

ST JOHN'S Highbury Vale C of E Primary School
CONWOOD STREET, LONDON N5 1DL

GOVERNORS' ADMISSIONS POLICY - SEPTEMBER 2012 – AUGUST 2013

[In accordance with the 1996 Education Act, the policy has to be reviewed annually]

St John's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school. The ethos and practice of the school stress Christian values and the nurturing of links between home, school, churches and the local community. We ask all parents applying for a place for their child at St. John's to respect this ethos. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the Christian faith to apply for and be considered for a place at the school for their child.

If there are more applicants than places available, the Governors will admit children according to the following over-subscription criteria and in the order of priority below:

1. Children who are in public care ('looked after' children). Recent written evidence must be supplied, at the time of the application, from the relevant local authority.
2. Children with documented special medical or social needs who:
either (a) live in one of the parishes of Christ Church, Highbury, St Augustine's Church, Highbury or St Thomas's Church, Finsbury Park
or (b) for whom St John's is the nearest Church of England primary school.

Recent written supporting evidence must be supplied, at the time of the application, from a relevant professional, such as a doctor, social worker or educational psychologist. The supporting evidence should state the reason why St. John's is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to go to another school. The Governing Body will not allocate a place to an applicant under this criterion without such supporting evidence.

3. Children who will have one or more siblings attending St John's at the time of their entry to the school and who have one or more parents verified by their minister to be regular and committed members of Christ Church, Highbury, St Augustine's Church, Highbury or St Thomas's Church, Finsbury Park.
4. Children who will have one or more siblings attending St John's at the time of their entry to the school and who have one or more parents verified by their minister to be regular and committed members of other Christian churches.
5. Children who will have one or more siblings attending St John's at the time of their entry to the school.
6. Children who have one or more parents verified by their minister to be regular and committed members of Christ Church, Highbury, St Augustine's Church, Highbury or St Thomas's Church, Finsbury Park, and who:
either (a) live in one of these three parishes
or (b) for whom St John's is the nearest Church of England primary school.
7. Children who have one or more parents verified by their minister to be regular and committed members of other Christian churches, and for whom St John's is the nearest Church of England primary school.
8. Other applicants, according to the proximity of their home address to the school.

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NOTES ON ADMISSIONS POLICY, CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

1. Notes on terms used in the criteria:

- (a) **'siblings'** (criteria 3, 4 & 5) are defined as all blood, half, step or adopted brothers and sisters who live at the same home address as the applicant.
- (b) **'at the time of their entry to the school'** (criteria 3, 4 & 5) refers to when the child takes up the place at the school.
- (c) **'regular and committed members'** (criteria 3, 4, 6 & 7) will be verified by the appropriate minister. Parents wishing church membership to be taken into account should complete the school's Supplementary Information Form. They should also ask their vicar or minister to complete a clergy reference form, which will be provided by the school, so that governors may consider their application fully. The ministers will be advised that 'regular' membership means for at least two years prior to the date at which the application is considered by the Governors' Admissions Committee, with attendance at least fortnightly by at least one parent. Parents who have moved into the area recently and have been attending their current church for less than two years should also provide a reference from their previous church.
- (d) **'Christian churches'** (criteria 4 & 7) means churches which are full members of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland or of the Evangelical Alliance UK.
- (e) **'live in one of the parishes of Christ Church, Highbury, St Augustine's Church, Highbury or St Thomas's Church, Finsbury Park'** (criteria 2 & 6). A map showing parish boundaries is appended to this document.
- (f) **'nearest Church of England primary school'** (criteria 2, 6 & 7). Nearness to the school will be determined by a computerized mapping system using a straight line distance measurement. Routes will be calculated from the home address (as defined by the Land & Property Gazetteer) to the midpoint of the school grounds (as determined by Islington Local Authority).
- (g) **'proximity to the school'** (criterion 8). Nearness to the school will be determined by a computerized mapping system using a straight line distance measurement. Routes will be calculated from the home address (as defined by the Land & Property Gazetteer) to the midpoint of the school grounds (as determined by Islington Local Authority).
- (g) **'home address'** (criterion 8) will be defined as the address at which the child is normally resident. If the child is resident at more than one address, e.g. spends time with each of two parents living at different addresses, then it will be defined as the address at which the child spends the greater proportion of his/ her time.

General notes:

- 2. The responsibility for decisions on admission of individual children rests with the Governing Body. All applications will be considered equally against the criteria. Application forms may be completed at any time up until the closing date, but early completion does not ensure any priority, nor does completion of a form promise entry.

Please note that parents must complete a Common Application Form from their home local authority naming St John's as one of their school choices, in order to be considered. For Islington residents, an Islington Primary Common Application Form must be completed. The school's own Supplementary Information Form should also be completed if you are applying under the church criteria so that governors can consider your application fully.

The expected timetable for consideration of applications for the September 2012 Reception class intake is set out in Section 8 of these notes. Applications received after the closing date will be dealt with separately after other applicants have been considered for a place and will be ranked below applicants whose applications were received by the published deadline date. There is an independent appeals procedure for unsuccessful applicants.

3. St John's is a very popular school and has been considerably over-subscribed in recent years. **We admit 30 children a year to our Reception class. We are not able to exceed this published admission number, as the Governing Body is required by law not to exceed 30 pupils in an Infant class.** Parents are advised to look at other local schools as well.
4. Children are admitted to the Reception class in the September following their 4th birthday. Where a child is below compulsory school age, parents have the right to request that their child's entry be deferred until later in the school year. Entry cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's 5th birthday, nor beyond the end of the academic year for which the original application was accepted.
5. In line with Government requirements, St. John's wishes to promote sustainable, healthy travel to school, e.g. walking or cycling, and our Admissions Policy should ensure that the majority of pupils live within walking distance of the school. No school transport is provided for the purpose of travelling between home and school.
6. St. John's does not have any specific units or facilities for pupils with particular special needs and there are no specific facilities for pupils with physical disabilities. However, the school will ensure, as far as possible, that pupils with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as other pupils.
7. **In all cases:**
 - (i) Eligibility under the criteria will be judged according to circumstances and evidence applying at the time the Governors' Admissions Committee meets to allocate places. The Governors reserve the right to ask for evidence of place of residence. If there has been a change to the place of residence claimed in the application form between the date at which the application was submitted and the date on which the Admissions Committee meets to allocate places, the Governors reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a place.
 - (ii) When it is not possible to include all children qualifying under a particular criterion, places will be allocated on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the school. Nearness to the school will be determined by a computerized mapping system using a straight line distance measurement. Routes will be calculated from the home address (as defined by the Land & Property Gazetteer) to the midpoint of the school grounds (as determined by Islington Local Authority).
 - (iii) Families who have moved into the school's catchment area within 2 years prior to the Governors' consideration of admissions and who wish church membership to be taken into account when their application is considered must provide the name and address of their previous vicar or minister, who will be asked to complete a clergy reference form provided by the school.
 - (iv) The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if there is evidence that the application was fraudulent or deliberately misleading or where a parent has not responded to an offer by the specified date.
 - (v) The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw a place from a child who has already entered the school if it is later discovered that the place was fraudulently obtained, e.g. by falsifying the address of the applicant's main residence. The Governing Body also reserves the right to withdraw a place from a child who has already entered the school in the case of unauthorised absence which exceeds one month.

8. Expected timetable for consideration of applications for entry to the Reception class in September 2012:

From September 2005, admission to primary schools in Islington has been co-ordinated by Cambridge Education @ Islington. **Parents wishing to apply for a place at St. John's must specify St John's as one of their preferences on the Primary Common Application Form of their home local authority, which should be returned to the home local authority.** Parents applying under the church criteria are also requested to fill in St. John's own Supplementary Information Form and return it to the school by the date specified below.

December 2010: Criteria for admission in September 2012 reviewed by Governing Body and sent to the London Diocesan Board for Schools, Cambridge Education @Islington, other admissions authorities in the relevant area, admissions authorities in neighbouring local authority areas, the Admissions Forum and relevant community groups for a consultation period of not less than 8 weeks.

April 2011: Criteria for admission in September 2012 must be agreed by Governing Body, following consultation, by 15 April 2011 at the latest.

October 2011: Parents of children currently at the school informed of agreed criteria. Criteria also sent to those who have already filled in a Supplementary Information Form relevant to entry in September 2012 and returned this to the school. These admissions criteria will be accompanied by a letter reminding parents that they must also complete their home local authority's Primary Common Application Form or they will not be considered for a place.

November 2011: Where church involvement is claimed, parents will be sent a clergy reference form which they should take to their vicar or minister for completion. Unless the form is returned to the school by the parent or by the vicar or minister by the due date, the Governing Body will be unable to consider any evidence of church involvement, and other than in exceptional circumstances, the application will be processed without such evidence.

January 2012: Final date for Islington residents to return their Primary Common Application Form to Cambridge Education @ Islington. The St. John's Supplementary Information Form should also be completed and returned to the school by this date, if applicable.

31st January 2012: Final date for the completed clergy reference form (where applicable) to be returned to the school.

Early February 2012: Admissions Committee meets to consider applications.

Early April 2012: Parents notified of outcome of application by their home local authority.

Late April 2012: Final date for parents to confirm their acceptance of a place at an Islington primary school.

Early May 2012: Closing date for receipt of appeals for Islington primary schools.

June/ July 2012: Independent Appeals Committee meets.

9. Waiting list arrangements:

All unsuccessful applicants for the Reception class who have not already been offered a place at a school which was a higher preference on their Primary Common Application Form will automatically be placed on the waiting list for that year group. Applicants who have been offered a place at a school which was a higher preference on their Primary Common Application Form will not be placed on the waiting list unless they specifically request to be added. The waiting list will be held by Cambridge Education @ Islington until the October half term following the September in which children were admitted to the Reception class. From the October half term onwards, the waiting list will be held by the school and will be kept until that cohort reaches the end of Y6 and transfers to secondary school. Parents of children on the waiting list will be asked annually whether or not they wish their child to remain on the waiting list. Where no reply is received by the specified date, the child will be removed from the waiting list.

The Governors' Admissions Committee will review the waiting list for a particular year group whenever a vacancy arises in that year group. The position on the waiting list will be determined by applying the published admissions criteria to each applicant. Length of time on the waiting list will not affect position on the list. If new applications are received, the waiting list for that year group will again be reviewed. It should be noted that new applications could adversely affect the position of those already on the list.

10. In year admissions:

From September 2010, applications for places in classes other than Reception should be made in the same way as those made during the normal admissions round. Applications should be made directly to your home local authority. For Islington residents, this is Cambridge Education @ Islington-

If a place is available in a particular class and there is no waiting list for that class, then Cambridge Education @ Islington will communicate the offer of a place directly to the family who has applied for it. If more applications are received than there are places available, then applications will be ranked by the Governing Body in accordance with the over-subscription criteria set out in this policy. **However, children who do not currently have a school place or the offer of a school place will be given the highest priority after looked after children.**

If a place cannot be offered at the time the applicant applies, the applicant is entitled to ask the reasons why they cannot be offered a place and should be informed of their right to appeal. The applicant will be offered the opportunity of being placed on the waiting list for that class. The waiting list will be maintained by the Governing Body in the order of the over-subscription criteria and not in the order in which the applications are received. It should be noted that new applications could adversely affect the position of those already on the list.

When a place becomes available in a given class, the Governing Body will offer the place to the child with the highest position on the waiting list. If new applications have been received since the waiting list for that class was last reviewed, the Admissions Committee will look again at all applications for that class and decide which applicant has highest priority according to the published admissions criteria. The place on the waiting list will be based on the information given at the time in the application form and Supplementary Information Form, if applicable. The Governing Body will inform Cambridge Education @ Islington which applicant is ranked highest on the waiting list at the time, so that Cambridge Education @ Islington can inform the family that the school will be making them the offer of a place.