

DETERMINED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS TO WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR 2015/16 ENTRY

April 2014

Westminster City Council (WCC) is the admission authority for the 8 community primary schools in the borough. In accordance with the current Admissions Code and associated regulations, WCC has determined its admission arrangements for its community schools for 2015/16 entry as follows.

The Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for Westminster community primary schools for the academic year of entry 2015/16 are as follows:

Barrow Hill (Y3 entry)	60	Hallfield	90
Edward Wilson	56	Paddington Green	60
Essendine	60	Robinsfield Infant	60
George Eliot	60	Queens Park	42

COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS: ADMISSION CRITERIA 2015 – 2016

Applicants with a signed Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) which names one of the WCC community schools will be placed at that school via the SEN process as set out in Section 324 of the Education Act 1996.

If there are more applications to the school than there are places available, then WCC will allocate places in the following order of priority.

1. Children in Public Care¹, also known as Looked After Children in care of the local authority and children who have been adopted or made subject to residence orders or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after. The child's social worker must submit a letter to WCC confirming the legal status of the child and the local authority to which the child is/was in care, and quoting the child's full name and current address.
2. The Director of School's Services, as advised by senior officers, may on an individual basis give priority to applicants who can demonstrate that admission to a particular community school is necessary on the grounds of professionally supported medical or social need. Parent/carers must supply details of any such special factors at the time of the original application together with recent supporting documentation. Such applications will not be considered without professional support, such as a

¹ Children in Public care has the same meaning as in section 22 of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of the local authority or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster carers).

letter or report from a doctor, consultant or social worker which must be no more than six months old. All information submitted will be regarded as confidential.

3. To brothers and sisters of children already on the roll of the school who will still be in the school at the time the applicant is admitted. This includes half brothers or half sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or stepsisters or the children of the partner of the parent or carer provided that they live at the same address as the applicant. Please note sibling priority only applies to children with sibling(s) at the school in Years R-6 at the time of admission **not** nursery.

If in any of the categories 1, 2 or 3 there are more applicants than there are places available, priority will be given to applicants who live nearest the school on the basis described in 4 below. If applicants share the same address point (for example, those who live in the same block of flats or shared house) priority will be given to those who live closest to the ground floor and then by ascending flat number order. Routes will be measured to four decimal places (if necessary). If two or more applicants live at exactly the same distance from the school, the offer of a place will be decided by random allocation.

In category (3), in the case of the reception classes at Robinsfield Infant School, sibling priority would also extend to applicants with a sibling attending Barrow Hill Junior School and vice versa.

4. Children for whom it is the nearest community primary school calculated as a straight line.
5. Children for whom it is **not** nearest community primary school calculated as a straight line.

In categories (4) and (5), nearness to the school will be calculated using a straight line (as the crow flies) measurement from the child's home 'address point' determined by Ordnance Survey Data to the nearest entrance for pupils, as determined by WCC using its computerised measuring system. The child living closest to the school will receive the highest priority. Accessibility by car or public transport will be disregarded.

If applicants share the same address point (for example, those who live in the same block of flats or shared house) priority will be given to those who live closest to the ground floor and then by ascending flat number order. Routes will be measured to four decimal places (if necessary). If two or more applicants live at exactly the same distance from the school, the offer of a place will be decided by random allocation.

For all community schools :

Twins, triplets and multiple births – twins, triplets and multiple birth children will be considered as individuals alongside all other applicants. Every effort will be made to accommodate twins or multiple birth children within the same school even if this means that the PAN will be exceeded.

Children attending nursery class at a school - Parents of children attending the nursery class at a school must reapply for a reception class place. There is no automatic transfer from the nursery class to the reception class at a school. The infant or primary school where a child attends a nursery class will not necessarily be able to offer a place in reception.

Split residence - Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, the address where the child spends the majority of the school week should be used for the school application. If there is a genuine 50/50 share agreement the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which is the residential address for the purpose of admission to school.

Date of admission/deferred entry - Children will normally be admitted to the reception year for community primary schools 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 end of the Reception Year. In practice this means that parents could defer entry until January for children born between 1st September and 31st December, or until April for children born between 1st January and 31st August. Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until he/she reaches compulsory school age.

Requests for admission outside of the child's chronological year of entry will be considered in accordance with para. 2,17 (Admissions Code) The Council, as the admission authority for community schools, must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case, informing parents of their statutory right to appeal. This right does not apply if the child is offered a place in another year group at the school. Each case will need to be supported by a professional (e.g. GP, social worker) that provides the reason for admissions outside of the chronological year group.

Year 3 Admission

In the case of Year 3 admission to Barrow Hill Junior School priority of admission is given to pupils transferring from Robinsfield Infant School.

Method of Application

Parents/carers must apply on the Common Application Form of the local authority where they live. This can be completed online www.westminster.gov.uk/admissions or on a paper form available from schools, libraries or their local council's School Admissions Team.

Closing Date and Initial Notification Date Under the WCC coordinated admission arrangements the closing date for reception class applications will be 15th January 2015. Notification letters will be sent out on 16th April 2016.

Late applications

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.

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 and there can be no guarantee that a place will be offered.

Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants have a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Further details will be included in the notification letter.

Coordinated admission arrangements and timetable for applications to reception

As required by law, WCC will be coordinating admissions for 2015/16 entry.

This document outlines the scheme which will run along similar lines to the arrangements to previous years.

Details of the full proposed scheme are available www.westminster.gov.uk/admissions or by contacting the School Admissions Team on 020 7745 6432/36433/6434 or email: schooladmissions@westminster.gov.uk.