



Chatsworth Infant School

Admissions Policy

Admissions

All applications shall be received and offers made individually by the LA in common with other Bexley Primary Schools.

The school has an agreed admission number of 60 pupils for entry in year R. The school will accordingly admit up to 60 pupils in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 60 or fewer apply. In line with legislation, all children will be permitted to start in Reception in the September following their 4th birthday.

All applications shall be made using the LA standard application form which can be downloaded from www.bexley.gov.uk.

Admission Criteria

If the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan where the school is named in the Statement or Plan, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in order:

- (i) A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order (see note 1). 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).
- (ii) Siblings – children who have a brother or sister attending at the beginning of their first term (see note 2)
- (iii) Children of staff of the school – priority may be given to children of the staff in either or both of the following circumstances:
 - a. Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
 - b. The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- (iv) Proximity, as measured in a straight line from the front door of the home to the front door of the school (see note 3 and 4)

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break in category '4' above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same. This process will be independently verified.



Offers of places will be made by the LA in April for the whole of the academic year. Children who are not offered a place immediately will have the option of remaining on a waiting list. Children on the waiting list will be offered places in order according to the criteria listed above. Children will be removed from the waiting list once the normal admission point for their birth date has passed, unless the parent requests in writing that they should continue to remain on it.

The Pioneer Academy – Chatsworth Infant School, in common with all other schools in Bromley, will admit pupils referred under the Fair Access Protocol. Subject to specific provisions in the protocol, a “Hard to Place” pupil will be given priority for admission over any others who are seeking or applying for a school place and the school can admit over their published admission number. The other criteria detailed in this document do not apply to pupils referred under the Fair Access Protocol.

Parents of children not offered places will also be informed of the appeals procedure. Parents have a statutory right to appeal in the event of The Pioneer Academy admissions decision not to offer a place. Although The Pioneer Academy is the admissions authority, an independent panel considers appeals and their decision is binding on both parties.

Note 1: An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders) Children Act 2002. A ‘child arrangements order’ is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by s.14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a ‘special guardianship order’ as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian (or special guardians).

Note 2: 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 elder sibling must still be on roll at the school when the younger child starts school.

Note 3: “Home” being where the child normally resides as their only or principal residence. Addresses involved in child minding (professional or relatives) are excluded. Parents will be asked to provide documentary evidence to confirm an address and parental responsibility. It is expected that the applicant and pupil will still be resident at the same address when the child starts school unless exceptional circumstances apply.

Note 4: Distance will be measured (in a straight line) from the front door of the child’s home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school building, using the Local Authority’s computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.