

TOWER HAMLETS CHILDREN AND CULTURE Admission Policy for Community Primary Schools (2027/28)



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Children's Services Directorate

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1.	Foreword
1.1	Tower Hamlets Local Authority seeks to operate an admissions system that provides equal and fair opportunities to all applicants. This includes having due regard to children living in areas where there are limited options in applying for a local school place.
1.2	The Local Authority's community school admissions policy has been determined following approval by Corporate Director and Lead Cabinet Member. It is reviewed annually by the Tower Hamlets School Admission Forum, a group representative of all key stakeholders including parents, headteachers, school governors, diocesan bodies and community organisations.
2.	Children with Education, Health and Care Plans
2.1	Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school applied to must be offered a place. This process is separate from the standard admission arrangements set out below.
3.	Oversubscription Criteria
3.1	<p>In cases where a school is then oversubscribed places will be filled in the following priority order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Children looked after by the local authority including adopted children who were previously looked after, children who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order and adopted children who were previously in state care outside of England (See Note 1) 2) Children for whom it is deemed there is strong medical or social reason to attend the school applied to. This can include the parents', carers' or other family members' medical conditions and the family's social needs. Parents must complete the relevant section on the application form and attach medical and/or social reports from a suitable professional (e.g. a doctor or social worker) to support the application. (See Note 2); 3) Children living within the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school (including separate infants and junior schools) and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (See Note 3); 4) Children whose parent is a member of staff who has been employed at the school concerned for two or more years at the time of application and/ or children of a member of staff who has been recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage (See Note 4); 5) Children who live within the catchment area of the school and for whom the school applied for is their nearest community school within the catchment area; 6) Other children from within the catchment area of the school; 7) Children living outside of the catchment area with a sibling at the school; 8) Children living outside the catchment area.

3.2	In the event of oversubscription within any of the categories 2 to 8 above, priority will be given to children who live closest to the school by the shortest walking distance. A digitised ordnance survey map is used to measure the distance from the home address to the school's designated official entrance.
3.3	Should two or more children live an equal distance from the school, including instances where more than one child lives in a multi-occupancy building, the offer of a place will be decided by random allocation.
3.4	<p>Note 1: Confirmation of a child's looked after status will be required.</p> <p>A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Parents must provide documentary evidence of both adoption and that the child was in state care for the local authority to consider.</p> <p>Note 2: Applications under this category are considered by the Primary to Secondary Transfer Committee, comprising a Headteacher, a senior member of the Attendance and Welfare Service and a medical professional. The Committee will decide whether the application should be given priority under this category.</p> <p>Note 3: Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, stepbrother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner. Resident at the same address. The address used should be the one that the child usually lives at and attends school from.</p> <p>Includes the sibling of child who does not live within the school's catchment area, but who was admitted on or before 21 July 2026.</p> <p>Note 4: Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year, with an additional maximum limit dependant on the size of the school as follows:</p> <p>Planned admissions number</p> <p>30 to 45 pupils (Max per year: 1, Max per school: 4) 50 to 60 pupils (Max per year: 2, Max per school: 8) 75 to 90 pupils (Max per year: 3, Max per school: 12)</p> <p>The staff applicant must complete the relevant section on the application form and attach documentation supporting admission on these grounds. It is the staff applicant's sole responsibility to provide this information. Without the provision of the relevant documents, the child will not be considered on these grounds.</p>
4.	Catchment Area
4.1	The school catchment area is the defined area in which a school is located. It is generally bounded by major roads and/or railway/canal. The catchment area for each Tower Hamlets Community school is set by the Local Authority and is designed to ensure that each address in the borough falls into the catchment area of a local school. Details of the community schools within the catchment area for a particular address can be viewed on the Local Authority's website: http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/equalchance .
5.	Age of Admission
5.1	Children born on and between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 would normally start primary school in Reception in the school year beginning in September 2027 . All Tower Hamlets infant and primary schools provide full-time education for children offered a place in the Reception Year from the September following their fourth birthday.

5.2	Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age during the school year. A child's attendance at school does not become compulsory until the start of the term following their fifth birthday. Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. The parent would not however be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the start of the summer term in the academic year for which the original application was accepted.
5.3	Where parents choose to defer entry, a school may reasonably expect that the child would start at the beginning of a new school term/half term. Where a parent of a 'summer-born' child (1 April - 31 August) wishes their child to start school in the autumn term following their fifth birthday, they will need to re-apply for a place at the correct time.
5.4	It is the view of the Local Authority that children should start primary school with their normal age group. However, a parent may seek admission for their child outside the normal group; for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has been born prematurely. If a parent wishes to request for their child to be admitted outside of the normal age group, they should include a letter with their reception application and also provide a report from an appropriate education or health professional.
6.	Nursery Provision
6.1	Some schools have a nursery class or deliver pre-school nursery education. The admission arrangements set out in this document do not apply to applications for the school's nursery. Parents of children who are admitted to a nursery provision at a school must apply in the normal way for a place at the school, if they want their child to transfer to the reception class. Attendance at the nursery or co-located children's centre will not guarantee admission to the school.
7.	Applying for a Place
7.1	Applications can be made by parents or carers with parental responsibilities who are residents of Tower Hamlets and professionals with parents' agreement.
7.2	How to apply for a primary school place is set out in the Local Authority's school admissions booklet, 'Starting Primary School in Tower Hamlets'. Applications are then co-ordinated for all the schools in the Tower Hamlets area in accordance with the Authority's published scheme. The scheme can be viewed on the following webpage: School admissions (towerhamlets.gov.uk)
7.3	The closing date for applications is 15 January 2027 and the date on which families are sent notification of the outcome is 16 April 2027 .

8.	Late Applications
8.1	Applications received after the 15 January 2027 closing date will be treated as late applications unless there is evidence to show that the application or amendment could not reasonably have been made on time. A new preference or change in the order of preferences will not be accepted after the closing date unless the circumstances are deemed to be exceptional. Late applications will be dealt with after all on time applications in the first round of offers on 16 April 2027 . Where a school is oversubscribed late applications will be refused and placed on the waiting list in accordance with the admission criteria.
8.2	Where the Local Authority has determined there are exceptional circumstances for the late submission of an application it will be treated as 'on time' and, where possible, considered alongside existing applications.
9.	Twins and Multiple Births
9.1	For applications made in the normal admission round, if the last child to be offered a place is a twin and their sibling cannot be offered initially, the Local Authority will ensure both twins are offered a place. In the case of triplets or other multiple births, if the majority of children can be offered a place initially, the Local Authority will offer places to the remaining children. For example, if two triplets can be offered a place, the remaining child will also receive an offer of a place.
10.	Waiting List
10.1	<p>The Admissions Service will hold waiting lists for all oversubscribed community schools until the end of the autumn term and continue to allocate places from these lists if spaces become available. Applicants will be ranked on these waiting lists in priority order, according to the school's admission criteria. If a vacancy arises, it will be offered to the first applicant on the waiting list.</p> <p>If parents wish for their child to remain on the Reception waiting list after 31 December, they must complete an In-Year Application. Please note that transfers take place at the beginning of each term. Full details, including the timetable can be viewed on the Council website.</p>

10.2	<p>The order of priority for the in-year waiting list will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children looked after by the local authority including adopted children who were previously looked after, children who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order and adopted children who were previously in state care outside of England. 2. Children without a school place who have a strong medical or social reason to attend the school applied to. 3. Children who have a strong medical or social reason to attend the school applied to. 4. Children without a school place with a brother or sister at the school. 5. Children without a school place. 6. Children with a brother or sister in the school. 7. Children of staff. 8. Children with a brother or sister at the school who would otherwise require travel assistance 9. Children who would otherwise require travel assistance 10. Children who live within the catchment area of the school and for whom the school is their nearest community school within the catchment area 11. Other children from within the catchment area of the school; 12. Children living nearest the school. 13. Distance <p>If a vacancy arises, it will be offered to the first applicant on the waiting list.</p> <p>Proximity to school will determine priority where there are competing claims to a place under each of the criteria.</p> <p>Distances will be measured by the shortest walking route from the home address to the nearest available pupil entrance in constant use to the school, using a computerised digitised map.</p> <p>Should two or more children live an equal distance from the school, including instances where more than one child lives in a multi-occupancy building, the offer of a place will be decided by random allocation.</p>
11.	<p>Infant to Junior Applications</p>
11.1	<p>Parents of children in Year 2 of an infant school must make an application to transfer to the linked junior school by 15 January 2027. A child is guaranteed a place at the linked junior school provided an application is made by the closing date and the child is still in attendance at the school. The application simply involves completing a form online via the E-admissions website.</p> <p>Parents who wish to apply for a Year 3 place at schools other than the linked junior school will need to complete the Local Authority's In-Year Transfer application available on the School Admissions Website:</p> <p>www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions.</p>

Tower Hamlets Primary Schools Catchment areas

School Name	Address	Catchment Area
Arnhem Wharf	Arnhem Place, E14 3RP	Isle of Dogs
Bangabandhu	Wessex Street, E2 0LB	Stepney
Ben Jonson	Harford Street, E1 4PZ	Stepney
Bigland Green	Bigland Street, E1 2ND	Wapping
Blue Gate Fields Infants	King David Lane, E1 0EH	Wapping
Blue Gate Fields Juniors	King David Lane, E1 0EH	Wapping
Bonner (Bethnal Green)	Stainsbury Street, E2 0NF	Stepney
Bonner (Mile End)	Ropery Street, E3 4QE	Bow
Bygrove	Bygrove Street, E14 6DN	Poplar
Canary Wharf College East Ferry	East Ferry Road, E14 3BA	Isle of Dogs
Canary Wharf College Glenworth	Saunders Ness Road, E14 3EB	Isle of Dogs
Cayley	Aston Street, E14 7NG	Stepney
Chisenhale	Chisenhale Road, E3 5QY	Bow
Christ Church CE	Brick Lane, E1 6PU	Bethnal Green
Columbia	Columbia Road, E2 7RG	Bethnal Green
Cubitt Town	Manchester Road, E14 3NE	Isle of Dogs
Culloden	Dee Street, E14 0PT	Poplar
Cyril Jackson (North site)	Three Colt Street, E14 8HH	Poplar
Cyril Jackson (South site)	Limehouse Causeway, E14 8BN	Poplar
Elizabeth Selby Infant	Old Bethnal Green Road, E2 6PP	Bethnal Green
English Martyrs RC	St Mark Street, E1 8DJ	Wapping
Globe	Gawber Street, E2 0JH	Stepney
Hague	Wilmot Street, E2 0BP	Bethnal Green

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Halley	Halley Street, E14 7SS	Stepney
Harbinger	Cahir Street, E14 3QP	Isle of Dogs
Harry Gosling	Fairclough Street, E1 1NT	Wapping
Hermitage	Vaughan Way, E1W 2PT	Wapping
John Scurr	Cephas Street, E1 4AX	Stepney
Kobi Nazrul	Settles Street, E1 1JP	Bethnal Green
Lansbury Lawrence	Cordelia Street, E14 6DZ	Poplar
Lawdale Junior	Mansford Street, E2 6LS	Bethnal Green
Malmesbury	Coborn Street, E3 2AB	Bow
Manorfield	Wyvis Street, E14 6QD	Poplar
Marion Richardson	Senrab Street, E1 0QF	Stepney
Marner	Devas Street, E3 3LL	Poplar
Mayflower	Upper North Street, E14 6DU	Poplar
Mowlem	Mowlem Street, E2 9HE	Bethnal Green
Mulberry Canon Barnett	Gunthorpe Street, E1 7RQ	Wapping
Mulberry Wood Wharf	20 Brannan Street, E14 9ZR	Isle of Dogs
Old Ford	Wrights Road, E3 5LD	Bow
Old Palace	St Leonards Street, E3 3BT	Bow
Olga	Lanfranc Road, E3 5DN	Bow
Osmani	Vallance Road, E1 5AD	Bethnal Green
Our Lady & St Joseph RC	Wades Place, E14 0DE	Poplar
Seven Mills	Malabar Street, E14 8LY	Isle of Dogs
Sir William Burrough	Salmon Lane, E14 7PQ	Stepney
Solebay Primary School	Solebay Street, E1 4PW	Stepney
St Agnes RC	Rainhill Way, E3 3ER	Bow
St Anne's & Guardian Angels RC	Underwood Road, E1 5AW	Bethnal Green

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St Edmund's RC	Westferry Road, E14 3RS	Isle of Dogs
St Elizabeth's RC	Bonner Road, E2 9JY	Bethnal Green
St John's CE	Peel Grove, E2 9LR	Bethnal Green
St Luke's CE	Saunders Ness Road, E14 3EB	Isle of Dogs
St Mary & St Michael RC	Commercial Road, E1 0BD	Wapping
St Paul's Way Trust	Wallwood Street, E14 7BW	Poplar
St Paul's Whitechapel CE	Wellclose Square, E1 8HY	Wapping
St Paul's With St Luke's CE	Leopold Street, E3 4LA	Poplar
St Peter's (London Docks) CE	Garnet Street, E1W 3QT	Wapping
St Saviours CE	Chrisp Street, E14 6BB	Poplar
Stebon	Wallwood Street, E14 7AD	Poplar
Stepney Greencoat CE	Norbiton Road, E14 7TF	Stepney
Stepney Park	Smithy Street, E1 3BW	Stepney
Stewart Headlam	Tapp Street, E1 5RE	Bethnal Green
The Clara Grant	Knapp Road, E3 4BU	Poplar
Thomas Buxton	Buxton Street, E1 5AR	Bethnal Green
Virginia	Virginia Road, E2 7NQ	Bethnal Green
Wellington	Wellington Way, E3 4NE	Bow
William Davis	Wood Close, Cheshire St, E2 6EU	Bethnal Green
Woolmore	Woolmore Street, E14 0EW	Poplar

