

TOWER HAMLETS CHILDREN SCHOOLS and FAMILIES

Admissions Arrangements for Community Secondary Schools (Central Foundation Girls School, George Greens School and Bethnal Green Academy)

2016/17



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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 an extensive public consultation and approval by the Council's Cabinet of elected members. It is reviewed annually by the School Admission Forum, with representation from all key stakeholders including parents, headteachers, school governors, diocesan bodies and community organisations.

2. Oversubscription Criteria

- 2.1 If a community school receives more applications than places available, children with a statement of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plan, which names the school applied to, will be placed before all other applicants. The place will be provided in the appropriate band. Sometimes there are particular reasons why the Local Authority is unable to do so. (See note 1).
- 2.1 A quarter of the total places available at these schools are then allocated to each of the four bands. If any of these are oversubscribed in any band, the admission criteria below will be used (in descending order of priority) to allocate places:
 - 1) Children looked after by the local authority, previously looked after children who have left care under a special arrangements (residence) or special guardianship order, or those adopted from local authority care (See note 2).
 - 2) Pupils who have a 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 3).
 - 3) Pupils living nearest the school who are the first born of their sex in the case of a single sex school, or the eldest child in the case of a mixed school. The number of children admitted under this category will reflect 25% of the intake of the school in each band.
 - 4) Pupils who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission. (See note 4).
 - 5) Pupils who live nearest to the school by the shortest walking route. (See note 5).
- 2.2 In categories 3, 4 and 5 above, a higher priority will be given to pupils who live in the priority geographical areas of south Wapping or west Bethnal Green applying to one of the designated schools. (See 'Priority Areas' below).
- 2.3 **Note 1:** Parents of children with a statement of special educational need or education, health and care plan should note that Tower Hamlets LA seeks to ensure that pupils with statements do not, at secondary transfer time, become unduly concentrated in a few schools. Experience indicates that this can compromise the efficient education of children and the efficient use of resources. This means that if any particular school receives a large number of applications for pupils with statements, some of these may be refused. All applications for pupils with statements or education, health and care plans will be considered by the Special Educational Needs Panel.

Note 2: Confirmation of a child's looked after status will be required.

Note 3: 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.

Note 4: Sibling refers to 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 in the same family unit at the same address. The address used should be the one that the child usually lives at and attends school from.

Note 5: Home to school 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.

3. Priority areas

- 3.1 The south Wapping priority area is the area south of Cable Street and Royal Mint Street, west of Butcher Row, north of the Thames and east of Mansell Street and Tower Bridge Approach. Children living in this area will have priority for admission to the designated schools, which are Mulberry and Stepney Green.
- 3.2 The west Bethnal Green priority area is the area south of Quaker Street, west of Brick Lane, north of Whitechapel High Street and east of Middlesex Street. Children living in this area will have priority for admission to the designated school, which is Swanlea.

4. Exceptional Medical or Social Reasons

- 4.1 Where there is a very strong medical or social reason for attending a particular school priority may be given for admission. Parents must complete the relevant section on the transfer form and attach medical and/or social reports signed by a doctor or social worker to the form. These reports must be received by the closing date on 31st October 2016. The application will be considered by the Primary / Secondary Transfer Committee.

5. Confirmation of Address

- 5.1 Parents may be required to provide acceptable independent proof of their child's address. They must make sure that the application form they complete is accurate and to contact Pupil Services or tell their child's headteacher if there are relevant changes after it is submitted. Places may be withdrawn if false information is entered on the application form. Parents who do not provide evidence of their child's address as requested, or provide conflicting or inconclusive information, may have the place withdrawn, even if it has already been accepted. When parents live separately, the address used should be the one that their child usually lives at and attends school from. If a child lives equally with both parents at different addresses, it is the parents' responsibility to make this clear on the application form. Parents may be asked to provide acceptable proof that this is the case.

6. Siblings in the same year group transferring

Where two or more siblings are in the same year group (e.g. twins), and it is the parent's wish that the siblings should attend the same school, if one sibling can be offered a place at a school, the other will automatically be offered so as not to separate them.

7. Changing Preferences

- 7.1 Parents and carers may not change their preferences unless there is exceptional and genuine reasons for doing so, for example, change of address. Requests to change preferences must be made in writing giving the full reasons.