

# ***Proposed admissions criteria for Barnet Hill Academy***

## ***Nursery***

*(NB criteria are subject to change and may be amended as part of the statutory proposals process)*

This is the comprehensive admissions policy and procedure for entry into Barnet Hill Academy Nursery, which provides nursery education to children from the age of 3. Once admitted to the Nursery, children remain enrolled subject to Nursery terms and conditions, until they reapply to transition to Reception.

Barnet Hill Academy Nursery was founded to provide a sound Islamic religious and secular education and priority for admission is given to those children of practising Muslim families, defined broadly as one where the parents are regular attendees of mosques and whose principles and practices are in accordance with the mainstream *Ahl-al-Sunnah* doctrine. The decision as to whether or not an applicant qualifies for priority consideration will be based on the information provided by the applicant in the Supplementary Information Form ("SIF"). In this policy those who qualify for priority are referred to as Muslim Children.

### **Admissions**

- In the event that the Nursery is oversubscribed priority will be given as follows:
  - Looked After and Previously Looked After Muslim children.
  - Muslim children with siblings who are currently at Barnet Hill Academy or the Nursery at the time of the application. For these purposes “siblings” shall include half-siblings, step-siblings and adopted siblings who are Muslim Children and who are living at the same address.
  - Children of a member of staff where the member of staff has been employed at Barnet Hill Academy or the Nursery for two or more years at the time of application or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
  - Other Muslim children
  - Other Looked After and Previously Looked After children
  - Other children
- Distance will be used as a ‘tie-breaker’ if two or more applicants are equally qualified for a place within any of the above criteria. Distance is measured in a straight line between the address point for the child’s home to the Nursery’s main gate, using Barnet Council’s computerised measuring system. For this purpose, the address of an applicant is the permanent domestic address of the parents. Where it is necessary to further differentiate between applicants living the same distance from the Nursery, priority will be decided by random allocation in the presence of an independent observer.
- A “Looked After child” is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. A “Previously Looked After child” is a child who was in public care, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order immediately after being in public care. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.
- Verification of regular, Islamic practice <sup>1</sup> will be obtained from the Imam of the one of the

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<sup>1</sup> Islamic practice is defined as observance of the five core tenets of the Islamic faith including regular attendance at mosques, fasting, alms-giving, pilgrimage and acceptance of the Shahadah (proclamation of faith).

three established Mosques in Barnet following the mainstream Islamic doctrine in line with the Muslim ethos of the Nursery. Evidence will be sought of active Muslim worship and observance of Islamic laws and practice.

- Special Circumstances: The Governors reserve the right to give priority to applications which are considered by the Governors to merit special consideration. Applicants under this category must supply evidence to support their special circumstance.

### **Admissions Procedure**

- All applications for places at the Nursery must be sent to Barnet Hill Academy Nursery and, if the applicant seeks consideration for priority admission, the applicant should provide a completed SIF. This must be sent to the Nursery at the same time as the application.
- The closing date for all applications to the Nursery will be a date set each year (in line with nationally set dates for the making of offers for admission, if any) in the school year (1 September to 31 August) in which the child will attain three years of age. Late applications will be placed at the end of the waiting list.
- Parents will be notified by Barnet Hill Academy Nursery and must indicate in writing within 10 days their intention to take up a place.

### **Waiting List**

- When all available places have been filled, children not allocated places will be placed on a waiting list ranked in descending order according to the published admissions criteria. The waiting list will remain in operation from the day the original places are awarded and will be open until the end of the academic year.

### **Applications on behalf of Twins or Triplets (Multiple Births)**

- If only one place is available at the Nursery and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of multiple birth siblings, those children will be admitted in excess of the Published Admission Number to avoid a situation where the children have to attend different nurseries. The children admitted over the PAN will be “excepted pupils” until the class size falls back to 30 pupils.

### **Incorrect or Misleading Applications**

- If the information given in the application form or SIF is not accurate or up to date, your child may lose priority. In such a case, the Governing Body will have discretion to refuse the offer of a place. The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place where it is found that the place was offered on the basis of fraudulent or misleading information.

### **Appeal Procedure**

- If a place is not offered, parents will be advised as to their right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel and will be advised on the process for appeal.
- In conducting any appeal, the Independent Appeal Panel shall adopt as far as possible the School Admissions Appeals Code, with such necessary adjustments as the Independent Appeal Panel considers necessary to ensure that the appeal is conducted in a fair manner. For the purposes of applying the School Admissions Appeals Code, the Nursery shall be deemed to be an infant class and the infant class size limit shall be deemed to be 30 pupils per class.

### **Places at Barnet Hill Academy**

- Admission to Barnet Hill Academy Nursery will not guarantee the child a place in the Reception class at Barnet Hill Academy.