. Parents/guardians applying for an out-of-year group place must include a written request with their application and we ask them to provide information in support of this request. Without this information the Admissions Committee are unlikely to be able to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case. Any evidence/information should demonstrate why it would be in the child's best interests to be admitted to a different year group (for example, to Reception rather than Year 1). The Admissions Committee along with the Headteacher will then decide whether the out-of-year group request will be granted.

If the request is granted, then the child's application will be processed for a place in the year group agreed by the Admissions Committee. For Reception entry applications, it will be necessary to reapply for the following year and the application will be subject to the school's admissions oversubscription criteria. Please note that there can be no guarantee that there will be a place available at Goldfinch Primary nor is it possible to reserve places for the following year.

If a place is NOT offered and no offer is made for the child to attend the school in any other year group, then the parents/guardians will be given the right of appeal. However, if a place is offered in the school, regardless of year group, then there is no right of appeal.

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**In-Year Admissions**

Families who seek admission other than through the Reception co-ordinated admission process are able to make In-Year Applications. You must apply to the school using the Wandsworth In-Year Common Application Form.

In the event that it is not possible to offer a place, applications will be placed on the waiting list and you will have the statutory right of appeal. If a place becomes available the known applicants for that year group are sorted using the criteria given above. **Each In-year Application made to the school is only valid for the academic year in which it is made.**

**Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**

Children with an EHCP are not required to submit an In-Year application form to the school. Applications are made through consultation with Goldfinch Primary via your home Local Authority's Special Educational Needs (SEN) department. Where Goldfinch Primary is then named in a child's EHCP, they will be admitted to the school.