

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED REDUCTION TO THE PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBER FOR WEST HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR 2020-21 AND 2021-22



The Council would welcome your views on a proposed change to the Admission Number for West Hill Primary School for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

The Council is proposing to reduce the Admission Number for West Hill Primary School to 30. The reasons for this are set out below:

- West Hill Primary School is situated in the Council's Planning Area 7 (East Putney, Southfields and West Hill Wards) together with seven other schools, Albemarle, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Riversdale, Ronald Ross, Sheringdale, Southmead, and St Michael's. In September 2010, the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) was increased from 30 to 60 to meet rising demand for places in the area. Between 2010 and 2016 Wandsworth primary school rolls rose by 2,835 pupils or 14% and by 472 or 19% for the reception age group alone. Over the same period, total capacity at primary schools increased by over 32 Forms of Entry [FE] (960 places) as the Borough responded to the growth in demand.
- In the East Putney, Southfields and West Hill Wards area, this additional need for places was met by the expansion of Albemarle and Sheringdale Schools by 1FE in 2014 and the earlier expansion by 1FE of West Hill. The Council's pupil projections now show that there will be sufficient places in this area with a small surplus to allow for diversity and choice and to accommodate any short term further population growth for the foreseeable future up to 2026-27.
- In each of the last three years, there were 39-41 Reception Year vacancies in schools across Planning Area 7. There were also a small number of vacancies in the adjoining Planning Area 6 (Fairfield Ward).
- In the same period (2017-2019), West Hill admitted 27, 41 and 24 pupils respectively into its Reception Year with a further decrease by the time that cohort reached Year 1. This was mainly due to families moving out of the area after offers were made. The school's governing body has requested the reduction in PAN as it is particularly concerned about the pressure current pupil numbers place on the school's finances and the general perception of the school as undersubscribed.
- It is recognised that a reduction in Admission Number to 30 would reduce the number of places available at the school for local applicants. There would be some risk that not all applicants would be offered a local preferred school at the outset on national offer day. However, given the turnover of places in recent years it is expected that it would be possible to offer all local applicants a place in the post offer day process. The Council is satisfied that there are sufficient places in the area but in the event that numbers were significantly greater than expected the option would remain to add a bulge class at the school.

- Following the consultation, the Council will consider all the responses to the consultation. It will then decide whether to implement the changes in February. If approved, the changes would be introduced for September 2021 entry but the Council will also apply to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator apply to vary the existing admission arrangements to formally reduce the Admission Number to 30 from September 2020.

The Council is not proposing any changes to the admission criteria for the school. A copy of the proposed admissions policy is included in the appendix.

Who is the Council consulting with?

The Council is consulting with parents of children at Wandsworth schools and early years providers, local residents, parents of any other children aged between two and eighteen, councillors, MPs, headteachers, governors, the diocesan authorities, neighbouring Local Authorities and other local stakeholders.

Have Your Say

The Council would like to receive your views on the proposed reduction to the School's Admission Number.

Any written comments should be sent to Adam Wells, Head of Pupil Services

- By email to admissions@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk including the words 'ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION' in the title; or
- By post to :Adam Wells, Head of Pupil Services, Wandsworth Borough Council, Town Hall Extension, Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 2PU.

It would be helpful if you would indicate in what capacity you are responding (eg parent, teacher, governor etc.)

PLEASE RESPOND BY THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2020 when this consultation will close.

What Happens Next?

The Council will consider all the responses to the consultation. It will then decide whether to implement the changes in February.

If approved, the changes would be introduced for September 2021 entry but the Council will also apply to apply to vary the existing admission arrangements for September 2020.

Further information

If you have any further queries, please contact Adam Wells, Head of Pupil Services by email on admissions@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk, telephone number 020 8871 7316.

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PROPOSED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS (WITHOUT PRIORITY AREAS) IN 2021-22



Introduction

Wandsworth Borough Council is the admission authority for the 24 community primary schools in the borough.

This admissions policy applies to all Wandsworth community primary schools without priority areas. These schools are Alderbrook, Allfarthing, Brandlehow, Broadwater, Earlsfield, Falconbrook, Fircroft, Granard, Heathmere, Hotham, John Burns, Ravenstone, Riversdale, Ronald Ross, Shaftesbury Park, Sheringdale, Smallwood, Southmead, Swaffield, and West Hill.

Admission Numbers

The planned admission number for each of these schools is as follows:

Alderbrook	60
Allfarthing	60
Brandlehow	30
Broadwater	60
Earlsfield	60
Falconbrook	60
Fircroft	60
Granard	90
Heathmere	45
Hotham	60

John Burns	30
Ravenstone	60
Riversdale	60
Ronald Ross	30
Shaftesbury Park	60
Sheringdale	60
Smallwood	60
Southmead	60
Swaffield	60
West Hill	30

Oversubscription Criteria

Places will first be allocated to Children with an Education Health and Care Plan which names the school or for whom the school is being consulted with by the responsible Local Authority (see additional information below). These children will be included in the overall admission number of the school. In the event of oversubscription, the remaining places will then be offered in the following order of priority:

- (i) Looked after children and those who ceased to be looked after children looked after because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order (see note 1);
- (ii) Children with a professionally supported exceptional medical need or exceptional social need for a place at a particular school, as decided by the Director of Children Services (see note 2);
- (iii) Children with brothers and sisters on the roll of the school on the date of admission living up to a distance of 800 metres from the school. Children with a brother or sister at the school on the date of admission living over 800 metres from the school

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will also receive priority under this criterion where the family have not moved since last sibling was offered a place or the last sibling was admitted prior to September 2016 (see notes 3 and 4);

- (iv) Children of staff employed directly at the school (see note 5)
- (v) Other children in order of straight line distance from home to school as measured by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System. (Note 4).

If there are more applications than places within any category, applications will be considered in order of straight line distance from home to school as measured by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System (note 4).

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. An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. A residence order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.*
2. *Applications made on exceptional 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 applied for, and the difficulties that would be caused if the child 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. The Director of Children's Services may request professional advice, from within or outside Wandsworth Council, before reaching a decision.*
3. *A sibling is a full brother or sister, a step/half brother or sister living at the same address, a child who is living 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 straight-line measurement used to prioritise applicants for admission to schools in Wandsworth commences in all cases at the location of the property and terminates at the central point of the school site as determined by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System. Measurements by alternative systems and/or to other points will not be taken into account in any circumstances. Where applicants have identical distance measurements, priority amongst them will be determined at random.*
5. *Priority to children of staff will be given only where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. The member of staff must be employed on at least a 0.6 full time equivalent (FTE) basis and employed directly at the school (rather than through an agency or third party organisation). Priority of*

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admission will only be given for the community school at which the member of staff is working. The number of places offered under this criterion will be limited to a maximum of one place per Form of Entry (FE) at each school.

- 6. 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 and this must be the address where the family normally lives. Parents are not permitted to use a temporary address to secure a school place for the child. A business address, a child-minder's address, or any address including a family member's address other than the child's permanent home will not be accepted. Proof of address will be sought and if there is any doubt about the validity of the address given it may be the subject of further investigation. Please see the "Choose a Wandsworth Primary School" admissions brochure for further information.*
- 7. Where a child lives with parents with shared custody/responsibility, the address where the child spends the majority of the week should be used by parents for the school application. If there is a genuine 50/50 shared arrangement in place, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. In cases where an agreement cannot be reached between the parents and Child Benefit is claimed, the address that is registered for this claim will be used. Additional proof may be requested, eg court order or a solicitor's letter to confirm the arrangements.*
- 8. There is no automatic right of transfer from the nursery class to the infant reception class within the same primary school. If there are more applications than places available, priority will be based on the above criteria alone.*

Additional Information

Method of Application for Reception

Parents/carers must apply on the Common Application Form of the local authority where they live. This can be completed online via www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions or on a paper form available from the school or their local council's School Admissions Team. The closing date for Reception class applications will be 15 January 2021. Outcome notifications will be sent out on 16 April 2021. Applications received after the set closing date will be accepted but will not normally be considered for a place at the school until after the initial offer date.

Admissions to the bilingual class at Shaftesbury Park Primary School

Shaftesbury Park Primary School is a community primary school with a bilingual (English/French) stream. The oversubscription criteria for admission to the bilingual and non-bilingual classes are as set out above.

The school has two reception classes:

- 30 children will be admitted to a reception class in which they will receive a bilingual (French/English) education.
- 30 children will be admitted to the English only reception class.

Parents/carers who wish to apply for a place at the schools must list the school as a preference on their Local Authority application form. Those who wish their child to be considered for the bilingual class must also complete a supplementary information form.

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Applicants not offered a place in the bilingual class will be considered for the English only class. Those who do not wish to be considered for a place in the English only class must indicate this on the supplementary form.

Twins and Children of Multiple Birth

Twins, children of multiple birth and children born in the same academic year will be considered individually alongside all other applicants. Every effort will be made to accommodate all children within the same school even if this means that the PAN will be exceeded.

Children with an Education Health and Care Plan

Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are considered for places separately outside of the mainstream admissions process. Places will first be allocated to children with an EHCP which names the school or for whom the school is being consulted with by the responsible Local Authority. These children will be included in the overall admission number of the school. If, following consultation, the place is not required at the school, it will be offered from the school's waiting list.

Waiting List

Unsuccessful applicants (including any applications received after the closing date) will be included on the school's waiting list ranked in order of priority under the published oversubscription criteria, without regard to the date that the application was received. Please note a child's position on the waiting list can go down as well as up. For example, if a new application is received or if a child on the list moves nearer to the school, the waiting list may need to be revised. The offer of a place does not depend on the length of time your child's name has been on the waiting list.

Appeals

Parents who are not offered a place for their child have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. Further information will be provided in the notification letter. The Council will publish an appeals timetable annually on its website showing the relevant deadlines.

Date of Admission/Deferred Entry

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.

Children will not normally be admitted to Reception prior to the September following their fourth birthday.

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Delayed Admission of Summer Born Children to Reception to the following September¹

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. However, if there are exceptional reasons, parents can request that the child is admitted outside his/her age group. Such requests would normally apply to children that are summer born² and there are significant reasons that would benefit the child's academic, social and emotional development by starting Reception a year later.

The Council recommends that parents considering delaying entry to Reception to the following September discuss this with their preferred schools before making a formal request. The school may wish to discuss how your child's could be met within their actual age group and the impact of being educated with children of a different age group.

If, following this discussion, parents wish to proceed with the request they should apply for a school place in your child's actual age group by the closing date of 15 January 2019 and include a written request with the application. The Council will then write to you to confirm the request has been received and that your current application has been cancelled.

It will be necessary to reapply for a Reception place in the following year. There can be no guarantee that there will be a place available at the school as this will depend upon the number of applications and pattern of admissions in that year. If the preferred school(s) are oversubscribed, the application will be considered in accordance with the schools' admission criteria. It is not possible to reserve a place for the following year.

Please see www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions for further information.

Admission of children outside their normal age group to other year groups¹

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.

The Council, as the admission authority for Wandsworth community schools, 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 should be supported by a letter from a professional (e.g. GP, Hospital Consultant, Social Worker) that provides the reasons for admission 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.

Children will not normally be admitted to Reception prior to the September following their fourth birthday.

¹ This is interim guidance on the consideration of requests to be admitted outside a child's normal year group following the government's announcement in September 2015 to make changes to the Admissions Code. This may be superseded by the publication of a new Admissions Code.

² For admission purposes, summer born children are defined as born between 1 April and 31 August.

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In Year Admissions

For in year admissions, parents/carers must apply to the school on the Wandsworth In Year Common Application Form. Applications will be considered in accordance with the above oversubscription criteria. In the event that it is not possible to offer a place the waiting list and appeals procedures described above will apply.

Fair Access Protocol

Wandsworth community schools participate in the local authority's In Year Admission Fair Access Protocol to allocate places exceptionally to vulnerable and other children in accordance with the School Admission Code 2014. Where required, the admission of such pupils under the protocol takes precedence over pupils on a school's waiting list and may require the school to admit above the planned admission number for the relevant year group.