

# Admissions criteria for community schools and UCL Academy

- **Acland Burghley School**
- **Hampstead School**
- **Haverstock School**
- **Parliament Hill School**
- **Regent High School**
- **UCL Academy**

These admissions criteria apply to Camden's five community schools and UCL Academy when there are more applications than places available.

## Admissions criteria

1. Looked-after children or children who were previously looked-after but immediately after being looked-after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement or special guardianship order. **See note 1.**
2. Applicants who have a sibling on roll at the same school who will still be on roll when they join. This can include siblings in the Sixth Form. Sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent or partner where the child for whom the place is sought is living in the same family unit, at the same address, as the sibling.
3. Applicants whom the Council accepts have an exceptional medical or social need for a place at the school. **See note 2.**
4. Children whose parent is a qualified teacher teaching at the relevant school for two years or more at the time of application and / or children of a qualified teacher training at the relevant school who has been recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.

5. Applicants who live closest to the preferred school. Proximity to a school 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. **See note 3.** This will be used as a 'tie-breaker' should there be places available after the first three criteria are applied.

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.

**Equal preference model** – will be used to decide which school is offered. This means that all school preferences are considered together and the admissions criteria administered equally for each 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 The highest ranked potential offer will be offered and the lower preferences will be automatically withdrawn.

The flow chart on page 16 provides useful guidance on how the Council's criteria are used to decide which applicants are offered the available places at Camden community schools and the UCL Academy.

## Notes

1. 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 a subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.

Proof of looked-after status will be requested from the relevant local authority.

2. Some schools give priority to children with exceptional medical or social needs. For a copy of our exceptional medical and social policy please contact the Camden Admissions Team (email: [admissions@camden.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@camden.gov.uk); tel: 020 7974 1625).

If you state a preference for a particular school because of medical or social needs, you must explain how this school specifically meets your child's special circumstances better than any other school can. Along with your application, you should submit supporting evidence which sets out the particular reasons why that school is the most suitable, and the difficulties that could be caused if they were to attend another school. This will normally be in the form of a letter from a suitably qualified professional, such as a medical consultant or social worker and must not be more than six months older than the date of applying.