

Atwood Primary School

Admissions Policy for Reception Classes in September 2013



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(or to meet new legislation and practices)

Atwood Primary School - Admissions Criteria for Reception Classes

The Admission Number for Atwood Primary School is 60. Pupils will be admitted into Reception classes in the autumn term of the school year in which they become five. Parents may defer a place until later in the year, but not beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday.

All applications must be made to the Local Authority (LA) on a Croydon LA Application Form, or online at www.eadmissions.org.uk
Atwood Primary School does not require a Supplementary Form.

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) sit outside of the normal admissions process. However, they will be taken into account when determining and applying a school's admission number. Accordingly, children with statements already admitted to a school will be counted towards the admission number when considering whether there is still a place available for another child without a statement.

If the number of applications is smaller or equal to the number of places, all children will be offered a place. If the number of applications for the school is higher than the number of places available, then allocations will be made in the following order:

1. Looked after children

Children in public care at the date on which the application is made. If an application is made under the 'looked after' criterion, it must be supported by a letter from the relevant Local Authority (Children's Services) Department.

2. Siblings

Children with a brother or sister* who will be in attendance at the school at the time of enrolment of the new pupil; sibling priority is also accorded to children, other than brothers and sisters, who are part of a single family unit and who are resident at the same address. (Note: sibling status is granted only where the applicant has parental responsibility for all the children concerned. It does not apply to children of different family units living at the same address).

*A sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half brother or sister, step brother or sister or adopted brother or sister, foster brother or sister whose main residence is at the same address.

3. Medical

Pupils with serious medical reasons for needing to attend Atwood Primary School. A serious medical condition of a parent which would prevent them taking their child to school will also be relevant.

The medical reasons must be verified by a doctor or consultant and declared at the time of application if known at the time. Claims for priority of admission on medical grounds will not be considered if submitted after a decision on the original application has already been made. Decisions on priority of admission on medical grounds will be made by the Governing Body. The Application must be supported by a letter from a hospital consultant and/or the Family's GP.

“Parent” is defined as the father, mother, foster father, foster mother, legal guardian, or the person who has full parental responsibility for the child.

4. Distance

Places are then allocated on the basis of distance from the school to the child’s home, with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority. This will be measured in a straight line from either the school gates on Limpsfield Road, or the school gate at the end of Tandridge Gardens (whichever is shortest), to the centre of the pupil’s main home, using the Local Authority’s computerised measuring system. For shared properties eg. Flats, the centre will be taken from the centre of the building.

“Home” is defined as the address where the child normally resides as their only or principal residence. Addresses involved in child minding (professional or relatives) are excluded. Parents will be asked to provide documentary evidence to confirm an address and parental responsibility. The Authority must be notified of changes of address immediately. Failure to do so could result in the child being denied a place at a preferred school.

In the event that the number of applications exceeds the places available within any of the above categories, random allocation will be used to decide between applications.

Child-minding factors cannot be taken into account when allocating places. Parents of children attending the nursery class must still apply in the usual way. These children are not guaranteed a reception class place at the school.

Late applications

If you submit an application or change your existing preferences, or order of preferences, after the LA’s published closing date for admissions applications, without good reason for doing so, the whole application will be treated as late, and this may jeopardise the possibility of your child being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.

Applications which are late for no good reason will not be considered in the initial allocation round but will be allocated available places after all on time preferences have been processed, or added to the school’s waiting list (see below) if no places exist.

The LA will accept late applications within the coordinated process only if they are late for a good reason. Examples of what will be considered as good reason include: when a single parent has been ill for some time, or has been dealing with the death of a close relative; a family has just moved into the area or is returning from abroad (proof of ownership or tenancy of a property within this LA will be required in these cases). Other circumstances will be considered and each case decided on its own merits.

In-year Admissions

Applications for a place at the school in-year must be made using the common application form of the local authority (LA) where the child resides. This form must be returned to the LA. The governors will use the same criteria to rank the application as that listed above. The offer of a place at the school will be made by the LA on behalf of the governors. In the event of the governors deciding that a place cannot be offered parents will be offered the opportunity of placing their child’s name on the waiting list. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.

Waiting Lists

Parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask for their child's name to be placed on a waiting list. The school will hold its waiting list for two years, during this time the pupil must remain on the roll of another school. When a place becomes available, all current applications for a place in the year group will be considered in accordance with the criteria of the Admissions Policy.

The school will not, therefore, maintain an ordered waiting list. Information can be provided to parents about the order of priority of applications being held at a particular time but no guarantee can be given that higher priority applications will not be received by the time a place becomes available.

Appeals

Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with section 85(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing and must set out the reasons on which the appeal is made. Appeals should be made to the Admissions Appeal Clerk at the school address. Parents/Carers have the right to make oral representations to the Appeal Panel.

Fair Access Protocol

The school participates in the local authority's Fair Access Protocol to allocate places to vulnerable and other children in accordance with Appendix A of the School Admission Code 2010. Admitting pupils under the protocol may require the school to admit above the planned admission number for the relevant year group.

Infant class size limit

We adhere to the statutory infant class size limit of 30 pupils per class.