

# Ark

## Admissions Policy 2020/21

### PURPOSE

This policy sets out the admission arrangements for Ark Academy in 2020/21. It applies to applications to start in Reception, Year 7 and Year 12 (sixth form) in September 2020 as well as ‘In-year’ applications; it also includes details of the oversubscription criteria, waiting lists and the appeals process.

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DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

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## 1. Introduction

- i. Thank you for your interest in applying for a place at Ark Academy, Bridge Road, Wembley, London, HA9 9JP. The aim of this policy is to provide clear guidance on the admission arrangements for a place at the school including information on timescales, deadlines and contact details for queries.
- ii. It also provides guidance on how applications are administered, the criteria used to prioritise applications (where necessary), waiting lists and the appeals process.
- iii. **Ark Academy is a non-selective all-through school with a nursery and sixth form. The school has an agreed Published Admission Number<sup>1</sup> (PAN) for the following year groups;**

**Primary (Reception): 60**

**Secondary (Year 7 – external places): 120**

**Sixth Form (Year 12 – external places): 15**

Ark Academy has a larger number of form groups in the Secondary phase than in the Primary phase. All current Year 6 students automatically progress to Year 7 and the remainder of places are available for external applicants.

PLEASE NOTE: In most years, the school's sixth form will be able to offer more places to external applicants than the external PAN and candidates are advised to consult the information given on the school's website and prospectus.

## 2. Statutory Guidance and Definitions

- i. All information in this policy meets the statutory requirements set out by the Department for Education (DfE) in the School Admissions Code 2014, ("the Code") and the School Admissions Appeals Code 2012 ("the Appeals Code").
- ii. Ark Schools is a Multi-Academy Trust and is the admissions authority for all schools in the Ark network, including Ark Academy. Ark Schools, in accordance with its funding agreement, is responsible for the admissions policy of each school and co-ordinates with the relevant Local Authority for the administration of admissions applications. For Ark Academy the relevant Local Authority is London Borough of Brent.
- iii. According to the Code, there are two different routes for applications - '**normal round**' and '**in-year**'; each route has a slightly different application process and timescales. Both application routes are detailed separately in this policy.

'**Normal round**' is relevant to all applications for a place in Reception or Year 7 starting at the beginning of the Autumn term in September.

'**In-Year**' is relevant to applications;

- a) for all year groups other than Reception or Year 7 starting at the beginning of the Autumn term in September.

or

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<sup>1</sup> The maximum number of places available for admission in the year group

- b) for any year group after the start of the Autumn term.
- iv. The Nursery admissions process is separate from admissions to the rest of the school, as it is not covered by the Code. Please refer to the Nursery Admissions Policy on the school website for information on this process.
- v. **PLEASE NOTE:** This policy is not relevant to the process for naming the school on a child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of Special Educational Needs. There is a **separate process** for selecting or changing the school named on an EHCP or Statement of Educational Needs which is outside of the admissions process. Please contact the child's home Local Authority for further details.

### 3. Application Process

#### 3.1 Normal Round – Primary (Reception) and Secondary (External Year 7)

- i. Applications for a place at the school are administered through the London Borough of Brent application process. Parents resident in Brent can apply online at <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/education-and-schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>. Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority.
- ii. The Local Authority's timetable will be used for all normal round applications each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year).
- iii. The school publishes information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, in February for the following September (e.g. in February 2019 for admissions in September 2020).
- iv. **Primary application timeframe:**

The school has an agreed PAN of 60 pupils in Reception.

**September - November:** The school provides opportunities for prospective pupils and their parents/carers to visit the school.

**15<sup>th</sup> January:** National closing date for Primary applications. Deadline for the Common Application Form to be completed and submitted to the relevant Local Authority.

**January-March:** The school and Local Authority coordinate to process all applications. If more applications are received than places available they will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria published in this policy, see section 4 below.

**PLEASE NOTE:** schools are not able to provide any information regarding specific applications during this process.

**28 February:** Deadline for the school to publish its appeals timetable on their website.

**16<sup>th</sup> April (or next working day):** Offers made to parents/carers by the Local Authority.

i. **Secondary application timetable:**

The school has an agreed external PAN of 120 in Year 7.

**September - October:** The school provides opportunities for prospective pupils and their parents/carers to visit the school.

**31<sup>st</sup> October:** National closing date for Secondary applications. Deadline for the Common Application Form to be completed and submitted to the relevant Local Authority.

**November - February:** The school and Local Authority coordinate to process all applications. If more applications are received than places available they will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria published in this policy, see section 4 below.

PLEASE NOTE: schools are not able to provide any information regarding specific applications during this process.

**28 February:** Deadline for the school to publish its appeals timetable on their website.

**1<sup>st</sup> March (or next working day):** Offers made to parents/carers by the Local Authority.

ii. **Allocation of places:**

- a) Where the school is named on a child's EHCP or Statement of Special Educational Needs, that pupil will be admitted to the school.
- b) The school will consider all applications for places. Where fewer applications are received than places available, the school will offer places to all those who have applied.
- c) If the number of applications for admission is greater than the PAN (places available), all applications will be considered and places offered according to the oversubscription criteria in the order set out below (see section 4).
- d) Where an application has been unsuccessful due to a place not being available, applications will be put onto a waiting list which will be maintained until the end of the admission year. The waiting list will be ranked solely according to the oversubscription criteria detailed in this policy (not date of application) and updated each time an unsuccessful application is added. See section 7 below for more details on waiting lists.
- e) Where an application has been unsuccessful parents/carers have the right to appeal the decision to an Independent Appeal Panel. See section 8 below for detailed information on the appeals process.

**3.2 Post-16 Provision (Sixth form – Year 12)**

- i. The school has a PAN of 15 for Year 12. This is the minimum number of external candidates the school guarantees to admit.

- ii. In most years, the school will be able to offer more places to external applicants. Candidates are advised to consult the information given on the school's website and in any prospectus.
- iii. Those students already attending the school and who achieve the minimum academic entrance requirements for their chosen course of study will automatically transfer to the Sixth Form.
- iv. All post-16 courses available at the school have minimum academic entrance requirements. If these requirements are met, the admissions process for a place at the Sixth Form is the same as for the rest of the school. The same requirements relate to both internal and external applicants.

Minimum entrance requirements are course-specific, see the school's Sixth Form prospectus for details.

<http://arkacademy.org/sixth-form/sixth-form-prospectus>

- v. Young people may make their own application to the sixth form; the application can be made by the parent/carer but does not have to be.
- vi. **Application process:**
  - a) **For internal applicants:** Current students in Year 11 at the school do not need to complete a new application form as they automatically progress to Year 12 if they obtain the minimum academic requirements for their chosen post-16 course of study.

- b) **For external applicants:** Applications should be made directly to the school, see link below

<http://arkacademy.org/sixth-form/application-form>

- vii. Where more applications are received than there are places available the oversubscription criteria in this policy applies (see section 4).
- viii. Unsuccessful Applicants have the right to appeal the school's decision to an Independent Appeal Panel. See section 8 for further details on the appeals process.

#### 4. Oversubscription Procedure and Criteria (All applications)

If the number of applications received for any phase or year group is greater than the number of spaces available, places will be allocated according to the oversubscription criteria and order below.

- i. 'Looked After Children' and children who have previously been a 'Looked After Child' but immediately following this became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order or special guardianship order<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> 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 full definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

- ii. Children of staff at the school who occupy, or have been recruited to, a post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage. Ark Schools must approve the Principal's assessment process and designation of such posts to confirm the staff members' eligibility under this criterion. Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year (i.e. 3 places in each 3-form year group).
- iii. In respect of the **Primary phase** only; children who, at the time of admission, have a sibling\* who attends the school in the Primary phase (Reception to Year 6).
- iv. In respect of the **Secondary phase** only; children who, at the time of admission, have a sibling\* who attends the school in Reception to Year 13.

*\*For this purpose, "sibling" means a whole, half or step-sibling or an adopted child resident at the same address.*

- v. Children of staff in the school who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time the application is submitted. Ark Schools must approve the Principal's decision to allocate places to staff under this criterion. Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year (i.e. 3 places in each 3-form year group).
- vi. **Distance measurement – Priority will be given to those children who live closest to the school.**

The Local Authority measures distance on behalf of Ark Schools. London Borough of Brent use Ordinance Survey Data and the LLPG (Local Land Property Gazetteer) to calculate **straight line distance** between the child's home and the main entrance to the school. Where a child resides in a block of flats, the distance will be measured to the main entrance of the building in which the flats are located.

PLEASE NOTE: A child's home will be the address at which the child normally resides and which has been notified to relevant agencies (e.g. the Local Authority) as being the child's normal place of residence. Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the permanent home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of school nights Monday–Friday.

- vii. Tie breaker: If Ark Schools is unable to distinguish between applicants using the published oversubscription criteria, including those who live in blocks of flats within the same building, places will be offered via a random draw which will be supervised by someone independent of the school.
- viii. In the case of multiple births or siblings in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the school, all will be considered together as one application.

## 5. Children Below Compulsory School Age and Deferred Entry to School

- i. All children are eligible for a full-time place at school in the September following their fourth birthday.



- ii. A child must be in full-time education<sup>3</sup> by the time they reach compulsory school age. A child reaches compulsory school age on the next prescribed day on or following their fifth birthday. The prescribed days are 31st December, 31st March and 31st August.
- iii. When a place has been offered to a child below compulsory school age, parents can choose to defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the year. This date cannot go beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age and cannot go beyond the beginning of the final term of that same academic year.
- iv. When a place has been offered to a child below compulsory school age, parents can also choose for the child to attend the school part-time up until the child reaches compulsory school age, after which they must attend full time.

## 6. 'In-Year' Application Process

- i. The 'In-Year' application process is relevant to applications for places in any year group that does not have a PAN (e.g. Years 1 - 6 or Years 8 - 11), starting at the beginning of the academic year or for any year group starting at any other point throughout the academic year.
- ii. The Local Authority holds information on which schools in their area have spaces for each year group. Contact London Borough of Brent via the link below for further information.

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/education-and-schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

- iii. In-year applications to Ark Academy can be submitted at any time and are made directly to the school.

The In-Year application form can be accessed through the link below.

<http://arkacademy.org/admissions/year-admissions>

- iv. Ark Academy will inform the Local Authority of any In-Year applications received, as well as the outcome, so that they can track vacancies across the area.
- v. If an in-year application is refused the child will be added to the waiting list for that year group. A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely according to the oversubscription criteria in this policy. See section 4 for the oversubscription criteria and section 7 for more information on waiting lists.
- vi. If an In-Year application has been refused, the parent/carer has the right to appeal the decision to an Independent Appeals Panel. For detailed information about the appeals process see section 8 of this policy.
- vii. **Fair Access Protocol:** Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced, vulnerable children are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. The school complies with London Borough of Brent's Fair Access Protocol. Admissions under Fair Access Protocol are discussed

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<sup>3</sup> For this purpose, 'full-time education' includes registered for home schooling and attendance at other educational institutions as detailed in section 8 of the Education Act 1996.



between the school and the Local Authority on a case-by-case basis. This may mean admitting children above the PAN.

## 7. Waiting Lists

- i. Any child refused a place at the school will automatically be put on a waiting list (unless a higher preference school has been offered.) A waiting list will be maintained until the end of the academic year after which it will be cleared.
- ii. The waiting list is maintained in the order of the oversubscription criteria only (not application date). This means that names can move down the list if, e.g. someone moves into the area and is higher placed under the oversubscription criteria.
- iii. Parents/carers have the right to request their child is removed from the waiting list at any time. Once removed, the child cannot be reinstated on the waiting list without submitting a new application.
- iv. If a place becomes available it will be allocated to the first child on the waiting list, in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. If that offer is declined the place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list.

## 8. Unsuccessful Applications and the Appeals Process

- i. All applicants who have applied for a Primary, Secondary or Sixth Form place at the school and been refused have a right to appeal that decision to an Independent Appeal Panel.
- ii. Applicants will be informed in writing of the school's decision to refuse their application. This letter will include;
  - a) The reason a place was refused (e.g. no available places)
  - b) Information about the waiting list
  - c) Information about the right to appeal
  - d) The deadline for submitting an appeal
  - e) Contact details for making an appeal
- iii. Full details on the appeals process, timetable and an appeals booklet for parents is available on the school website, see link below.  
<http://arkacademy.org/admissions-policy>
- iv. The deadline for submitting an appeal is **20 school days**<sup>4</sup> from the date of notification that an application was unsuccessful. Exact deadlines will be provided in the letter from the school. This deadline applies to 'normal round' and 'in-year' applications.

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<sup>4</sup> School days do not include weekends, national holidays or school holidays

- v. Appeals are submitted to Ark Schools via an online<sup>5</sup> form which is available through the school website or from the school. See section 10 for contact details.
- vi. The decision of the Independent Appeal Panel is binding on all parties.

## 9. Applications Out-of-Chronological Age Group

- i. Parents/carers may choose to seek a place for their child outside of their chronological age group for a variety of reasons (e.g. the child is summer born, is considered gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health).
- ii. The decision to admit a child out-of-year group is uncommon and will always be made on the basis of the unique circumstances for each specific case and what is best for that individual child. The decision will be made by the Principal of the school and will take into account parents'/carers' views, expert advice from relevant social, educational and medical professionals, whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group, any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely and the long-term impact of the decision on the child.
- iii. Applications for a child to be admitted to a year group outside of their chronological age group should be made through the same process set out in this policy for both 'normal round' and 'in-year' applications. However, in addition to the standard application form **further documentation should be provided to support the request for a place out of chronological year group.** This applies regardless of whether it is for a higher or lower year group.
- iv. The Principal may request additional information after the submission of an application for an out-of-year group place, if necessary.
- v. Each application will be considered on the individual circumstances of each case. Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision, including the reasons for it.
- vi. Unsuccessful applicants have the right to appeal if they are refused a place at the school. However, this right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

## 10. Further Information and Contact Details

- i. For queries regarding this policy, admissions arrangements for the school and the waiting lists and appeals process, please contact:

**Admissions Officer:** Mrs C. Boyle  
**Email:** [c.boyle@arkacademy.org](mailto:c.boyle@arkacademy.org)  
**Telephone:** 020 8385 4370

- ii. Further information and links to all relevant forms for admissions and appeals are available on the school website via the link below.

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<sup>5</sup> Hard copies are available on request from the school. These should be returned to the academy for the attention of the Admissions Officer.



Ark Academy admissions website: [\*\*click here\*\*](#)

London Borough of Brent admissions website: [\*\*click here\*\*](#)

- iii. London Borough of Brent Fair Access Protocol – [\*\*click here\*\*](#)
- iv. Further information for applications to the Sixth Form – [\*\*click here\*\*](#)
- v. The Department for Education website on school admissions – [\*\*click here\*\*](#)
- vi. The Department for Education School Admissions Code 2014 – [\*\*click here\*\*](#)
- vii. The Department for Education School Admissions Appeals Code 2012 – [\*\*click here\*\*](#)

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