



School Admission Arrangements

Southwark Council

December 2016

Purpose



Provide an overview of:

- school admission arrangements and their governance.
- roles of admission authorities and local authority
- the coordinated school admissions process and timetable.

Southwark context



- **We have 99 state-funded mainstream schools: 19 secondary schools, 75 primary, and 5 nursery schools**
- **93% of our schools are “good” or “outstanding”**
- **£160 million Southwark investment in building capacity of schools places and improving the quality of the learning environment**
- **We have created and enabled 3200 additional primary places and 1,570 secondary (11-15) places over the last 10 years**

School admissions – powers and duties



- The school admissions Code has the force of law, and are mandatory where the words 'must' and 'must not' are used.
- Legislation – School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended).
- The School Admissions Code (December 2014)
- The School Admissions Appeals Code (1 February 2012)

School Admissions Code



The School Admissions Code applies to:

All admission authorities of maintained schools (including Academies and Free Schools).

- Community schools = Local Authority
- VA, Foundation, Free Schools = Governing body
- Academies = Academy Trust

Admission authorities in Dulwich wards



Local authority – community schools:

- Dulwich Wood Primary School
- Goodrich Community Primary School
- Heber Primary School

Own admission authority schools:

- Dulwich Village Infants CE
- Dulwich Hamlet Junior School
- Goose Green Primary School
- Harris Free School East Dulwich
- Judith Kerr Primary School
- St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
- Kingsdale Foundation School

Admission authority Duties



Responsibilities in relation to the Code:

- Clear, fair and objective admission arrangements.
- Set and publish the admission number for each relevant age group.
- All places are allocated in accordance with those admission arrangements/compliance with the Code

Local authority admission roles



- Ensure every child of statutory school age is offered a school place.
- Coordinate admissions to all schools in the borough
- Produce admission arrangements and arrange admission appeals for community schools.
- In year admissions, compliance checks and publish an admissions brochure with details of all Southwark schools.

Prioritising school places



Examples of admissions and oversubscription criteria:

- Admission of looked after children - highest priority for all.
- Siblings
- Social and medical
- Distance
- Feeder schools
- Faith based
- Aptitude
- Random allocation
- Children of staff

Prohibited practice



Examples of prohibited practice - MUST NOT:

- Place any conditions on an applicant, not in published criteria.
- Give extra priority to children according to the order of schools named (e.g. first preference).
- Give priority to children according to parents' willingness to support the school.
- Occupation, financial/educational/marital status must not be considered (Pupil premium eligibility an exception).

Consultation on admission arrangements



- **Handout available with further details.**
- ***“When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.”***
- **For details of schools consulting**
www.southwark.admissions/consultation.....

Objections to admission arrangements



- **Handout available with further details.**

Paragraph 1.50 of the School Admissions Code states:

- ***“Following determination of arrangements, any objections to those arrangements must be made to the Schools Adjudicator. Objections to admission arrangements... must be referred to the Adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year”***

Applying for a school place



- AA to set, determine and publish admission arrangements.
- parents/carers complete an online application Year R, 3, 7 by the published closing date 31st October 2016 and 15th January 2017.
- Six preferences to be made!!
- Highest preference available offered.
- LA sends offers out on the National Offer Day – 1st March & 18th April 2017.
- Right of appeal
- Offers accepted, changed and re-allocated by the admissions team.

Key messages



- Visit schools and ask questions
- Check admission arrangements for each school
- Apply by the deadline date
- Keep in touch with Southwark's admissions team!

Details



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