



**Alma
Primary**

עולם חסד יבנה
A world built on kindness

Alma Primary Admissions Policy

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Policy Development

Change	Responsible	Date
Pre Consultation	Children's Committee	September 2017
Post Consultation – Agreed		

Executive summary

A copy of this executive summary is in the staff handbook – any changes to this policy should be reflected there.

Key points:

Each year allocation of places will be split between 'open places' based on proximity to the school and 'faith-based' places. This approach is designed to ensure that everyone that wants to attend our school has a chance to secure a place.

We allocate faith-based places using a system of random selection so that families who live further away also have a chance to secure a place. This innovative approach will create a community of families actively engaged with the children's learning and Jewish education.

We have focused our Jewish practice criteria on active involvement in the community rather than shul membership or private practice at home. In addition to regular synagogue attendance the criteria also include involvement in organised Jewish learning and attendance at one of a wide variety of Jewish community activities.

1. Overall Admission Policy

- 1.1. Applications must be made on the Common Application Form (CAF). This form is available from your local authority and should be submitted, either on paper or on-line, by the required date.
- 1.2. In addition, the school's Supplementary Information Form should be completed by all applicants. This form must be returned **to the school** by the date specified on the school website.
- 1.3. There will be a Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 30 places in each school year.
- 1.4. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan in which the school is named will be allocated places outside the oversubscription criteria by virtue of their Education, Health and Care Plan.
- 1.5. In line with our policy of inclusivity, the Admissions Policy is designed to give children who live further away from the school an opportunity to attend, as well as children who live close to the school.
- 1.6. Distance will be measured from the proposed main entrance of the school's permanent site to the child's front door.

- 1.7. In the event of a tie, where applicants are from the same block of flats or live exactly the same distance from the School, priority will be selected in random order via a lottery and places will be offered accordingly.
- 1.8. Where a child's parents are separated and the child lives with both parents, but at different times of the week, the child's address will be taken as the address at which they live for the larger part of the week.
- 1.9. If an offer is made under any category to someone who is a twin, triplet or one of multiple births, an offer will also be made to the other sibling(s).

2. Admissions Criteria

2.1. After places have been allocated to children with statements of special educational needs, the allocation of places will be split between **"Open places"** and **"Faith places"**:

- **Open places:** Open places are allocated to children whose parents choose the school regardless of their faith. Parents applying for an open place do so knowing that the school aims to provide a Jewish education and the governing body expects that all pupils will take part in all aspects of the school's curriculum;
- **Faith places:** Faith places will be allocated to children of families who can demonstrate practice of an aspect of the Jewish faith.

3. Over subscription criteria

3.1. If the number of applications for admission is greater than the pupil admission number, places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

- 3.1.1. Looked after children and previously looked after children;
- 3.1.2. Children whose social or medical needs are needs that the school can reasonably meet and which are such that they cannot be met sufficiently at any other schoolⁱⁱ;
- 3.1.3. Pupils whose siblingsⁱⁱⁱ:
 - a) Have accepted a place; or
 - b) Currently attend the School and will continue to do so on the date of admission;
- 3.1.4. Children of members of staff^v;

3.1.5. Children whose parents have been given founder status^v.

3.2. Once places have been allocated under the criteria above, the remaining places will be divided equally between 'open places' and 'faith places'.

3.2.1. 50% of the remaining places will be offered to the children living nearest to the address of the school, measured as described in 1.6. of which one will be allocated to a child in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium.

3.2.2. The remaining 50% of places will be allocated through random allocation, open to children whose families fulfil the criteria in paragraph 4 for a faith place. One place will be allocated to a child in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium whose family fulfils the criteria for a faith place. The random allocation will be carried out by an independent authority, agreed by the Children's Committee of the Governing Body.

3.2.3. In the event that there is an odd number of remaining places, one place will be allocated as an 'open place' and the remainder will be divided equally.

4. Evidence required to demonstrate "practice of an aspect of the Jewish faith"

4.1. Families applying for a "faith place" must provide documentary evidence of only **one** of the criteria below at the time of applying. All the criteria below have equal weight. The criteria are:

4.1.1. Attendance by a parent / legal guardian and their child at a minimum of 7 synagogue services in the 12 months before the closing date for admissions; or

4.1.2. A child's enrolment in formal Jewish education (either at nursery or pre-school having a Jewish character) for at least 6 months in the 12 months before the closing date for admissions; or

4.1.3. A parent / legal guardian's regular (at least monthly) involvement as a volunteer in any Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activity of at least a year's duration in the 2 years before the closing date for admissions; or

4.1.4. A parent / legal guardian's regular involvement on at least 7 individual occurrences either in organised Jewish learning or organised Jewish community activities in the year before the closing date for admissions. Activities could include (but are not limited to):

- Synagogues: any courses or one-off learning or cultural events;
- Jewish Book Week: attending a session(s);
- SpiroArk: attending any of their courses or 1-off events;

- London School of Jewish Studies: attending any of their courses or 1-off events;
- Limmud: attending the Limmud Conference, LimmudFest, or any of the regional Day Limmud events;
- JW3 for London: attending any of their 1-off events;
- Social Action organisations – attending events run by or volunteering for any such organisation including (but not limited to) Jewish Council for Racial Equality, Tzedek, Gefiltefest, Mitzvah Day, New Israel Fund, Rene Cassin, Yachad.

4.2. In order to validate attendance the following evidence is required:

- I. For (4.1) to (4.3) verification will be required from the organisation involved.
- II. For (4.4) participation in each event must be verified with its own separate letter and author.

5. Operation of waiting lists

The School will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the School receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the first term. This will be maintained by the school and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. Where places become vacant, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

6. In Year Applications

Families should contact the school if they wish to apply for a place during the school year, after the start of reception. Applicants will be added to the appropriate school year's waiting list and any offers processed through Barnet's admissions systems and in accordance with the schools over subscription criteria.

7. Request to delay entry to school (known as deferred entry)

Children must take up a place at school by the term after their fifth birthday (compulsory school age). Parents of children below compulsory school age may defer their child's entry to a reception class school until later in the school year, or request that their child attend part time until they reach compulsory school age. However, a Reception class place should be taken up by the start of the summer term.

Parents that are considering deferring their child's entry should inform the school of this before you submit an application. The head teacher will then arrange to meet you for a discussion and take you through the process should you wish to proceed. If entry is deferred beyond the start of the summer term, parents will need to reapply for a Year 1 place. This will not prejudice your application.

8. Requests for admission outside a child's age group

Children are educated in school with others of their age group. However, parents may request that their child is exceptionally admitted outside their age group. The head teacher will decide whether or not the individual child's circumstances make this appropriate on educational grounds. Such requests will be considered on a case by case basis and will only be agreed in exceptional circumstances. There is a right to appeal if a place cannot be offered in another age group at the school.

Parents seeking admission to an age group outside the child's actual age must inform the school of this before you submit an application. The head teacher will then arrange to meet you for a discussion and take you through the process should you wish to proceed. Parents must provide Alma with information in support of their request by the close of applications for a reception class place in January.

9. Right of Appeal

If the School decides to refuse an application to the school, it will include the reason why the admission was refused, provide information about the right to appeal, the deadline for logging an appeal and the contact details for making an appeal. There will be no limit to the grounds on which an appeal can be made. The School will operate a transparent and fair appeals procedure which fully complies with the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. Appeals will be managed in line with the timetable for appeal processes set out in the Schools Admissions Appeals Code 2012.

ⁱ Distance is measured in a straight line between the front door of the child's home and the main school gate. The distance between these points is calculated using the London Borough of Barnet's computerised measuring system (S.A.M.S).

ⁱⁱ Any applications made on the basis of social or medical needs will be addressed in advance of other considerations. A panel for this will meet once the deadline for applications has closed. Confirmation of the position of these applications will be sent out in advance of the offer of places.

ⁱⁱⁱ Siblings are defined as including half, step, adoptive, foster siblings and twin or multiple birth siblings provided they also live at the same address as the applicant, but not other children who also live at the same address who do not fall into one of these categories.

^{iv} Members of staff are entitled to a priority place for their children if they have been in service for two or more years at the time at which the application of admission is made or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a demonstrable skills shortage

^v Founders are defined as Governors and those who have played a pivotal role in the core group founding the school by volunteering 150 hours or more in a specific role by the close of the 2013/14 admissions process and continue to play a significant and on-going role in the school. A list of those admitted under these conditions has been agreed by the Secretary of State and is available from the school on request