

ARK BLACKLANDS PRIMARY ACADEMY, OSBORNE CLOSE, HASTINGS, EAST SUSSEX, TN34 2HU

Admissions Policy relating to admissions to the academy in the academic year 2018/19

GENERAL

1. This document sets out the admission arrangements for Ark Blacklands Academy (“the academy”). *The academy is a primary school and has an Asperger’s syndrome and autistic spectrum disorder unit. Please contact the school for details of admissions to this unit.*
2. Enquiries should be made to the Admissions Team at Ark Schools, 65 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6TD (admissions@arkonline.org)
3. The academy has a Published Admission Number (PAN) for the following year groups:
Primary (Reception): 90

a) Primary

- i. The academy has an agreed PAN of 90 pupils in the Reception year.

After the allocation of Reception places, the academy will admit ‘rising fives’, i.e. all children with places can be admitted to the Reception year at school in the September following their fourth birthday but before reaching compulsory school age.

In accordance with paragraph 2.16 of the Admissions Code, a parent/carer may request that their child’s taking up of a place be deferred until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made. A parent/carer may request that their child takes up the place part-time until compulsory school age is reached.

Note: In respect of a child born late in an academic year after 1 April, the ordinary expectation is that he or she will join Reception at the latest in the term he or she turns five and then progress to Year 1 in the next academic year. If a parent/carer wants their child to join Reception in the September term after their fifth birthday, that decision is strictly subject to the discretion of the academy. The process for making an out-of-age-group application is described below.

- ii. Where the primary school is oversubscribed, the criteria for admission are as set out below.

PROCEDURES WHERE THE ACADEMY IS OVERSUBSCRIBED

Oversubscription criteria

4. Where the academy is named on a pupil's Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan, that child will be admitted by the academy. If the number of applications for admission to the school is greater than the PAN, applications will be considered against the criteria and order set out below:
 - a) Looked After Children and children who have been previously looked after (pursuant to the Admissions Code)¹.
 - b) Children of staff at the school where there is a demonstrable skill shortage – Children of members of staff will have priority in the oversubscription criteria if the staff member is filling a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. Ark Schools is required to approve the Principal's designation of such posts and confirm the assessment that a member of staff appointed meets the requirements of the shortage. Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year (i.e. 3 places in Reception).
 - c) Children who at the time of the admission have a sibling who attends the academy. For this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or step-brother or -sister or an adopted child resident at the same address.
 - d) Children of staff in the school – Where there is **no** demonstrable skill shortage, priority may be given where the academy is oversubscribed to a child of a person who will have been employed in the academy for two or more years at the time the application for admission is made. Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year (i.e. 3 places in Reception).
 - e) Children living within a pre-defined community area. Each home address in the East Sussex county falls within a community area.
 - f) Children living outside the pre-defined community area. This covers children who do not fit into any other criteria.

For categories e) and f) above, the distance measurement will be calculated using East Sussex County Council's method. The method they adopt for measurement (straight line distance) and also selection between equal applicants and those living in flats will apply.

In the event that applicants cannot be prioritised using the tiebreaker above because the distance measurements are the same, the Local Authority will use random allocation to decide which children will be offered the remaining places. This will be done electronically using the East Sussex County Council's admissions software.

Note: In the case of multiple births or brothers and sisters in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the academy, both will be considered together as one application.

OPERATION OF WAITING LISTS

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) at the time of making an application to a school." (footnote 16 of the School Admissions Code 2014). A previously looked after child "includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

5. Subject to any provisions regarding waiting lists in the LA's co-ordinated admission scheme, the academy will operate a waiting list. Where in any year the academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the summer term. Thereafter, parents/carers will be written to asking if they wish for their child to remain on the waiting list. This will be maintained by the academy and it will be open to any parent/carer to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list following an unsuccessful application.
6. A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above. When places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPEAL PANELS

7. Parents/carers will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel ("Appeal Panel") if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the academy. The Appeal Panel will be independent of the academy. The arrangements for appeals will be in line with the Appeals Code. The determination of the Appeal Panel will be made in accordance with the Code and will be binding on all parties. The academy will provide written guidance for parents/carers about how the appeals process works and will provide parents/carers with a named contact who can answer any queries parents/carers may have about the process.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE ACADEMY OUTSIDE THE NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND – IN-YEAR APPLICATIONS

8. In-year applications should be submitted to the academy, unless other arrangements have been made and published on the academy website.
9. Subject to any provisions in the LA's published and agreed protocol on arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the academy will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child.
10. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria shall apply.

Appeals against refusal of an in-year application

11. Parents/carers will have a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the academy.

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE OF THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

12. Applications for children to be admitted to a school year outside of their chronological age group should be submitted to the home LA during normal round admissions, or to the academy as described regarding the in-year admissions process. Each application will be considered and decided by the academy on the individual circumstances of each case. Applicants should provide documentation in support of their application regardless of whether they are asking for the student to be admitted in a lower or higher year group. Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision. Unsuccessful applicants will be given the right to appeal.