

Admission criteria for community schools

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

If your child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan they will be admitted to the school named in the Statement or Education, Health and Care Plan.

Oversubscription criteria

When more applications are received than there are places available, the following criteria will be used to decide which pupils are offered a place at an Islington community school in the order listed below:

1. Children looked after

This refers to children who are in the care of a local authority and children who have been adopted (or made subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order) immediately after being looked after.

2. Siblings

A sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half-brother or sister, step-brother or sister or adopted brother or sister, whose main residence is at the same address. This criterion will apply to applicants with a sibling living at the same address who is on the roll of the preferred school (Years 7 to 11), or co-located Special School, at the time of the proposed admission in the new academic year.

3. Exceptional social/medical needs

The Director of Children's Services, on an individual basis, may give priority to applicants who can demonstrate that admission to a particular school is necessary on the grounds of professionally supported exceptional medical, social or special educational needs. Parents must supply details of any such special factors at the time of the original application (together with recent supporting documentation), to enable these factors to be considered.

If your child has an exceptional social (for example child protection/safeguarding issues) or medical need (for example if your child requires wheelchair access) to attend a specific Islington community school, then please provide professional evidence (e.g. from a doctor or educational psychologist) and complete our social-medical application explaining why this is the only school that can meet your child's needs. The form is available for download at:

[http://www.islington.gov.uk/publicrecords/library/Education-and-skills/Information/Guidance/2013-2014/\(2013-06-21\)-Social-Medical-Application-Form-v2.pdf](http://www.islington.gov.uk/publicrecords/library/Education-and-skills/Information/Guidance/2013-2014/(2013-06-21)-Social-Medical-Application-Form-v2.pdf)

Your case will be considered by a panel comprising a senior admissions officer, educational psychologist and senior social worker. The panel will consider the evidence presented and consult relevant professionals as necessary to determine:

- a. whether your child has an exceptional social or medical need and

b. that this need can only be met by a specific school.

Please note late applicants applying under social/ medical criterion can be prioritised only on the waiting list.

4. Distance

Applicants will be prioritised by distance (starting with the nearest). Nearness to schools is measured on a computerised mapping system using a straight line distance measurement. Routes will be calculated from the home address (as defined by the Land and Property Gazetteer) to the midpoint of the school grounds (as determined by the London Borough of Islington).

Please note distance will be used as a tiebreaker for criteria 1, 2 and 3.

How we calculate home to school distances

We use the Capita ONE system to calculate the distance from your child's home (the start point) to the school (the end point). This system calculates the distance in miles to three decimal places. The routing database system uses two dimensional maps. This means it does not take into account any contours or terrains.

The start point (applicant's home)

For calculation purposes, Islington Council uses the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) database to determine the start point for Islington addresses. The starting points for other addresses are provided by your home local authority. Calculations are based on the assumption that the child's home address is classified at the point of application as a residential property.

If you live in a block of flats where you use a communal entrance, we will use the NLPG point for the block and not the centroid of your individual flat for the distance calculation.

The end point (school)

The centre of the school grounds is used as the end point for home to school distance as defined by the Islington Council.

Please note that you cannot compare distances produced on Islington's Capita ONE system to those calculated using any personal or online geographical information system software you may have access to such as satellite navigations systems or Google maps.

Islington residents can obtain an approximate distance measurement to any Islington school by clicking on this link: <http://www.islington.gov.uk/islington/Pages/find-my-nearest.aspx?extra=10>

Alternatively, you can call the School Admissions team for an approximate measurement on 020 7527 5515.

Multiple births

If only one place is available at the school and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of multiple birth siblings, we will ask community schools to admit the siblings and go over their published admission number to support the family.

Tie break

If only one place is available and two or more children qualify for that place, the child who is offered the place will be determined by random allocation using a computerised system.