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ADMISSIONS POLICY 2026-2027

Date of Policy: Spring 2025

Committee: Staffing and Students

Next Review Date: Spring 2026

The School will ensure that the policy is applied fairly to all employees and does not have a negative impact in relation to the school's equality strands: race, sex, religion and belief, sexual orientation, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

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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](#)

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

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, as defined in section 22 of the Children Act 1989, 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 (defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014), or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order (defined in section 14A of the Children Act 1989)

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 is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

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.

A **parent** is any individual who holds parental responsibility, as defined under the Children Act 1989, or any person who has care of a child, where the child lives with them either full or part time and they look after that child.

4. How to apply

Arrangements for Admission at Secondary Transfer Stage

The school takes part in the Brent Co-ordination Scheme for co-ordinated admission to secondary school. Applications for Year 7 are made via the Common Applications Form. The Common Application Form is returned to the Local Authority. Applications for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan are made by the Local Authority by a separate procedure. Where the academy is named on a pupil's Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan, that child will be admitted by the school.

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.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and 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 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

6.1 Published admission number (PAN)

The school's Admissions Number for Year 7 to Year 11 is 324.
The school's admission number for the 6th form is 300

6.2 Oversubscription criteria

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

Where applicants exceed the number of places available the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below to decide which children to admit.

1. Where the child is or has previously been "looked after" (Young People in state care).

An application for admission to school must be made by the person with parental responsibility and / or the child's social worker. This also includes internationally adopted previously looked after children.

2. Brothers or sisters of a child who attends the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission. This includes half and step brothers and sisters and foster children so long as they live at the same address - but not cousins.

Pupils transferring to the sixth form or students currently on roll at the sixth form are **not** considered as sibling connections.

3. Children attending one of following Feeder primary schools at the time of application: Lyon Park, Barham, Vicar's Green and Oakington Manor

4. Special medical or social needs. These reasons must relate to the student and does not apply to family members. Parents applying under this criterion must provide supporting evidence from a professional e.g. a consultant, stating why Alperton Community School is the most suitable school and the difficulties caused if the child attends another school.

5. Proximity to the school at the time of application. Priority will be given to those living nearer the school. The distance will be measured in a straight line from the pupil's permanent address to the school gate on Ealing Road.

6.3 Tie break

Within each criterion priority will be given to the applicant who lives closer to the school. This will be measured in a straight line from the pupil's permanent address to the school gate on Ealing Road.

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.

If a child lives in different properties (shared care), parents must provide the address where the child lives for the majority of the week. In cases of equal shared care, both parents must agree which address should be used on the application. For applications made in the normal round, if there is no agreement, the local authority will decide which address will be used.

Where the distance between 2 children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation (by drawing random sealed envelopes with the name of one child per envelope) will be used to decide between them. This process will be independently verified.

6.4 Split Residence

Where a student lives with Parents/Carers with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the student lives is determined using a joint declaration from the Parents/Carers stating the pattern of residence. If a student's residence is split equally between both parents/carers, then parents/carers will be asked to determine which residential address will be used for the purpose of admission to school. If the residence is not split equally between both parents/carers then the address used will be the address where the student spends the majority of the school week.

6.5 Waiting list

For all groups where the year cohort is full, the school will operate a waiting lists procedure for admission. This will be maintained in accordance with the published admission criteria for the school.

A student's place on the waiting list is not dependent upon the date of being placed on it, but will be determined by how they meet the oversubscription criteria.

This means that a student's position on the list can go down as well as up, depending upon the child's circumstances and those of other applicants.

The waiting list will be closed each year and will not roll over. Parents/carers wishing to stay on the waiting list will be required to submit a request in writing.

Under the School Admissions Code, looked-after children, previously-looked after children, and those allocated a place at the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol (see section 6.6 below) must take precedence over those on the waiting list.

6.6 Fair Access Protocol

We participate in Brent'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 and before anyone is considered from the waiting list. Eligibility for the Fair Access Protocol does not limit a parent's right to make an in-year application to the school for their child. Any application will be processed in accordance with the usual in-year admission procedures (see section 7).

6.7 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. The exception to this is where we may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code 2021 (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, in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code 2021 (paragraphs 3.10 to 3.13) apply.

6.8 Children of UK service personnel and crown servants

Families of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting, or crown servants returning from overseas, will be allocated a place in advance of the family arriving in the area, provided a place is available and the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date.

We will use the address at which the child will live when applying our oversubscription criteria, provided the parents provide some evidence of their intended address. Alternatively, the unit or quartering address will be used as the child's home address when considering the application against the oversubscription criteria, where this is requested by a parent.

6.9 Withdrawing an offer of a place

We will not withdraw an offer unless it has been offered in error, a parent has not responded within a reasonable period of time, or it is established that the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

Where a parent has not responded to the offer, we will give them a further opportunity to respond and explain that the offer may be withdrawn if they do not respond.

If an offer is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information, we will consider the application afresh and a right of appeal will be offered if an offer is refused.

We will not withdraw an offer of a place once a child has started at our school except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In these circumstances, we will consider the length of time that the child has been at the school before deciding whether to withdraw the place.

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 the waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available, it will be filled by 1 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.

Applications for in-year admissions should be sent to the following address:

office@alperton.brent.sch.uk

You can find details on our in-year admissions and an application form on the following webpage:

Admissions

Parents will be notified of the outcome of their 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 send it to the following address:

office@alperton.brent.sch.uk

You can find details of the school's appeals timetable on the following webpage:

<https://www.alperton.brent.sch.uk/in-year-admissions-year-7-11/>

Appeals will be heard by an independent appeal panel.

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Staffing and Students Committee every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the published 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. Consultation will be for a minimum of 6 weeks and will take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before the arrangement are to apply.