

# STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR WANDSWORTH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR 2016-17



**The Council would welcome your views on proposed changes to the admission criterion giving priority to children with siblings at Wandsworth community primary schools.**

The growth in school age population and the increasing popularity of primary schools in Wandsworth, due to high standards and attainment, mean that there is significant pressure on primary school places. The Council has been successful in creating additional places by expanding existing schools and opening new free schools and academies. However, to increase the opportunity for local families to access those places, the Council is proposing changes to the admission criterion giving priority to siblings of children at its community schools.

Currently for community primary schools, priority for a school place is given to all siblings of children on the roll of the school on the date of admission regardless of their current address. This means that those children with siblings may gain admission to a school over more local applicants even though they may live much further from the school. However, the increase in population and the rising popularity of our schools mean there is greater pressure on places at schools from local families than ever before. High mobility also means that some parents move away from the immediate area of schools but subsequently gain admission for their younger children, thereby reducing the number of places available for local applicants.

Following the consultation earlier in the autumn, the Council is proposing the following change to the sibling admission criterion in its current admissions policy for community schools:

**Children with a brother or sister on the roll of the school on the date of admission living up to a distance of 800 metres from the school. Children with a brother or sister at the school on the date of admission living over 800 metres from the school will also receive priority where the family have not moved since the last sibling was offered a place or the last sibling was admitted prior to September 2016.**

This would retain a strong family link with schools for those families who have remained within the proximity of the school whilst still freeing up some places for local applicants where other families have moved away from the area. Taking account of responses to the previous consultation, those families who have not moved since the last sibling was offered a place or who currently have siblings at the school will continue to receive priority. Any other applicants would still be considered for a place under the remaining oversubscription criteria. If a school is undersubscribed, they would still be offered a place in any case.

This is an issue affecting many primary schools in Wandsworth. The table on page 5 gives a breakdown by school of the number of applicants who would have been affected by this change if it had been applied for the current year's admissions.

Please note that this consultation is about proposed changes to the admission criteria for **community schools only** (for which the Council is the admission authority and sets the admissions policy). A copy of the full admissions policy is included as an appendix to this document. It is not proposed to change the admission criteria for those community schools which have a priority area as it is considered that these arrangements already achieve a similar aim.

The Council will also be recommending to academies, foundation schools, free schools and voluntary aided (faith) schools in the borough that they make a similar change. The decision to do this would rest with the governing body or Academy Trust of those schools and would be subject to consultation.

## **Have Your Say**

The Council would like to receive your views on the proposed changes to the admission criteria for community schools. Respond online at [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation) or complete the attached paper response sheet.

**PLEASE RESPOND BY MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2015 when this consultation will close.**

## **What Happens Next?**

The Council will consider all the responses to the consultation. It will then decide whether to implement the changes in February.

If approved, the changes would be introduced for September 2016 entry.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who is the Council consulting with?**

The Council is consulting with parents of children at Wandsworth schools and early years providers, local residents, parents of any other children aged between two and eighteen, councillors, MPs, headteachers, governors, the diocesan authorities, neighbouring Local Authorities and other local stakeholders.

### **What happens next?**

The Council will consider all the responses to the consultation. The Council will then decide in February whether to implement changes to the admissions policy.

### **When would the changes come into effect?**

If approved, the changes would be introduced for September 2016 entry.

### **Why 800 metres?**

The proposed threshold distance of 800 metres has been determined by calculating the average maximum distance that children gain entry to oversubscribed schools over the last two admission rounds in 2014 and 2013 (when the change to straight-line distance measurement was introduced). It is felt that this is a reasonable distance to determine that a family still live within the locality of the school whilst also based on historic admission patterns.

### **Where can I found out more information about the earlier initial consultation on possible changes to the admission criteria?**

Details of the consultation together with the Council's response are contained within the Committee report 14-386. A web link to this report is available at [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation).

### **I already have a child at a community school. Will I be affected by this change?**

No, children already with a brother or sister at a community school will still receive priority for a place, provided the brother or sister started at the school prior to September 2016.

### **I have not moved since my older child was offered a place. Will I be affected by this change?**

No, if you have not moved since your older child was offered a place and that child will still be attending the school, you will still receive priority regardless of the distance to the school.

### **Which schools are affected by the change?**

This consultation is about proposed changes to the admission criteria for community schools without priority areas only (for which the Council is the admission authority and sets the admissions policy). These schools are Alderbrook, Allfarthing, Brandlehow, Broadwater, Chesterton, Earlsfield, Falconbrook, Fircroft, Granard, Heathmere, High View, Hotham, John Burns, Ravenstone, Riversdale, Ronald Ross, Shaftesbury Park, Sheringdale, Smallwood, Southmead, Swaffield, The Alton, West Hill and Wix.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (continued)**

### **What about community schools with priority areas?**

It is not proposed to change the admission criteria for those community schools which have a priority area as it is considered that these arrangements already achieve a similar aim. (These schools are Beatrix Potter, Franciscan, Furzedown, Penwortham and Sellincourt.)

### **Will the changes be adopted by voluntary-aided (faith) schools, foundation schools, free schools or academies?**

This consultation is about proposed changes to the admission criteria for community schools only (for which the Council is the admission authority and sets the admissions policy). The Council will also be recommending to academies, foundation schools, free schools and voluntary aided (faith) schools in the borough that they make a similar change. The decision to do this would rest with the governing body or Academy Trust of those schools and would be subject to consultation.

### **How are distances measured?**

Distances are measured by a straight-line between your home and the of the school site as determined by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System. Measurements by alternative systems and/or to other points will not be taken into account in any circumstances.

### **What is a sibling?**

A sibling is defined as a full brother or sister, a step/half brother or sister living at the same address, a child who is living as part of the family by reason of a court order, or a child who has been placed with foster carers as a result of being looked after by a local authority.

### **Further information**

If you have any further queries, please contact Adam Wells, Head of Pupil Services by email on [admissions@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@wandsworth.gov.uk), telephone number 020 8871 7316.

**Table A - Offers made on basis of Sibling Priority for Community Schools (without priority areas), Foundation Schools, Academies and Free schools for Reception Admissions in September 2014.**

School	Total Sibling Offers	Those living over 800m (1)	Of whom would have been offered in any case (2)	Others living over 800m who had not moved since sibling offered (3)	Places Made Available by Proposed Change
Albemarle	12	1	1	0	0
Alderbrook	17	7	6	0	1
Allfarthing	31	2	0	1	1
Belleville	66	16	0	6	10
Brandlehow	13	1	0	0	1
Broadwater	28	8	0	1	7
Chesterton	38	5	0	3	2
Eardley	31	7	7	0	0
Earlsfield	27	5	0	2	3
Falconbrook	16	2	2	0	0
Fircroft	21	8	4	1	3
Granard	32	13	13	0	0
Griffin	18	3	3	0	0
Heathmere	13	5	5	0	0
High View	16	4	4	0	0
Hillbrook	32	6	6	0	0
Honeywell Infant	54	13	0	2	11
Hotham	20	10	2	6	2
John Burns	14	2	0	2	0
Ravenstone	22	5	5	0	0
Riversdale	16	5	2	1	1
Ronald Ross	12	1	0	0	1
Rutherford House	4	4	3	1	0
Shaftesbury Park	11	4	4	0	0
Sheringdale	12	0	0	0	0
Smallwood	22	6	6	0	0
Southmead	21	2	2	0	0
Swaffield	26	7	0	5	2
The Alton	13	1	1	0	0
Tooting	1	0	0	1	0
West Hill	18	9	9	0	0
Westbridge	12	3	3	0	0
Wix	23	8	0	4	4
Total	712	173	88	35	50

**Notes**

1. Applicants offered a place on sibling priority living over 800m from the school.
2. Those living over 800 metres who would have been offered a place as the threshold distance was greater than 800 metres or the school was undersubscribed.
3. Those living over 800 metres who would have been offered a place as they had not moved since their older child was offered a place.
4. These illustrative figures disregard the caveat that children with siblings admitted prior to September 2016 will receive priority in any case.



# **STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR WANDSWORTH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR 2016-17**



## **RESPONSE SHEET**

### **ABOUT YOURSELF**

Name:
Please tick if you are responding on behalf of an organisation: <input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Organisation (if applicable):
Address:
Postcode:

Please mark one box that best describes you as a respondent, and/or the type of organisation in which you have an interest.

Parent/Carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintained School	<input type="checkbox"/>	Academy/Free School	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nursery or other pre-School Provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	SEN provider	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Years Professional	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>						

If Other, please specify:
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## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. The council is proposing to change the sibling admission criterion for community primary schools without priority areas so that priority is given to:

“Brothers and sisters of children on the roll of the school on the date of admission living up to a distance of 800 metres from the school. Children with a brother or sister at the school on the date of admission living over 800 metres from the school will also receive priority where the family have not moved since the last sibling was offered a place or the last sibling was admitted prior to September 2016”

Do you agree or disagree with this proposed change?

Agree ☐

Neither Agree nor Disagree ☐

Disagree ☐

Don't know ☐

2. Please use the space below for any other comments you would like to make about proposed change to admission criteria.

Please return the completed form to:

By email: [admissions@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@wandsworth.gov.uk) including the words 'ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION' in the title; or

By post: Adam Wells, Head of Pupil Services, Wandsworth Borough Council, Town Hall Extension, Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 2PU.

**PLEASE RESPOND BY MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2015.**

## APPENDIX

### WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### PROPOSED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS (WITHOUT PRIORITY AREAS) IN 2016/17

##### Introduction

Wandsworth Borough Council is the admission authority for the 28 community primary schools in the borough.

This admissions policy applies to all Wandsworth community primary schools without priority areas. These schools are Alderbrook, Allfarthing, Brandlehow, Broadwater, Chesterton, Earlsfield, Falconbrook, Fircroft, Granard, Heathmere, High View, Hotham, John Burns, Ravenstone, Riversdale, Ronald Ross, Shaftesbury Park, Sheringdale, Smallwood, Southmead, Swaffield, The Alton, West Hill and Wix.

##### Admission Numbers

The planned admission number for each of these schools is as follows:

Alderbrook	60
Allfarthing	60
Brandlehow	45
Broadwater	60
Chesterton	60
Earlsfield	60
Falconbrook	60
Fircroft	60
Granard	90
Heathmere	45
High View	60
Hotham	60

John Burns	30
Ravenstone	60
Riversdale	60
Ronald Ross	30
Shaftesbury Park	60
Sheringdale	60
Smallwood	60
Southmead	60
Swaffield	90
The Alton	30
West Hill	60
Wix	44

##### Oversubscription Criteria

Places will be first be offered to children with a Statements of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan which names the school. These children will be included in the overall admission number of the school. In the event of oversubscription, the remaining places will then be allocated in the following order of priority as follows:

- (i) Looked after children and those who ceased to be looked after children looked after because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order (note 1);
- (ii) Children with a professionally supported exceptional medical need or exceptional social need for a place at a particular school, as decided by the Director of Education and Social Services (note 2);
- (iii) Children with brothers and sisters on the roll of the school on the date of admission living up to a distance of 800 metres from the school. Children with a brother or sister at the school on the date of admission living over 800 metres from the school will also receive priority under this criterion where the family have not moved since last sibling was offered a place or the last sibling was admitted prior to September 2016 (notes 3 and 4);

- (iv) Other children in order of straight line distance from home to school as measured by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System. (note 4).

If there are more applications than places within any category, applications will be considered in order of straight line distance from home to school as measured by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System (note 4).

**Notes:**

1. *A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. A residence order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.*
2. *Applications made on exceptional medical grounds must be supported by a current letter from a specialist health professional. Applications made on exceptional social grounds must be supported by a current letter from a social worker or other care professional working with the family. The letters must give reasons why the child's condition or circumstances make it necessary for the child to attend the school applied for, and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend an alternative school. If this information is not provided by the application closing date, the application will not be considered under this criterion. The Director of Education and Social Services may request professional advice, from within or outside Wandsworth Council, before reaching a decision.*
3. *A sibling is a full brother or sister, a step/half brother or sister living at the same address, a child who is living as part of the family by reason of a court order, or a child who has been placed with foster carers as a result of being looked after by a local authority.*
4. *The straight-line measurement used to prioritise applicants for admission to schools in Wandsworth commences in all cases at the location of the property and terminates at the central point of the school site as determined by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System. Measurements by alternative systems and/or to other points will not be taken into account in any circumstances. Where applicants have identical distance measurements, priority amongst them will be determined at random.*
5. *The permanent address of the parent/guardian with whom the child is living on the closing date for applications will be used for this purpose and this must be the address where the family normally lives. Parents are not permitted to use a temporary address to secure a school place for the child. A business address, a childminder's address, or any address including a family member's address other than the child's permanent home will not be accepted. Proof of address will be sought and if there is any doubt about the validity of the address given it may be the subject of further investigation. Please see the "Choose a Wandsworth Primary School" admissions brochure for further information.*
6. *There is no automatic right of transfer from the nursery class to the infant reception class within the same primary school. If there are more applications than places available, priority will be based on the above criteria alone.*

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## **Additional Information**

### **Method of Application for Reception**

Parents/carers must apply on the Common Application Form of the local authority where they live. This can be completed online via [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions) or on a paper form available from the school or their local council's School Admissions Team. The closing date for Reception class applications will be 15th January 2016. Notification letters will be sent out on 16th April 2016. Applications received after the set closing date will be accepted but will not normally be considered for a place at the school until after the initial offer date.

### **Admissions to the bilingual classes at Hotham, Shaftesbury Park and Wix Primary Schools**

Hotham, Shaftesbury Park and Wix are community primary schools with a bilingual (English/French) stream. The oversubscription criteria for admission to the bilingual and non-bilingual classes are as set out above.

Hotham and Shaftesbury Park Primary Schools will each have two reception classes:

- 30 children will be admitted to a reception class in which they will receive a bilingual (French/English) education.
- 30 children will be admitted to the English only reception class.

Wix Primary School will admit 44 reception age children. The school will have a separate reception class in which children will receive a bilingual education, as well as having its normal reception class. The bilingual class will be of up to 28 pupils, 14 of which will be applicants for Wix School and the remaining 14 will be applicants to the Lycee Ecole.

Parents/carers who wish to apply for a place at one or more of these schools must list the school as a preference on their Local Authority application form. Those who wish their child to be considered for the bilingual class must also complete a supplementary information form. Applicants not offered a place in the bilingual class will be considered for the English only class. Those who do not wish to be considered for a place in the English only class must indicate this on the supplementary form.

### **Date of Admission/Deferred Entry**

Children will normally be admitted to the reception year in the September following their fourth birthday.

In line with the Admissions Code, parents can defer their child's entry to the reception year until later in the school year, where they have been offered a place at a school to start before they are of compulsory school age. Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. However, entry cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the final term of the Reception Year. Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until he/she reaches compulsory school age.

### **Waiting List**

Unsuccessful applicants (including any applications received after the closing date) will be included on the school's waiting list ranked in order of priority under the published oversubscription criteria, without regard to the date that the application was received. Please note a child's position on the waiting list can go down as well as up. For example, if a new application is received or if a child on the list moves nearer to the school, the waiting list may

need to be revised. The offer of a place does not depend on the length of time your child's name has been on the waiting list.

## **Appeals**

Parents who are not offered a place for their child have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. Further information will be provided in the notification letter. The Council will publish an appeals timetable annually on its website showing the relevant deadlines.

## **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Children will normally be admitted to the reception year in the September following their fourth birthday and the vast majority of pupils are educated within their normal chronological age group. Any request for admission outside of the child's chronological year of entry will be considered in accordance with paragraphs 2.17-2.17B of the Admissions Code. Such requests would normally apply to children that are summer born and there are significant reasons that would benefit the child's academic, social and emotional development by starting Reception in the following year as opposed to Year 1.

The Council, as the admission authority for Wandsworth community schools, will consider requests on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's 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; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The headteacher's views will also be taken into account. Each case must be supported by a letter from a professional (e.g. GP, Hospital Consultant, Social Worker) that provides the reasons for admissions outside of the chronological year group. If the request is approved, the application will then be considered in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria in the event of oversubscription.

Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at the school but this right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

## **In Year Admissions**

For in year admissions, parents/carers must apply to the school on the Wandsworth In Year Common Application Form. Applications will be considered in accordance with the above oversubscription criteria. In the event that it is not possible to offer a place the waiting list and appeals procedures described above will apply.