

STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ERNEST BEVIN COLLEGE FOR 2022-23



The Council would welcome your views on proposed changes to the admission arrangements for Ernest Bevin College for 2022-23.

The Council is proposing two changes:

1. To reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school from 180 to 120.
2. To remove the Category 1 (Selective) places from the school's admissions policy so that all places are offered without regard to ability. If oversubscribed, places would be offered in accordance with the admission criteria for category 2 (open) places.

Further information is given below.

Proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school from 180 to 120.

- In recent years, the school has been undersubscribed, most recently admitting 109 pupils in September 2020. There are currently 787 pupils on roll in Years 7-11, well below the school's capacity of 900. The Council and the school's governing body are particularly concerned about the pressure this places on the school's finances and the general perception of the school as undersubscribed.
- The school currently has an Ofsted Rating of "Requires Improvement". A new Principal started at the school in January 2021 and the Council is actively supporting the new Principal and governing body to make the appropriate steps to implement the improvements identified by Ofsted. The school's governing body strongly believe that reducing the school's intake, at least in the short-term, will assist with this.
- It is recognised that a reduction in PAN to 120 would reduce the number of places available at the school for local applicants. Across the borough, the number of pupils transferring from primary schools is forecast to increase over the next three years. However, some other local schools have been expanded to meet this additional need and the Council is satisfied that there are sufficient places in the area. In the event that numbers are significantly greater than expected the option would remain to add a bulge class at the school.
- There would be the option to increase the PAN for the school in the future if demand increases.

Proposal to remove the Category 1 (Selective) places from the school's admissions policy so that all places are offered without regard to ability.

- Currently, in the event of oversubscription, one third (60) of the school's places (180) are offered to those applicants with the highest scores in the Wandsworth Year 6 test.

However, in recent years the school has been undersubscribed on national Offer Day and all applicants would have been offered a place regardless. Therefore, based on recent admission patterns to the school, the removal of the selective places would have no impact on the likelihood of an application being successful for the school and would remove the requirement for applicants to take the test. In effect this would also give greater overall priority for local applicants to the school.

- There are also associated costs for the school in administering the tests and these resources could be employed elsewhere in the school.

A copy of the school's proposed admission policy is included in Appendix 1.

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@wandsworth.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 19 JULY 2021 WHEN THIS CONSULTATION WILL CLOSE.

What Happens Next?

The Council will consider all the responses to the consultation. The Council originally determined the admissions policy for the school in February 2021 and therefore, if it decides to implement the changes, it will be necessary to apply to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to vary the admission arrangements. If approved, the changes would be introduced for September 2022 entry.

Further information

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

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PROPOSED ADMISSIONS POLICY 2022-23
FOR ERNEST BEVIN COLLEGE



ADMISSION NUMBER

The planned admission number for the school is 120.

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 the College, as decided by the Director of Children's Services (see note 2).
- (iii) applicants not admitted under Category 1, who have a sibling on the roll of the college at the time of application (see note 3).
- (iv) Children of staff employed directly at the school (see note 4).
- (v) applicants who live nearest to the college using a straight-line measurement from home to the college as calculated by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System. (See note 5).

All applicants will apply on an equal footing and will not need to specify under which category they are applying.

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 (see note 5).

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*

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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. 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). 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.*
- 5. 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.*
- 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 childminder'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 Secondary 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.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Method of Application for Year 7

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 Year 7 applications will be 31 October 2021. Outcome notifications will be sent out on 1 March 2022. 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.

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 (see note below). 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.

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Admission of children outside their normal age group¹

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.

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.

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.