

MURRAY PARK SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021-22

Status of the school

Murray Park is an 11-16 Foundation School. This means that the Governing Body retain ownership of the school and is the employer of the staff.

Admission arrangements

Applications for admission will be considered from pupils, who are aged 11, without reference to aptitude or ability.

The admission number for September 2021 is 230. Additional accommodation is being provided at the school with a view to increasing the PAN up to a maximum of 330. Pupil numbers and projections will continue to be monitored and reviewed, liaising closely with the LA over the phasing of the opening of the places.

Priority for admission will be given to children whose parents have requested a place using the Common Application Form obtained from the Local Authority the child is resident in.

If the number of applications exceeds the number of places then the following criteria will apply, in order of importance:

1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order⁶⁷. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) or (c) in state care outside of England and have ceased being in state care as a result of being adopted, also received the same highest priority for admission into a school in England.
2. Those living in the defined "normal catchment" area (map available)
3. Siblings of those students who will be attending the school at the date of admission – in order of proximity. Where a family moves after the closing date, we will assess applications from the address the parents are living at the closest date, and will reassess applications on the national offer date.
4. Proximity to the school.

In cases of a tiebreaker for applications of equal strength, preference will be given to the applicant with the shorter proximity to the school measured by the shortest available route from the home to the main school entrance. The route will be measured by straight lines using the National Ordnance Survey set points.

Siblings are defined as brothers and sisters who are either a blood relative or are a sibling by legal adoption or fostering. Brothers and sisters must be living at the same address.

Parents of children not offered a place will be informed of their right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

In cases where an appeal is unsuccessful, the governors will not accept a further appeal during the same academic year unless there are significant and/or material changes in circumstances of the child, or the school for which supporting documentary evidence will be required.

The school will observe the locally agreed Fair Access Protocols which may take precedence over the above criteria.

Addendum:

Please see this link for the latest government guidance around appeals in a COVID-19 climate: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/admission-appeals-for-school-places/coronavirus-covid-19-school-admission-appeals>

The regulatory changes came into force on 24 April 2020 and will remain in force until 31 January 2021.

The changes mean:

- admission authorities will have sufficient time to deal with the annual peak in appeals for children due to start new schools at the beginning of September 2020
- parents will continue to have the right to appeal to any school which has refused their child a place

Summary of changes

The new regulations:

- disapply the requirement that appeals panels must be held in person and instead give flexibility for panel hearings to take place either in person, by telephone, video conference or through a paper-based appeal where all parties can make representations in writing
- relax the rules with regard to what happens if one of the 3 panel members withdraws (temporarily or permanently) to make it permissible for the panel to continue with and conclude the appeal as a panel of 2
- amend the deadlines relating to appeals for the time that the new regulations are in force

Changes to appeal deadlines

The new regulations provide more flexibility for admission authorities to set new or revised deadlines for submitting an appeal.

Our amendments to deadlines will ensure that appellants will be given:

- at least **28 calendar days'** written notice of a new appeal deadline
- at least **14 calendar days'** written notice of an appeal hearing (although appellants can waive their right to this)

All deadlines for the hearing of appeals must be as soon as reasonably practicable.

Decision letters should be sent within **7 calendar days** of the hearing, wherever possible.