

CHBP School Federation



Brunswick Park Primary and Nursery School
Osidge Lane,
Southgate,
London
N14 5DU

Tel: 020 8368 3468
Email: office@brunswickpark.barnetmail.net

Church Hill Primary School
Burlington Rise
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8NN

Telephone: 020 8368 3431
Email: office@churchhill.barnetmail.net

'As a federation, and as individual schools, we are committed to the wellbeing of all of our community - this is an integral part of each school's culture and ethos. Policies are formulated and implemented with this in mind, placing the wellbeing of all at the forefront at all times.'

Admissions Policy

MARCH 2023

	Date
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE / GB	March 23
RATIFIED BY GOVERNING BODY (GB)	Pending
NEXT REVIEW DUE	March 25

Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Admissions arrangements
4. Consultation, determination and publication
5. Applications and offers
6. In-year admissions
7. Waiting list
8. Admissions appeals
9. Monitoring and review

Statement of Intent

At Brunswick Park and Church Hill Schools, we welcome all pupils, and places at the school are offered in an open, fair, clear and objective manner. We work to the principle that any parent accessing our admissions arrangements will be able to understand easily how places for that school will be allocated, and will not be alienated or discouraged from applying based on admissions criteria.

The table below sets out who the LA is and other responsible bodies in our school.

Type of school	Who is the LA?	Who deals with complaints about arrangements?	Who is responsible for arranging/providing for an appeal against refusal of a place at the school?
Community School	Barnet	Schools Adjudicator	LA

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2022) 'School Admission Appeals Code'
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- SEND Information Report

Roles and Responsibilities

The LA is responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance when carrying out the overall admission of pupils into the school.
- Clearly communicating any reasons for rejecting the admission of a pupil, as well as the parent's right to appeal and the appeal process.
- Implementing any advice or recommendations given by the Schools Adjudicator without undue delay.
- Determining the admission arrangements on an annual basis and publicly consulting stakeholders on any proposed changes to the admission arrangements.
- Setting clear, fair and effective oversubscription criteria which do not discriminate against any pupil.
- Communicating oversubscription criteria clearly to parents.
- Notifying the LA of any in-year admissions and their outcomes.

The governing body is responsible for:

- Liaising with the LA where relevant regarding admitting pupils to the school.
- Working with the LA when determining the school's capacity.
- Ensuring that the LA has all the information it needs to set admissions arrangements.
- Making arrangements for pupils admitted through in-year admissions to start as soon as possible.
- Publishing a link to the full, determined admissions arrangements on the school's website.

The Schools Adjudicator is responsible for:

- Acting in line with the relevant legislation and guidance pertaining to admissions.

- Receiving concerns and objections regarding the admission of pupils and making recommendations to the admission authority as a result of these concerns and objections.
- Approving variations to determined admissions arrangements where there has been a major change in circumstances or law.

The appeals clerk is responsible for:

- Having an in-depth knowledge of the relevant appeals codes and other relevant law.
- Providing an independent and impartial service for admission appeals.
- Making the necessary administrative arrangements for hearings.
- Notifying all parties of the order of proceedings in advance of an appeals hearing.
- Responding to queries from appellants in advance of an appeals hearing or identifying who will be appropriate to respond.
- Being an independent source of advice on procedure and admissions law.
- Keeping accurate records of proceedings and providing written notification of the appeals panel's decisions.

Admissions Arrangements

The Published Admissions Number (PAN)

The number of places available is determined by the capacity of the school. The PAN for new Reception pupils is 60 at Brunswick Park and 30 at Church Hill.

The LA will consult with the governing board where it proposes to increase, decrease or keep the same PAN. Where the LA has set a PAN lower than the school's wishes, the school will submit an objection to the Schools Adjudicator, where appropriate.

The governing board will communicate with the LA where the admission of additional children would prejudice the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

Oversubscription Criteria

The LA is responsible for determining admissions arrangements for the school. The oversubscription criteria is reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and compliant with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. This means that the oversubscription criteria will not unfairly disadvantage, whether directly or indirectly, any child based on a protected characteristic or economic disadvantage.

In the event that there are more applicants than available places, the LA has applied the following oversubscription criteria, in order of priority given:

- LAC and previously LAC, including those who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
- Children with siblings currently at the school, or whose siblings have left the school within the last six years.
- Children of staff at the school.

- Children eligible for pupil premium where they are in a nursery class attached to the school either by location or management.

All pupils who have named the school in their EHC plan will be admitted, unless the school can provide appropriate evidence that it cannot meet the child's needs without compromising the efficient education of the other children within the cohort.

Where two applications cannot otherwise be separated, the LA will follow a fair, clear and effective 'tie-breaker' procedure by allocating the place to the pupil who lives closest to school.

Priority Area

The point within the school grounds from which the school will measure any distance is the door of the school reception. This point will be used to determine the school's priority area. The distance from the school will be measured using the child's primary address. The priority area is determined by the Local Authority.

The school will accept pupils from outside the priority area - oversubscription criteria will apply where applicable.

Siblings of Pupils and Children of Staff

For the purpose of this policy, 'sibling' is defined as any sibling related by blood or marriage and any fostered or adopted siblings.

Where oversubscribed, priority will be given to children whose siblings are currently at the school.

Where oversubscribed, priority will be given to children for whom staff members have parental responsibility, where the staff member has been employed by the school for two or more years at the time at which the application was made, and/or where the member of staff has been recruited to fill a vacant post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage. Governors of the school are included in the staff criteria with regard to admissions for children.

Admissions Procedures

The school will offer open events and school tours to all potential applicants, irrespective of any protected characteristics. Where necessary, the school will make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants or disabled parents.

Consultation, Determination and Publication

Consultation

The LA will consult with the governing body on any proposed changes to the admissions arrangements. Consultation will last for a minimum of six weeks and will take place between 1st October and 31st January in the determination year. The LA will consult with the governing body on admissions arrangements at least once every seven years, even if no changes have been made in that time.

Determination and Publication of Admissions Arrangements

The school will publish a link to the LA's full proposed admission arrangements and the contact details of the individual responsible for admissions liaison on its website. The governing board will address any complaints about the proposed admissions arrangements to the School's Adjudicator.

Admission arrangements will be determined by 28th February in the determination year on an annual basis, even when no changes to the arrangements have been made.

A link to the finalised admission arrangements will also be published on the school website by 15 March in the determination year, and will continue to display them for the whole offer year.

Any objections to the admission arrangements will be directed to the Schools Adjudicator by 15th May in the determination year.

Applications and Offers

Applications

Parents can apply for a school place through eadmissions.org.uk. Additional support and advice can be obtained by contacting the LA's admissions team.

Parents are not guaranteed to have their preferences met. The LA will request supplementary information for the purpose of processing applications where necessary.

All offers will be made on National Offer Day, i.e. 16th April or the next working day, where this date falls on a weekend or bank holiday.

Where the school is oversubscribed, the LA will rank applications in accordance with its determined arrangements, and the qualifying scheme will ensure that only one offer will be made per child by the LA.

An offer will only be withdrawn if it has been made in error, a parent has not responded within 20 working days, or if the offer was made via a fraudulent or misleading application. Where an offer has not been responded to within the designated time frame, the LA will give the parent a further opportunity to respond and will explain that the offer will be withdrawn if they do not. If any application is found to be fraudulent after a child has started at the school in the first term of the new academic year, the school may withdraw the place. If the fraudulent application is found after this time, the pupil will not be removed.

The Executive Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff with admissions responsibilities, will assist the LA with deciding on which year group a child will enter. Once a decision has been reached, the child's parents will be informed in writing along with an explanation of how the decision was reached and any reasons why.

The school must admit all children who have an EHC plan where the school is named. Children with SEND who do not have an EHC plan will be treated equally to all other applicants in the admissions process. This includes children who may need extra support or reasonable

adjustments to be made. The details of the school's SEND provision can be found in our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy and SEND Information Report.

In-year Admissions

The school will follow the same process for in-year admissions as for admissions at the start of the academic year.

The school will publish a link to the LA's in-year admissions arrangements on the school website by 31st August each year.

Where the school has places available in-year, it will offer a place to every child who has applied for one without condition or use of oversubscription criteria, unless to do so would be to prejudice the efficient provision of education or use of resources.

The school will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has space available, then a place will be offered. If a place is not available, then the child's parent can ask for their child's name to be added to the appropriate waiting list. As with admissions at the start of the academic year, parents whose applications are turned down are entitled to appeal through the process outlined below.

The school will ensure that parents can access a hard copy of the information from the LA about in-year applications upon request.

The school will provide the LA with details of the number of places available, or any supporting evidence, no later than two school days following the request of such information from the LA.

Waiting Lists

For admissions at the start of the academic year, the school will operate a waiting list which is maintained until 31st December on year of entry. The list will set out the priority for places in the same order set out in the oversubscription criteria. When additional children are placed on the waiting list, the list will be re-ordered in line with the oversubscription criteria - no pupil will be prioritised based on when their name was added to the list.

The LA will make clear in the admissions arrangements the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group for the admissions round.

Parents may request that their child is placed on the waiting list if they are not successful in receiving a place. Where a place becomes available, it will be offered to the parents of the child at the top of the list.

For in-year admissions, if there is a waiting list for that year, the child will be placed on a waiting list until a space becomes available, or the child finds a new school setting. The list will set out the priority for places in the same order as admissions at the start of the year - when a place becomes available, it will be offered to the parents of the child at the top of the list.

If a child on the waiting list is offered a position at the school, the parents will be notified by letter and will have the option of accepting or rejecting the place within 28 days.

Admissions Appeals

In circumstances where a school place is refused, parents, and in some circumstances their children, will have the right to appeal against an LA's decision to refuse admission.

Where this is the case, the LA will establish an independent appeals panel to hear the appeal. The appeal panel will perform its judicial function in a transparent, accessible, independent and impartial manner, and operate according to principles of natural justice.

The LA and appeal panel will ensure that it acts in accordance with this Code, the School Admissions (Appeal Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, the School Admissions Code, other law relating to admissions, and relevant human rights and equalities legislation, for example, the Equality Act 2010.

The procedures outlined within this section will apply to all appeals lodged on or after 1st October 2022. Appeals lodged on or before 30 September 2022 will be heard in accordance with the 'School Admissions Appeals Code' 2012 and the School Admissions (Appeal Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended.

The governing body will be aware of and, where relevant, assist the LA with the admissions appeals procedure.

Timetable

The LA will set a timetable for organising and hearing appeals that:

- Includes a deadline for lodging appeals which allows appellants at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and lodge their written appeal.
- Ensures that appellants receive at least 10 school days' notice of their appeal hearing.
- Includes reasonable deadlines for appellants to submit additional evidence, for admission authorities to submit their evidence, and for the clerk to send appeal papers to the panel and parties.
- Ensures that decision letters are sent within 5 school days of the hearing wherever possible.

The LA will publish the appeals timetable on their website by 28th February each year.

The LA will ensure that appeals lodged by the appropriate deadlines are heard within the following timescales:

- For applications made in the normal admissions round, appeals will be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals
- For late applications, appeals will be heard within 40 school days from the deadline for lodging appeals where possible, or within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.

- For applications for in-year admissions, appeals will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.

Any appeals submitted after the appropriate deadline will still be heard, in accordance with the timescales set out in the LA admissions policy.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body on an annual basis. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff and other interested parties.