

# Admissions policy

Chestnuts Primary School

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## Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and statutory requirements	2
3. Definitions	2
4. How to apply	3
5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group	3
6. Allocation of places	3
7. In-year admissions	5
8. Appeals	5
9. Monitoring arrangements	5

### 1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain how to apply for a place at the school
- Set out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply
- Explain how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place

### 2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [School Admissions Code 2021](#)
- [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

The school is required to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

### 3. Definitions

The **normal admissions round** is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

**Looked after children** are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

**Previously looked after children** are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order

This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.

A child reaches **compulsory school age** on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday (or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

## 4. How to apply

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by your home local authority (regardless of which local authority the schools are in). You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order.

Residents of Haringey (the school's local authority) can apply online using this form:

<http://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools-and-education/school-admissions>

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from your local authority.

Please note, pupils already attending our nursery will not transfer automatically into the main school. A separate application must be made for a place in reception.

## 5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group.

Parents wishing to request admission outside of their child's normal age group should write to the chair of governors ([governors@chestnutprimary.com](mailto:governors@chestnutprimary.com)) giving reasons for the request.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

- Parents' 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
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely

- The potential impact on the child of being admitted to year one without first having completed the reception year
- The headteacher's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

## 6. Allocation of places

Admissions to the school are managed by Haringey, the school's local authority. Our admissions policy is Haringey's admissions policy.

### 6.1 Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of 60 pupils for entry in reception.

### 6.2 Oversubscription criteria

All children whose education, health and care (EHC) plans name the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated.

If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be offered a place.

In the event that the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet any of the criteria set out below, in order until all places are filled.

1. Highest priority will be given to looked after children and all previously looked after children who apply for a place at the school. A looked after child is one who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions.
2. Priority will next be given to children who the admissions authority accepts have an exceptional medical or social need for a place at this school. Applications will only be considered under this category if they are supported by a written statement from a doctor, social worker or other relevant independent professional. The information must confirm the exceptional medical or social need and demonstrate how this school is the only school that can meet the defined needs of the child.
3. Priority will next be given to children who have a sibling already attending the school, and who will still be attending on the date of admission. The sibling criteria only applies to siblings attending the main school, not the nursery. A sibling is any full sibling, step/half sibling, foster sibling or adopted sibling living at the same address as the child for whom the application is being made.

4. Priority will next be given to children whose home address is closest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the child's home to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, calculated using a computerized mapping system

**Note:** a child's home address is defined as the child's only or main residence.

## **6.4 Tie break**

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the Ordnance survey address point of the child's home to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, calculated using a computerised mapping system

Where the distance between 2 children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them, using a computerised system.

## **6.5 Children below compulsory school age**

Where children below compulsory school age are offered a place at the school, they will be entitled to attend the school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents may defer their child's entry to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year the offer was made for.

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.

Where parents request deferral, the school will hold the place for their child, until the cut-off points outlined above.

## **6.6 Challenging behaviour**

We will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8) apply, i.e. where section 87 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 is engaged.

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked after children, previously looked after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

## **6.7 Fair Access Protocol**

We participate in Haringey's Fair Access Protocol. This helps ensure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

## 7. In-year admissions

Parents can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the normal admissions round. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose EHC plans name the school will be admitted.

Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child will be offered a place.

If there are no spaces available at the time of your application, your child's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. The waiting list is administered by the local authority. When a space becomes available, it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.2 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

Parents should note that positions on waiting lists can go up, as well as down, and a place on the waiting list doesn't guarantee a place at the school.

Applications for in-year admissions should be made using Haringey's online applications portal, linked to in section 4.

Parents will be notified of the outcome of your in-year application in writing within 15 school days.

## 8. Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. If you wish to appeal, you must set out the grounds for your appeal in writing and submit it through Haringey's appeals portal:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools-and-education/school-admissions/appeals>

You can find details of the school's appeals timetable on the school website.

## 9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the governing board every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the governing board will publicly consult on these changes. If nothing changes, it will publicly consult on the school's admission arrangements at least once every 7 years.