

GUIDANCE NOTES HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR 2016

Advice to Parents

All preferences are treated equally and the Local Authority will offer the highest preference that is able to be offered. Therefore parents should rank the schools in order of **their** preference.

It is advisable to use all the preferences (6) and make one of the preferences the nearest non-faith school.

If the Local Authority is unable to offer any of the preferences the parents will be offered a place at a school which has a vacancy at the end of the process. Therefore it is important that they make realistic preferences.

New Schools

All new schools proposed to open in 2016 will be outside the co-ordinated application process. Parents wishing to apply to those schools will need to contact the school direct and apply for a place on the school's application form.

Parents are strongly advised to also apply for established schools through the co-ordinated system as there is no guarantee at this point that the new schools will open in 2016

Changes to admission criteria for Community High Schools

Following consultation the Community Schools admission arrangements have changed for admission in 2016. The criterion for exceptional medical/social circumstances has been removed. This affects the admission criteria for Acton, Elthorne Park and Dormers Wells High Schools.

The admission criteria for Community High Schools will be as follows:

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after
2. Siblings who will still be attending the main school at the time of admission
3. Distance from home to school

Online applications

Please encourage parents to apply online except for parents who have a child who has a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan. The advantages of applying online are:

- It is convenient and secure
- Parents receive electronic acknowledgement of their application

- Parents can scan and attach any supporting documentation e.g. proof of date of birth (proof of address is **not** required at time of application)
- Parents can obtain the outcome of their application on the evening of 1 March 2016 rather than waiting for the post on 2/3 March

Parents/carers can apply online from 1 September, by going to: www.eadmissions.org.uk. Parents/carers should be informed that they can only apply once by completing either an application online or a paper application not both. If multiple applications are made the latest dated application will be accepted. If parents apply online they can either scan the proof of birth and attach it to their online form or provide it separately direct to the LA, noting their name, address and online application reference number on all the documents submitted so that they can be tied up with their online application.

NB – If a parent thinks they have submitted their online form and they do not receive an email acknowledgement with their application reference number e.g. 307-2016-09-E-123456 they have not applied. They should also keep a note of their user ID and password so that they can log back into the system.

Prospectus

Schools will be provided with 5 copies of the prospectus to hold so that parents can view the prospectus at school but not take them away. The prospectus can also be viewed on Ealing's website:
www.ealing.gov.uk/admissions

Application Forms

We will supply schools with 10 application forms to give to those families who are unlikely to apply unless the school assists them with their application or if parents do not have internet access. If a school runs out of forms the school can request an electronic version which can be sent out to you so that the required number of forms can be printed by the school.

The following procedure should be adhered to when schools receive the paper applications:

When parents/carers return the completed application forms to the school please:

- Date-stamp the form on date of receipt in the appropriate place on the front of the form.
- Ensure that photocopies of necessary documents are attached to the application form. All parents/carers will be expected to provide proof of date of birth e.g. a medical card, passport or short birth certificate.
- **If the school has any queries about the validity of an address being claimed as the permanent home address please point this out to school admissions who will investigate further.**

Schools must send completed application forms in weekly batches to main round admissions. This allows the LA to start data entry as soon as possible.

Please retain a copy of all completed application forms sent to main round admissions for your records in case forms are lost in transit.

After the closing date of 31 October the application is late but parents can still apply on-line.

N.B. If parents have not submitted proof of their child's date of birth by the closing date do not hold onto the application forms. Send them onto the LA and the Admissions Section will chase the parents for the proof.

Checking the application forms

Please check that the applications are completed in full (especially parents contact telephone numbers and email addresses) and have the supporting documentation attached. Applications should not be treated as late if they have been submitted by the statutory closing date of Friday, 31 October but please encourage parents to hand in their application form by Friday 23 October 2015 (the Friday before half-term).

Important

In order that Admissions can check that we have received all the applications for your School's Year 6 pupils please provide Admissions with an excel spreadsheet with all the pupils names, addresses, dates of birth who are resident in the London Borough of Ealing via S2S with the suffix Y6LVRS/or a hard copy by the end of September.

Schools must check with all Year 6 parents to ensure that they have completed either an online or paper application. Please do not forget to check with all new Year 6 starters during the year that they have made an application for high school. If they have not they need to complete a paper application form and out-borough residents need to contact their home Local Authority for a form.

Proof of Address - Please note

The documentary evidence is **not** required at the time of application, however, if we are unable to verify the address from our records proofs of address may be required.

Receiving schools should also require parents to provide proof of address and date of birth prior to attending the school and if there are any queries regarding the proof/s provided they should be referred to School Admissions for further investigation. This is a second check to ensure that parents have not falsified their address or their child's date of birth.

Proof of the child's date of birth

Proof of date of birth can be requested at the point of application if they are asked for their medical card, passport or short birth certificate.

Admissions criteria

Parents/carers applying for a place at a community school and wishing their children to be considered for priority consideration under the following criteria:

- a) Looked after children or children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.**

Must attach to the application a letter from the Social Services confirming the legal status of the child and the Local Authority with whom the child is/was in care.

Some parents tick this box in error, if there is no proof attached please follow up with the parents to find out if they really fall under this criterion.

If you are aware of any families who may fall into the criterion it is vital that you remind them to obtain and forward the required letter/report.

Parents should not delay their application if they have not received the supporting documentation from a professional. The supporting documents can be forwarded later as long as they are marked with the child's name and date of birth.

Do not delay in submitting a child's application. If the parents have not provided supporting information, forward all received forms on the closing date ensuring that the forms are date stamped with the date received. After the closing date all applications received must be date stamped and marked late.

IMPORTANT

Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan

Please inform the parents of these children that they **MUST NOT** complete a common application form as the SEN Assessment Service will reserve places for children with Statements of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plans after consultation with the parents and the school/s concerned.

Late Applications

After the closing date of 31 October the application is late but parents can still apply online.

Applications received after the closing date will not be dealt with until after the 1 March unless the LA or school has made an error in accepting the application or if there are exceptional circumstances for lateness (e.g. where a single parent/carer had been ill and the illness prevented the application being made on time or the family had been dealing with the death of a close relative i.e. one of the parents or child's siblings). If the school considers that a parent/carer who has submitted a late application meets the above criteria please attach to the application form a supportive letter explaining the circumstances. The last date for applications to be entered onto the system is **Wednesday, 9 December 2015 and therefore no late applications can be dealt with after that date.**

Applications from parents who have recently moved and have completed and returned an application between 1 November and 9 December will be considered as on-time.

Assisting parents with the application process

If parents have literacy difficulties, please ensure that any application form that is completed by you on the parent's/carer's behalf is signed or marked by them by the closing date of Friday, 23 October 2015 or by the latest the statutory deadline of Saturday, 31 October 2015.

If parents do not have friends or relatives to help them understand the information regarding transfer to high school and the school is unable to help the parents, the parents or the school need to contact school admissions.

Faith Schools

Parents/carers who apply to these schools need to fill in the school's own supplementary information form as well as the common application form. This is explained in the prospectus but it would be helpful if parents/carers could be reminded of this procedure as many parents/carers miss out each year by not completing the supplementary form and the priest's reference form. The two Ealing Schools that require supplementary information forms are:

Cardinal Wiseman RC High School
Twyford CE High School

If parents are applying to out-borough schools they need to consult the Local Authority prospectus to find out if a supplementary information form is required for the school to which they are applying.

William Perkin makes available 19 places a Language Scholarship places, if parents wish to apply for these places they need, in addition to the Common

application, to complete the Language Scholarship application form which can be downloaded from the school's website and returned to the school by the Language Scholarship closing date.

Twyford makes available 19 places for specialist music places, if parents wish to apply for these places they need in addition to the Common application to complete the specialist music admissions application which can be downloaded from the school's website and the completed form returned to the school by the music admission date.

Don't forget to remind parents about:

The Admissions Fair on Tuesday, 6 October 2015 at Ealing Town Hall, Liz Cantell Room, between 4.00 pm and 8.00 p.m.

and

Individual advice sessions at Perceval House, on Monday 12 October and Tuesday 13 October 2015 in Room M0.23 and Wednesday 14 October in M0.22 - 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

**Parents need to phone to book a slot by calling Admission numbers:
0208 825 5511/5522**

HIGH SCHOOL KEY DATES

Friday 23 October 2015

Published closing date

Saturday 31 October 2015

Statutory deadline for receipt
of applications

Wednesday 9 December 2015

Late on-time applications

Tuesday 1 March 2016

Offer letters posted

Tuesday 15 March 2016

Deadline for receipt of
acceptances