

Admissions Criteria
Beit Shvidler Primary School
School year 2023-24 (Reception to Y6)

(1) Background

This is the comprehensive admissions policy and procedure for entry into Beit Shvidler Primary School ("BSPS").

BSPS was set up to serve the local community of Edgware Adath Yisroel Congregation ("EAYC") synagogue. Admission priority shall be granted to children of parent(s)/carer(s) who practise Orthodox Judaism as determined by the Electoral Rabbonim of the Jewish Secondary School Movement, and within this policy document are herein referred to as "Priority Children". *Priority Children* of parent(s)/carer(s) who regularly¹ attend and participate at EAYC will be given priority² over other *Priority Children*.

BSPS's ethos includes a strong commitment to orthodox Jewish practice and Torah values.

Those applicants who wish to be considered for admission priority as *Priority Children*, must complete the BSPS Supplementary Information Form ("SIF"). The decision as to whether or not an applicant qualifies for admission priority will be based on the information provided on the SIF.

Verification of Orthodox Jewish practice as detailed on the SIF must be obtained from those Rabbis of Orthodox Jewish Synagogues as detailed in the SIF.

In the event of any dispute as to whether an applicant qualifies for admission priority as a *Priority Child*, the ruling of the Electoral Rabbonim of the Jewish Secondary Schools Movement is final.

(2) Admissions to Reception

- 2.1 The school has a planned admissions number of 30 children.
- 2.2 Unless specifically stated, the following sections relate to the policies for admission to the Reception Year.

(3) Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

- 3.1 Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school will be admitted. This is a separate process to the normal admission procedure.
- 3.2 Admitting a child with an EHCP will reduce the number of places available to applicants.

(4) Admissions Procedure

- 4.1 All applications for places at BSPS must be submitted on their home local authority CAF form. Applications should be made online using the Pan London eAdmissions system. If you are unable to apply for a school place online, you can obtain a paper application form from your local authority.
- 4.2 Parent(s)/Carer(s) making an application for a Priority Child should *in addition* complete the school's SIF and submit this directly to the school. The SIF is available to download from the school's website or a copy can be requested from the school office.
- 4.3 Failure to complete the SIF may affect the criterion the child's name is placed in.
- 4.4 The SIF is subject to the same deadline as the CAF.
- 4.5 The closing date for all applications to Reception is set by the London Borough of Barnet.³

¹ See Section 6 for definition of the word 'regularly'

² after "Looked After Children", "Previously Looked After Children" and "Siblings"

³ The closing date is usually the January in the school year before admission to Reception (1st September to 31st August).

- 4.6 Late applications will be dealt with in accordance with the London Borough of Barnet Coordinated Admissions Scheme.
- 4.7 Parent(s)/Carer(s) will be notified of the allocation of a place for the applicant by London Borough of Barnet in accordance with its Coordinated Admissions Scheme.
- 4.8 Parent(s)/Carer(s) must indicate in writing within 10 days of an offer of admission, their intention to take up a place.

(5) Waiting List

- 5.1 When all available places have been filled, children not allocated places will be placed on a waiting list. It is the school's policy not to tell applicants where they are placed on the waiting list as the list subject to flux (i.e. if a new application is made that prioritises the applicant higher on the waiting list according to the oversubscription criteria (see Section 6), that applicant may gain a place before an applicant who has been on the list longer (See 5.4)).
- 5.2 Placing a child's name on a waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available.
- 5.3 Parent(s)/Carer(s) may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools as they wish.
- 5.4 The waiting list will be ranked in descending order according to the admissions and priority policies and criteria set forth herein with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list.
- 5.5 Parent(s)/Carer(s) are entitled to exercise their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.
- 5.6 At such a time as a place becomes available, the school will request an updated SIF from the applicant before a place can be offered.
- 5.7 Parent(s)/Carer(s) are required to resubmit their application in September each year if they wish their child to remain on the waiting list.

(6) Oversubscription Priority

In the event that the school is oversubscribed, *Priority Children* will be accepted first. For the purposes of this policy *Priority Children* are applicants who or whose Parent(s)/Carer(s) fulfil all the criteria set out in the SIF. For a more detailed explanation, please see our SIF.

Priority will be given in the following order:

- 6.1 *Priority Children* who are 'looked after' or who have been 'previously looked after' by a Local Authority.⁴
- 6.2 *Priority Children* with "Siblings" who are currently at BPS. For these purposes, "Siblings" means one (or more) Full-Siblings, Half-Siblings, Step-Siblings and Adopted Siblings. Priority for Siblings under this section (6.2) will only apply where all the following conditions are fulfilled:

⁴ Who are 'looked after' children?

'Looked after' children are those being cared for by a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. This Act only applies to England and Wales, which means that a child has to be looked after by an English or Welsh local authority in order to be given priority for admission.

Previously 'looked after' children are those who were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been 'looked after'.

An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A residence order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

- at the time of commencement of the school year covered by the application, the applicant will have Siblings enrolled in any of BPS years' Reception through Year 6 [as clarification, the applicant must have a sibling attending school (Reception-Y6) at the closing date of applications]; and
- the Siblings live at the same address as the applicant; and
- the Siblings are Priority Children

- 6.3 *Priority Children* whose parent(s)/carer(s) regularly⁵ attend and participate at EAYC (Please see EAYC website for further details www.eayc.org)
- 6.4 *Priority Children* of members of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the School for one or more years at the time of application.
- 6.5 *Priority Children* whose Parent(s) / Carer(s) regularly attend and participate at other Orthodox synagogues
- 6.6 Other ^[any children not defined as "Prioritised"] 'Looked After' and 'Previously Looked After' children
- 6.7 Other children ^[any children not defined as "Prioritised"] with Siblings in the school (Reception-Y6) at the time of admission

(7) Tie Breaker Criteria

- 7.1 If in any category (6.1 – 6.6 above) there are more qualifying applicants than places, priority will be granted according to the proximity of the child's home to the school gate in Hale Lane, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 8NX. Home-to-school distances are measured from the address point for the child's home, supplied by the Post Office, to the school's main gate, using Barnet Local Authority's computerised measuring system. Those living nearer the school gate being accorded the higher priority.
- 7.2 If there are two (or more) applicants who live in the same block of flats then those closest to the front door (as per the criteria in 7.1) will have priority⁶.
- 7.3 If all criteria and measures are equal then a random ballot, supervised by an individual independent of the school, will be the tie breaker.

(8) Deferred Entry

We provide admission to the school in the September following the child's fourth birthday. Where we have offered a child a place at the school:

- 8.1 The child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;

⁵ Regularly attend and participate means:

- a) Davening in synagogue, on average, 3 services a week, one of which must be one a Shabbos, for a minimum period of 12 months prior to the application submission;
- b) consistent participation within their own Jewish community for at least 12 months prior to application submission. This can include participation by one parent or both. Examples might include shul committees, organising shiurim, security, leining, chesed committees;
- c) consistent active involvement in weekly Jewish learning activities for at least 12 months prior to the application submission. Examples could include synagogue based programmes, chavrusa, shiurim, Phone and Learn etc.

⁶ In a very small number of cases it may not be possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who are qualifiers for a place, when applying the published admission criteria. For example, this may occur when children in the same year group live at the same address, or if the distance between the home and school is exactly the same, for example, blocks of flats. If there is no other way of separating the application according to the admissions criteria and to admit both or all of the children would cause the legal limit to be exceeded, the local authority will use a computerised system to randomly select the child to be offered the final place.

- 8.2 The child's parent(s)/carer(s) may request deferral of the date their child is admitted to the school to later in the school year, provided that:
- this is not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age; and
 - it is not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year; and
 - the request is for the child to attend part-time until later in the school year, such part time attendance may go beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age.

8.3 Election to defer a child's start (as per 8.1-8.2 above) must first be discussed and agreed with the Head Teacher.

(9) Applications made on behalf of Twins or Triplets

9.1 If there is one last remaining place available in BSPS and the next applicant who qualifies for that place is one of multiple birth siblings, BSPS will go over its published admissions number by 1 (one) child only (not two). These children will be deemed as 'excepted' pupils under infant class size legislation.

(10) In-year Applications and Applications for Places in Years other than Reception

10.1 These will be considered in accordance with the admissions and priority policies and criteria set forth herein, in accordance with the London Borough of Barnet Coordinated Admissions Scheme.

10.2 Applications must be made to London Borough of Barnet and not to BSPS. The Governing Body will advise London Borough of Barnet whether or not a place can be offered.

(11) Change of Details

11.1 If any of the details on either of the parent(s)/carer(s) forms changes between the date of application and the receipt of the letter of offer or refusal, you must inform the School and the local authority immediately.

(12) Incorrect or Misleading Applications

12.1 If any of the information provided in the application form (or accompanying SIF, if submitted) is either inaccurate or incomplete, then the applicant will forfeit any right to admission priority. In such a case, the Governors of BSPS will have the discretion to refuse the offer of a place.

12.2 The Governors reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a place where it is found that the place was offered on the basis of incorrect, misleading or fraudulent information.

(13) Non priority for children in BSPS Nursery

Attendance at BSPS Nursery does not qualify as a priority criteria and therefore does not guarantee the child a place in Reception.

(14) Appeal Procedure

Parent(s)/carer(s) refused admission for their child(ren) may appeal against the decision by writing to the Chair of Governors within 20 days of receipt of a letter from the school informing them that a place is not available. An independent appeal panel will be convened to consider the appeal.