

## Admissions Policy



**Person responsible:**

**Mrs Sandra Bell**

**2027 - 2028**

## **Introduction**

The Local Governing Body of Barnes Infant Academy is the Admissions Authority for the school on behalf of Vision Learning Trust. This means that a committee of the governing body consider all applications sent to them by the Local Authority, according to the criteria as stated below.

This policy gives regard to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2011, the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admissions Arrangements (England) Regulations 2012 and School Admissions Code, September 2021.

Children who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) which names Barnes Infant Academy will be admitted.

The Admissions Policy is applied if the number of applications exceeds the number of places. Barnes Infant Academy will admit 90 applications in accordance with the Admission criteria by order of priority.

## **Application Procedures and Timetable**

### **Reception class applications**

To apply for a place at this school, the parent must either apply through the Local Authority where the child lives, either online through the Council's website or by a paper application form. The parent will be advised of the outcome of the application on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2027 (National Offer Day) or the next working day, by email if an online application or by letter if a paper application, from the Local Authority on behalf of the governing body.

If the parent is required to provide supplemental evidence to support the application (e.g. council tax bill), this evidence should be provided at the time of application. If not provided, evidence may be sought by the governing body following the closing date for applications. This information must have been correct at the date of closing for applications.

All applications will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2027. This is the cut-off date for applications nationally. (National Closing Date)

### **Late Applications**

Late applications will be administered in accordance with the Local Authority primary coordinated admissions scheme. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their application is received on time.

### **Nursery Class Applications**

Nursery Application Forms are available from the school office. You must be able to evidence your child's birth certificate at the time of application. Applications can be received

any time after the child's second birthday. Places will be allocated using the school's admission criteria by order of priority.

## **Admission Criteria**

### **1. Looked after children**

A 'Looked-after' child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residency/child arrangement or special guardianship order – a child that is looked-after' by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Children's Act 1989 and a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so, because of adoption (or become subject to a child arrangements order, residence order or special guardianship order) and a 'Looked-after' child who appears to the Admission Authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as result of being adopted – 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.

### **2. Siblings**

Children who have a sibling attending the Academy or Barnes Junior School at the time of their application. Sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister or foster brother or sister. The child of the parent/carer's partner is also classed as a sibling if the child for whom the place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. Evidence of cohabitation to fulfil this requirement may be requested.

### **3. Feeder School**

Children who attend the Nursery Class of the same academy in the previous academic year to that of their application.

### **4. Distance from Academy**

Children living near the Academy will be admitted using the selection criteria measured by the shortest, safest walking distance. Distance will be measured from the centre of the child's home address (including flats) taken to be the address in which the child mainly resides to the main entrance of the Academy (Mount Road) using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system (GIS – Geo-Information System). Those living closer to the school will receive the higher priority.

Where required proof of residency will be sought in the form of a Council Tax Bill, and should be sent in as supplemental information with each application. No other means of proving residency will be accepted.

### **Tie Breaker**

Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular criterion priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distance is measured by a straight-line measurement from the centre of the home to the main entrance of the school, using a geographical information system (GIS). This uses Ordnance Survey maps and Land & Property Gazetteer (LLPG), which provides co-ordinates for every dwelling.

## **Admission of Children below Compulsory School Age and Deferred Entry**

A child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. A request may be made for the date at which a child, below compulsory school age, is admitted to the school, to be deferred to later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. A child may take up a part-time place until the child reaches compulsory school age. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school in writing, as soon as possible, that they wish to either defer their child's entry to the school or take up a part-time place.

### **Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group**

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to the Head Teacher of the school. The governing body will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the Head Teacher who has statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals.

### **Summer Born Children**

The parents of a summer born child, i.e. a child born between 1 April and 31 August, may request that the child be admitted out of their normal age group, to the Reception class in the September following their fifth birthday and that that the child will remain in this cohort as they progress through school.

Parents who want to make this request should make an application for their child's normal age group at the usual time. The application to the local authority should include this request. The Local Authority will liaise with the governing body who will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the Head Teacher, who has statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals.

Parents will be informed of the outcome of the request before primary national offer day.

If the request is agreed by the governing body, the application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before a place is offered. If the request is refused, the parent must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an in year application for admission to year one for the September following the child's fifth birthday.

Where a parent's request is agreed, they must make a new application as part of the main admissions round the following year.

One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group. Parents, therefore, should consider whether to request admission out of the normal year group at all their preference schools, rather than just their first preference schools.

### **Waiting Lists**

In addition to their right of appeal, applicants will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list via the school office. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The

waiting list will be held open until the last day of the summer term. Looked after children or previously looked after children allocated a place at the school in accordance with the fair access protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list. Inclusion on the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

### **Infant Class Size Regulations**

Infant classes may not, by law, contain more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher (subject to the provisions in the School Admissions Code for 'excepted children'). Parents do have a right of appeal in accordance with the infant class size regulations if the school is oversubscribed and their child is refused a place.

### **In-Year Applications**

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places.

A school transfer application form must be completed. The school is part of the local authority's in year co-ordination scheme. Information can be found at [www.sunderland.gov.uk/school-transfers](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/school-transfers)

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria will be applied.

If there are no places available, a request can be made that the child is added to the waiting list (see above).

### **Right of Appeal**

Where a parent has been notified that a place is not available for a child, every effort will be made by the Local Authority to help the parent to find a place in a suitable alternative school. Parents who are refused a place have a statutory right of appeal. Further details of the appeals process can be obtained from the school and are available on [www.sunderland.gov.uk/schools-appeals](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/schools-appeals)

### **Fair Access Protocol**

The school is committed to taking children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the governing body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by the governing body for the current school year. The governing body has this power, even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

### **False Evidence**

The governing body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place where false evidence is received.

### **Incomplete application**

If there is an incomplete application for a child, in circumstances where parents cannot agree on a preferred school or the main address where the child resides, the governing body will suspend the application until parents agree. This will mean that if the closing date has passed, your child will not be considered in the admission round and if all places have been allocated then your child will not be given a place.

## NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

1. An **Education, Health and Care Plan** is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child. A **Statement of Special Educational Needs** is a statement made by the local authority under section 324 of the Education Act 1996, specifying the special educational provision for a child.

2. A **looked after child** is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989):

An **adoption order** is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

A **child arrangements order** is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live under the provisions of section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

A **special guardianship order** is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians.

3. A **previously looked after child** is a child who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, child arrangement order or special guardianship order.

4. **Home address** is the primary parental address which will be used in applying the admission criteria. This means that, when stating the choice of school, the parental address at the time of application should be given. The address of childminders or other family members who may share in the care of the child must not be used as the home address. Documentary evidence may be requested.

5. **Brother or sister** means a child who lives as a brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, or the child of a parent's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. It also includes natural brothers or sisters where the child for whom the school place is sought is not living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

6. **Parent** means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for the child, or who has care of the child (having care of a child means that the child lives with and is looked after by that person).

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the Local Authority's admission guidance for parents.**