

Hasmonean Primary School

ADMISSIONS POLICY

1. Admissions into Nursery to Year 6

The Published Admission Number for entry into Reception is 30.

As a Voluntary Aided Faith School, and in accordance with the School Admissions Code (as amended from time to time), we prioritise children of the Orthodox Jewish Faith, as defined hereunder in paragraphs A & B ("Orthodox Jewish Children"):

- A. A child must observe and practice Orthodox Jewish practices as set out in B.ii hereunder. In the event of any dispute as to whether a child meets these criteria, the authority of the Rabbis of the Jewish Secondary Schools Movement ("JSSM") is final.
- B. A child must have parent(s) or guardians who:
Observe the Sabbath and Holy Days, adhere to the Dietary Laws and observe Orthodox Jewish Laws, practices, and regularly attend and maintain active participation in an Orthodox synagogue, such synagogue to be one recognised by such Rabbis of the JSSM.

Confirmation of the above will be required from the Rabbi of the synagogue of which the parents attend or from an Orthodox Rabbi who is well acquainted with and knows the family.

2. Admissions Procedure

- a. All applications for places at the school at Reception age must be made on the Barnet Common Application Form ("CAF").
- b. Parents seeking consideration of their child as an Orthodox Jewish Child should also complete a Hasemonean Primary School Supplementary Information Form ("SIF") in respect of applications for any school year, including Nursery and Reception. Failure to provide this will inhibit the school's ability to determine whether sufficient grounds of priority have been demonstrated. If the information given in the SIF is not accurate or up to date, your child may lose priority. In such a case, the Governors will have discretion to refuse the offer of a place. 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 fraudulent or misleading information.
- c. The Hasemonean Primary School SIF and our current School prospectus are available from the School Office or website: <http://hasmonean-pri.barnet.sch.uk>. The SIF must be received in the school office:
 - i. For **Nursery** applications by no later than **Wednesday 9th December 2020** in the year preceding the commencement of the academic year of desired entry. All applications received on time will be processed together. By law, priority must not be given to children based on the date of receipt of their application or the date they are added to any list;
 - ii. For **Reception** year entry by no later than **Tuesday 12th January 2021** in the calendar year of desired entry. All applications received on time will be processed together. By law, priority must not be given to children based on the date of receipt of their application or the date they are added to any list; and
 - iii. Applications for admission at times other than Reception year entry should be made direct to the school using the Hasemonean Primary School SIF (found on the website).
- d. Children with Special Educational Needs where their Statement or Education, Health and Care Plan (as applicable) indicate that placement at Hasemonean Primary School is approved, are admitted under a separate process rather than the admissions process. Their admission is taken into account against the school's published admissions limit, in order to protect the interests of vulnerable children and those with challenging behaviour.

3. Oversubscription Criteria

Where applications for admission of children exceed the number of places available, children will be prioritised on the basis of the following criteria in the following order:

1. Orthodox Jewish children who are 'looked after' or were "previously looked after" by a Local Authority.
2. Orthodox Jewish brothers and sisters whose siblings are at the school at the time of admission or who formerly attended the school for at least three consecutive terms within the period of two years before the date of entry. For these purposes "siblings" shall include half-siblings, step-siblings and adopted siblings who are Orthodox Jewish children and who are living at the same address.
3. Children of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made.
4. In Years 1- 6 priority will be given to Orthodox children who are currently educated at non-Jewish schools.
5. Other Orthodox Jewish children.
6. Looked after children and/or previously looked after children other than those who are Orthodox Jews.
7. Other children.

If in any category there are more qualifying applicants than there are available places, priority will be given to those living nearest to the school by straight line measuring in accordance with the Local Authority's measuring system described in its guidance booklet for parents applying for school places ("The Measuring System"), but with measuring taking place to the main entrance of the school site. When the parents of the child live separately, the address of the child for the Measuring System shall be the address at which the child usually lives. When the parents of the child live separately but the child lives with both parents at different addresses, the child's home address for the Measuring System will be taken to be the address where the child lives for most of the week. If the child spends an equal amount of time with each parent, the address will be taken to be that of the main parent/carer eligible to receive Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit. If all criteria and measures are equal then a random ballot¹ will be the tie breaker.

4. Waiting List

Following the application procedure for Nursery and/or Reception places, and once initial offers have been made, the waiting list will be adjusted to include late applications, in accordance with the Schools Admission Code. A child's position on the waiting list will not depend upon when the application was made, but will be determined according to the oversubscription criteria listed in section 3.

When all available places have been filled, remaining applicants will again be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be re-ordered according to the oversubscription criteria listed in section 3.

Parents will be notified that their child is on a waiting list. Parents will be asked to confirm whether or not they wish to hold the place on the waiting list at regular intervals.

Applications for places in Years 1 to 6 will be dealt with on a similar basis and in accordance with the School Admissions Code, which states that each late application will require the waiting list to be ranked again in line with the section 3 Oversubscription Criteria.

¹ Random ballot to be carried out independently by allocating a number to each child in the ballot and have a random number generated by an appropriate random number generator such as randrom.org

5. Late Applications

Late applications for Reception entry for entry in the September of the same year:

- a. Must be made by completion of a CAF. The CAF is available from, and should be returned to, the local authority where the child lives without delay.; and
- b. By completion of a Hasmorean Primary School SIF. This form is available from the School Office or from the School's website: <http://hasmorean-pri.barnet.sch.uk>

Other late applications, including those for nursery entry, received after places have been allocated will be considered sympathetically but will be treated in accordance with the provisions set out in section 4 of this policy.

6. Deferral of Entry/ Part-time Schooling

There is a legal right for parents to:

- a) Defer entry of their child to Reception class until the child's fifth birthday when they reach compulsory school age. There is no legal right to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday or beyond the academic year for which admission is sought; or
- b) Request that their child attends Reception on a part-time basis until they reach compulsory school age; or
- c) Request, under paragraph 2.17 of the Admissions Code that their child is admitted to a school year outside of their normal age group. Parents should note that that this is a right of request and not of guaranteed entry. Any decision of the School shall be based on the circumstances of each individual request, taking into account the relevant guidance and factors as provided by the Department of Education. Parents applying for a place outside their child's age group do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place but it is not in the year group they would like. However, they may make a complaint under the School's complaints procedure.

It should be noted that taking up either of these options have educational implications in relation to the syllabus for the first year at school and parents are encouraged to discuss and agree in advance with the school the appropriate course of action for their children.

7. The Barnet Education Admission Forum have asked us to add the following statement:

The Admission Forum or the local authority may require the school to admit a child exceptionally, either outside the normal admission arrangements or in excess of the published admission limit, in order to protect the interests of vulnerable children and those with challenging behaviour. These pupils will be shared between schools in ways that are fair, objective and transparent.

8. The Right to Appeal:

Parents have the statutory right of appeal against refusal to admit their child to the School and may appeal by writing to the Clerk to the Admissions Appeals Panel at the school address. **The closing date of this will be three weeks after offers first go out.** All references to parents above include legal guardians.

Infant classes (those where the majority of children will reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the school year) **must not** contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher. Additional children may be admitted under very limited exceptional circumstances. These children will remain an 'excepted pupil' for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit. The excepted children are twins and children from multiple births when one of the siblings is the 30th child admitted.