

THE HARLINGTON AND SUNDON ACADEMY TRUST



HARLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL **ADMISSIONS POLICY 2024-2025**

Approved by Curriculum Trustee Committee: November 2022

Approved by Board of Trustees: January 2023

Next review: November 2023

1. Admission to Main School

Admission to Harlington Lower School is arranged through the co-ordinated scheme operated by the Academy Trust and the Local Authority School Admissions Service who will act in an administrative capacity to ensure that parents are not offered multiple places. These arrangements follow the general principles laid down in the School Standards and Framework Act.

Applications for admission in September 2024 should be made in accordance with the Local Authority's co-ordinated scheme. The timescales for the application process are set out in the Starting School Booklet available with the application form from the school or the Local Authority.

Harlington Lower School admits children into the Reception class at the start of the academic year during which the child becomes five.

2. Inclusion Statement

As an inclusive school, children who experience difficulties accessing the school and curriculum will be treated as fairly as other applications for admissions.

3. Admission Number

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for Harlington Lower School is 30, which means that a maximum of 30 children can be admitted in any one year group.

4. Allocation of Places

Where the number of requests for places exceeds the Admission Number, the places will be allocated (in the rank order shown) to determine how the places will be allocated to:

1. All children with an Education, Health and Care Plan
2. All "looked after" children or children who were previously 'looked after' (see definition)
3. Children living in the catchment area with siblings at the school (**see definition)
4. Children living in the catchment area
5. Other children with siblings at the school (see definition)
6. Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school site to the child's home address

NOTES

Pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan are required to be admitted to the school which is named on the statement/plan, even if the school is full.

Pupils identified for admission through the Fair Access Protocol will also be admitted even if the school is full.

The admissions criteria will be applied separately and sequentially until all places are filled. Priority is not given within each criterion to children who meet other criteria.

The distance criterion will be used as a tiebreaker in each criterion where required to determine the allocation of places. In the event of (a) two or more children living at the same address point (e.g. children resident in a block of flats) or (b) two addresses measuring the same distance from the school, the ultimate tiebreaker will be random selection, using the Tribal Admissions database to allocate the place.

DEFINITIONS

Looked After Children

A 'looked after' child is a child in the care of a local authority as defined by Section 22 of the Children's Act 1989. In relation to school admissions legislation a 'looked after child' is a child in public care at the same time of application to a school.

All 'looked after' children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Previously 'looked after' children

A previously 'looked after' child is a child who was 'looked after', but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order.

Catchment area

A geographical area from which children are given priority for admission to the particular school.

Please see www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for more information on school catchment areas.

****NOTE:** From September 2017, the catchment area has been revised to include all housing in Lovett Green, Sharpenhoe, Bedford MK45 4SP (this particular area is shared with Westoning Lower School).

Sibling

A sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living at the same address. The sibling must be in the school at the time of application and be likely to remain in the school at the proposed date of admission.

Children who live nearest to the school which is measured in a straight line, using the local authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The local authority will measure the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the Academy Trust of the school.

Home Address

A child's home address will be regarded as the address of the parents or guardians with parental responsibility with whom the child normally lives. This will not usually include grandparents, aunts or uncles. Where a child spends time with parents at more than one address, the address used to allocate a school place will be the one at which the child is ordinarily resident and where the child spends the majority of the school week (Mondays to Fridays) including nights. If there is a query on a home address this will be checked against original official documentation, e.g. council tax bill, a recent utility bill, (gas, electricity or water) a rental agreement, child benefit annual statement or family tax credit information.

5. 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. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (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, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display

challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked after children, previously looked after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

6. Admission Appeals

Appeals/Waiting Lists

Parents of pupils not offered a place at the school will have the right of appeal to an independent Admissions Appeal Panel. Any child refused a place at the school will be placed on a waiting list which will be prioritised according to the admissions criteria. Waiting lists for the normal year of entry will be maintained throughout the whole academic year.

In Year Admissions

Requests for admission into other year groups should be made on the In-Year application form and in accordance with the Local Authority's co-ordinated scheme for In-Year admissions.

Delayed admission for summer born children

Parents have the right to request their summer born child's admission to Reception Year is in the September following their fifth birthday however parents/carers do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group, a decision will be made by the Academy Trust in consultation with the Head Teacher.

Parents/carers need to make their request in writing separately from the CAF, directly to the Academy Trust via the Head Teacher. The request should include the parents'/carer's reasons for the request, information regarding the child's academic, social and emotional development including any supporting evidence the parent deems relevant, where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional and if applicable, details if the child was born prematurely including whether they would have been in a lower age group had they been born on their due date.

The Academy Trust, along with the Head Teacher, will then consider the request, making their decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child in accordance with the School Admissions Code. Once determined, the decision will be communicated by the academy to the parent(s) carer(s) in writing and will include the reasons for the decision.

If a request is granted, the parent will need to make an application as part of next year's normal admission round and this will be processed within the normal allocation process. A place is never guaranteed at the academy and in the case of oversubscription, places are offered in accordance with the academy's oversubscription criteria. In short it would be delaying the application rather than an offer of a place.

*A summer born child is one born between 1st April to 31st August.

7. Fair Access Protocol

We participate in Central Bedfordshire'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.



We support children in becoming well rounded individuals where they naturally demonstrate the values of the school in all aspects of their lives.