

## Appendix 5

### Camden Community Secondary School Admissions Criteria 2015/16

Children should be admitted to a community secondary school of their parents / carers' preference where there is a place available. In the event of over-subscription to a community secondary school, the following criteria will apply in the following order:

- a) Looked after children or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order.
- b) applicants who have a brother or sister\* living at the same address on the school's roll when they join. This can include siblings in the sixth form as long as they are on roll at the same school, and will still be on roll when the other child joins.

#### \*Sibling

Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the /carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as the sibling.

- c) Applicants whom the Authority accepts have an exceptional social or medical need for a place at the school in question. Parents / carers will need to submit a case supported by appropriate professional evidence from a doctor, social worker or similar professional. That evidence will need to support the link between the need to support the link between the need and the specific school.
  - d) Distance measured in a straight line from the child's home to the centre of the school, using the local authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority. In the case of applicants to Regent High school only, priority will be given to applicants within the priority zone of Holborn and Covent Garden ward even if they are further away within the distance criterion.
- Proximity to schools is measured on a computerised mapping system of the area, measured in a straight line ('as the crow flies') between the property address to the centre of the school.

- We will use the equal preference model for deciding which school is offered. This means that all school preferences are considered together and the admissions criteria administered equally for all level (rank) of preference. The rank or order of preference will only be used if it is possible to offer more than one of the preferences. The highest ranked potential offer will be offered and the lower preferences will be automatically withdrawn.

If necessary, priority within b and c will be decided on by the distance criteria.

#### **Notes:**

In order to be given highest priority for admission, a child has to fall within the definition of 'looked after' in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. As this Act applies to England and Wales, a child has to be looked after by an English or Welsh local authority in order to be given highest priority.

Paragraph 1.7 of the School Admissions Code gives equal highest priority to 'previously looked after children'. Given the definition of a looked after child, a child will have to have been looked after by an English or Welsh local authority in order to be considered previously looked after. Under paragraph 1.7 of the Code, a child has to have been looked after **immediately** before they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.

Any offer of a place on the grounds of proximity is conditional on the child being resident at the address provided at the closing date for application. A business address, a childminder's address, or any other address other than the child's home will not be accepted. Proof of address will be sought and may be subject to further investigation.

Children with a statement of special educational need that names the school will be allocated a place through a separate procedure, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

If there is only one place available at the school and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of a multiple birth siblings, we will ask the community school in question to go over their published admission number in order to support the family.

In the minority of cases when applicants distance measurements are exactly the same, in blocks of flats for instance, the computer system will randomly order the priority of applicants.