

RIVERSDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Admissions Policy

Date: 1st March 2024

Review Date: 1st March 2025



INTRODUCTION

Our governing body applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 introduced a new framework for school admissions as of September 2000. This was later revised in the Education Act of 2002. Our admissions policy conforms to the regulations that are set out in that Act and are further explained in the statutory School Admissions Code of Practice and the statutory Appeals Code of Practice. These were revised in January 2003 and came into force in September 2004.

AIMS

We seek to be an inclusive school, welcoming children from all backgrounds and abilities. All applications will be treated on merit, and in a sensitive manner. A child's level of ability is irrelevant to this school's admissions policy; as are any special needs the child may have.

The only restriction we place on entry is that of numbers. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we adopt the procedure set out below to determine whether a child is to be accepted or not. It is our wish for parents/carers to find a place for their child at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to excess demand on the places available.

APPLICATIONS

Our school is a community school, and it determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the local authority (LA). The Admissions Authority for our school is therefore the LA, which publishes its entry regulations every year. Parents/carers can receive a copy of these regulations directly from the LA.

The LA's annual admissions prospectus informs parents and carers how to apply for a place at the school of their choice. Parents/carers have a right to express their preference, but this does not, in itself, guarantee a place at that particular school.

Applications should be made online through eAdmissions, the link to which can be found on the LA website here: <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schools-and-admissions/admissions/primary-school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/>. The LA will notify parents and carers of the decision, as soon as all the applications have been considered and the school will contact parents/carers in due course, if a place has been allocated.

In this area, children enter school at the start of the academic year in which they become five. There is one admission date per year, early in September (i.e. when the autumn term begins). Therefore, parents and carers who would like their child to be admitted to this school during the year their child is five, should ensure that they return the necessary application form by the end of January.

Children for the resource base are admitted based on need being able to be met. This is ascertained by examination of EHCP and observations of children. Children of siblings would have priority.

ADMISSION APPEALS

If we do not offer a child a place at this school, this will be because to do so would prejudice the education of other children, by surpassing the number of children in the school that would ensure quality teaching.

If parents and carers wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the LA. An independent panel considers all such appeals, and its decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to whom we had refused a place, then we will accept this decision and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school.

Further details of appeal arrangements are set out in the revised Code of Practice on School Admissions Appeals, which came into force in September 2004.

THE STANDARD NUMBER

The 'standard number' is the number of children the LA considers the school can accommodate. The standard number for our school is 60 children per year group from Reception to Year 6. Riversdale Nursery has 26 full time equivalent places. Please note that a Nursery place is no guarantee of a place in Reception the following year.

SIZES OF CLASSES FOR INFANTS

As with all classes, we teach infant children (aged five to seven) in classes that have a maximum number of 30 children.

Base class sizes are a maximum of 10 children in any class.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be monitored by the governing body, who will always take due note of the guidance provided by the local Admissions Forum.

The policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier in the light of any changed circumstances, either in our school or in the local area.