



Starting Primary School 2021

A guide for parents and carers





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If you have any questions about the admissions process, please contact:

School Admissions Service
Department of Community and
Children's Services
City of London Corporation
PO Box 270
Guildhall
London EC2P 2EJ
T: 020 7332 1002
F: 020 7332 1621
E: EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/schooladmission

Welcome

The City of London Corporation (City of London) has a very proud and long history of providing excellent educational services to children of all ages. We are committed to ensuring that every child in the City of London gets the best start in life and receives the right support to reach their full potential.

I'm sure you will agree that starting primary school is an important and exciting time for your child. Getting the right start at primary school, making new friends, developing skills and a love of learning sets the foundation for later years. This year, I feel it is important to acknowledge the recent events related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which for many young children has meant they have missed being in pre-school or their regular childcare setting. In these challenging times, there is still some uncertainty ahead, however, I wish to reassure our communities that the City of London is committed to supporting our residents on its road to recovery. This guide provides information to help you understand how and when to make a primary school application for children starting primary school in September 2021.

The City of London has one maintained primary school. Formally known as Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, the school has recently changed its name to The Aldgate School. The school, which has been judged as 'outstanding' by Ofsted since 2008, consistently achieves high standards in English, Mathematics and Science and has exceptional standards in Music. In May 2019 the school was judged 'excellent' in all areas by the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools framework (this focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults). The inspector said, 'the school's leaders and those responsible for leading RE are wholly committed to ensuring that all pupils, including the most vulnerable, flourish'.

Many children living in the City of London go to schools in neighbouring local authorities, such as Southwark, Hackney, Westminster, Islington, Tower Hamlets, Camden and Lambeth, where they have access to many good and outstanding schools. However, families living in the City of London must still apply to the City of London for schools in other boroughs.

We encourage you to consider and visit the

schools close to your home, regardless of which local authority area they are in. Along with this guide, we advise you to read the 'Starting Primary School' guides of the local authority for the school you are interested in.

We are proud to be able to say that, over the last three years, approximately 95 per cent of City of London parents and carers who applied for a primary school place received an offer from one of their top three preferences.

We will do all we can to help you find a school place for your child. Please contact the City of London School Admissions Service on 020 7332 1002 or EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk if you need any further help.



Andrew Carter

Director of the Department of Community and Children's Services

Starting primary school in 2021

Children are required by law to receive full-time education at the start of the school term following their fifth birthday and remain until the end of the education year in which they turn 16. This is known as compulsory school age.

When does my child start school?

All children will be offered a full-time school place for the start of the education year in which they turn five. The expectation is that the place is taken up in September at the start of the school year.

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, they are expected to start primary school in September 2021.

Can I defer my child's start in reception class?

You can opt to defer your child's start in reception class until later in the school year. Your child must however, be in full-time education by the time they reach compulsory school age.

Can I delay my child's start in Reception class?

Parents of summer born children can make a request to delay their child's admission to reception class until the following education year when the child reaches compulsory school age.

Summer born children are defined as born between 1 April and 31 August 2017.

Each admission authority publishes their decision-making process as part of their admissions policy. They may expect to see evidence of a child's educational need and will so want to discuss with parents the impact of a child being educated with children of a different age group.

If you are considering this option, please let the School Admissions team know as soon as possible. If you choose deferred or delayed admissions entry, you must speak to the school about their policy as soon as possible.

Key dates to remember

2020

1 September

You can start making applications for schools online.

September/October

School open days (contact the specific school for details).

2021

15 January

Deadline date for applications and additional documentation where applicable, such as Supplementary Information Forms and medical assessments for consideration under social/medical criterion.

16 April

The results of your application will be sent to you on National Offer Day. If you applied online, you'll receive an email/text alert in the evening informing you of the outcome or where to find it online.

30 April

Deadline for accepting an offer of a primary school place.

May to July

Appeals heard against the refusal of a place at a school on your application form.

Can my child attend reception part time?

Yes, but only until the end of the term in which they turn five.

Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

All primary schools have a written policy explaining how they help children with SEND. With additional support, most children with SEND are able to attend mainstream schools. Please contact the school to request a copy of its policy.

The City of London has a Educational Psychology Service, who can be consulted by a educational setting in the City for advice if the setting has identified your child is having difficulties with learning or wellbeing.

If your child has special educational needs but does not have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, you must apply for a primary school by completing a Common Application Form.

Please note: Children currently undergoing an EHC needs assessment must apply using the Common Application Form until they have a confirmed EHC plan in place.

Children with an EHC plan

If your child has an EHC plan, you should **not** complete a Common Application Form. The City of London's Education and Early Years' Service will provide direct support through the admissions process, helping you to identify and apply to schools appropriate to your child's needs. Once a school has been chosen, it will be named on your child's EHC plan.

Local Offer

Information about the provision and services that are available for children and young people with SEND (0–25 years) can be found on the City of London's Local Offer website. The Local Offer sets out information about services and provision both in and outside the City of London. Please visit the Family and Young People's Information Service for full details: EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

If you would like to discuss your child's special educational needs or would like more information, please contact the Education and Early Years' Service on 020 7332 1002.



How to choose a school

Get started

Our advice is: don't wait! Give yourself as much time as possible to explore and consider your options so that you can apply to schools that best fit your child's needs and aspirations and whose selection criteria are favourable to you.

Finding a school

If you don't know the schools in your area, a good place to start your search is by looking at your local authority's primary school guide, or those of surrounding local authorities. They contain general information about the local schools. You can download copies from their websites. You'll find contact details for local authorities near the City of London on page 21.

Alternatively, you could visit the Department for Education's 'Find and compare schools in England' website: www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables

This website not only provides a comprehensive list of schools across England, it also allows you to access performance tables that give information on pupils' results at each school and show how they compare with other schools.

Each school's information page provides a link to its Ofsted report. An Ofsted report details a school's strengths and weaknesses in terms of teaching staff and leadership, and its status at the time of its last inspection. Schools are currently inspected every four years.

Once you've come up with a shortlist, find out more about each school by reading its:

- prospectus – detailed information about the school, and its leaders, teachers, courses, facilities and philosophy.
- admissions policy – information about admissions criteria should the school receive more applications than it has places available (oversubscribed).

You'll find prospectuses and admissions policies on each school's website or you can contact them directly to request copies.

Get a complete picture

Prospectuses, league tables and Ofsted reports alone will not give you a complete picture of a school. We advise you to visit the school for a closer look at its location, facilities, surroundings and to get a taste of its educational environment. Arrange to speak with the administration, teachers and, if possible, pupils.

Most schools hold Open Days or Open Evenings. Attending these along with your child will give you a better feel for the school.

Look at the admissions criteria

On your application you should list all the schools you want to apply to in order of preference. Some schools receive more applications than they have places to offer though, so you should always look at the admissions criteria for each of your preferred schools and consider whether you meet them.



Things to consider when choosing a school

Here are a few questions to ask when deciding whether a school fits your child's personality and needs.

What do other parents think about the school?

Find out the experiences of parents with children at the schools you're interested in.

Does the school have extended services, such as breakfast, after-school clubs and after-school activities?

Are there supervised activities for pupils outside normal school hours if parents or carers are at work?

Does the school have facilities and resources for children with SEND and does it offer additional support?

What provisions are there for children with SEND?

How will your child get there?

What form of transport will they need to take?

How long is the journey (time and distance)?

Is the travel route safe and convenient?

How are the school's facilities?

Are the buildings, classrooms and grounds well equipped and maintained?

Remember, the school with the best reputation may not always be the most suitable for your child's needs.



How to apply

You must apply to the local authority where your child lives. Do not list independent fee-paying schools as you need to apply to them directly.

1. To make an online application, please visit the eAdmissions website: www.eadmissions.org.uk
2. If you're unable to apply online, contact the City of London School Admissions Service on EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk
3. You can apply for any school located in any borough, with up to a maximum of six schools. We highly recommend that you apply to as many schools as you can as this will increase your chances of getting one of your preferred schools.
4. List the schools in the order you prefer, with your favourite school listed first. Your preference order is not disclosed to schools. Make sure you are aware of schools that require a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) to be completed as well as the eAdmissions online/paper-based application.
5. It is a good idea to list your nearest schools. If you do not apply for any of the schools close to you, there is a risk that, if you do not secure a place at one of your preferences, local schools may already be full and your child could end up having to travel further away to get to school.

DEADLINE DATE FOR APPLICATION IS 15 JANUARY 2021

What is a Supplementary Information Form and why is it needed?

A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) provides additional information that some schools use to allocate places when they are oversubscribed (they've received more applications than they have places to offer).

To find out if your chosen schools require a SIF, please contact them directly. If you apply online, the eAdmissions website will tell you if a school requires a SIF. You must send the completed SIF directly to the school and not to the City of London. Choosing not to complete the SIF could reduce your chances of getting a place at that school if it's oversubscribed.

Most voluntary-aided and foundation schools and some academies require a SIF.

Applying under sibling criterion

If your child has a brother or sister attending any of your preferred schools at the time of admission in September 2021, you should complete the box marked 'Sibling details' alongside the relevant school.

Applying under exceptional reasons

If you are making an application based on medical, social, religious, philosophical or educational reasons, you must complete the 'reasons for preference' box on the application form.

You must also explain in writing why your child must attend a particular school, and a professional practitioner, such as a doctor or educational psychologist, must support your reasons and provide relevant evidence. The information must be received by the deadline date.

Proof of home address

Your address details will be checked by the City of London's Council Tax Team. You will be asked to provide additional supporting documentation if the Council Tax Team is unable to verify your details. It's important you give accurate information on your application form as this can affect the outcome of your application.

You are also required to provide proof of the child's residence. The document must not be older than one year and can either be uploaded online or sent via email to the City of London Admissions Service. This can be in the form of a child tax credit notification, letter from the NHS or any other document that has your child's name and address. For more information on the City of London's address verification policy, please visit: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/schooladmission

The results of your application will be sent to you on National Offer Day, which is **16 April 2021**. If you applied online, you'll receive an email alert that evening informing you of the outcome of your application, or a text telling you where you can view the outcome online.

Please note: The offer of a school place can be withdrawn if the information supplied is knowingly incorrect.

An admissions authority can also take legal action against anyone who has knowingly given false information to get a school place for their child.

Your child's home address

- If you are separated from your child's other parent and your child lives partly with you and partly with the other parent, you should state the address where your child lives the majority of the time.
- If you have an equal shared-care arrangement, state the address of the parent claiming child benefit, receiving tax credits linked to the child, or whose address is registered at the child's GP. If you are making an online application, you can upload documents to your eAdmissions account. If you are making a paper application, you will need to send the documents to the City of London's School Admissions Service.

Please note: Only one address can be used for school admission purposes and the final decision will rest with the City of London's School Admissions Service.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date will be deemed 'late applications' and will be considered after those received on time. If there are exceptional reasons why you couldn't make the deadline, please write to the City of London's School Admissions Service and provide supporting evidence.

Please note:

- You cannot make a late application online. If you wish to make an application after the closing date, please contact the City of London School Admissions Service.
- If you wish to change your school preferences after the closing date, your application will be treated as a late application.

What happens after the form has been submitted

All London local authorities and some local authorities bordering London are part of the pan-London admissions scheme. The scheme coordinates applications across local authority borders.

Your child will be considered by each school listed on their application form. Schools do not know which other schools you've listed or your order of preference.

If a school is not oversubscribed, every child that applies will be offered a place.

If a school is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by its admissions authority in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria. The oversubscription criteria are part of a school's admissions policy. Children meeting criteria with a higher priority will be more likely to get a place than those meeting lower priority criteria. You can get a copy of the policy from each school's admissions authority.

Your child will receive only one offer. If more than one school can offer them a place, the school making the offer will be your child's highest preference and all lower preferences will be withdrawn and released to other children. Therefore, please make sure you put the school you really want first.

Admissions authorities

For foundation schools, voluntary-aided schools, academies and free schools, this is the school's governing body. For all other schools, this is the local authority.

Getting your results – National Offer Day

The letter the City of London School Admissions Service sends you will tell you:

- which school can offer your child a place
- how to accept the place
- what to do if your child was not offered a place at any of their chosen schools
- how to appeal a decision.

Your child will receive only one offer. If more than one school can offer them a place, the school making the offer will be your child's highest preference.

Accepting an offer

You can accept the offered school place by:

- completing the online acceptance form via your eAdmissions account; or
- replying to the Education and Early Years offer day email.

Either way, the City of London's School Admissions Service must receive your response by 30 April 2021 or your place may be offered to another child.

What if my child has a place at a private or independent school?

If you have accepted a place for your child at a private or independent school, please let the City of London's School Admissions Service know in writing as soon as possible so that the school place can be offered to another child.

I've been offered a place at one of my least preferred schools and plan to appeal. Should I reject the place?

You are strongly advised to accept the offered place as it will ensure that your child has a place should your appeal be unsuccessful. Accepting the place will not affect the outcome of your appeal. If you reject the offered place and your appeal is unsuccessful, the process of finding another school is likely to be difficult.

What if I don't receive a place at any of my preferred schools?

The offer letter will include details of local schools that have vacancies and the City of London's School Admissions Service will work with you to find a school place for your child.

You can also choose to appeal the refusal or go on your preferred school's waiting list. Contact the school to find out its waiting list policy and if you've been automatically added to the list.

How do waiting lists work?

Your child's place on a waiting list is determined by the school's oversubscription criteria, not by how long they've been waiting. Children meeting higher priority criteria will be higher on the list than those meeting lower priority criteria. Your child's place can move down if children meeting higher criteria than yours join the list. Late applications are included on the waiting list and are treated in the same way as on-time applications.

Acceptance deadline

- If your acceptance slip is not postmarked by **30 April 2021**, your place may be offered to another child.
- If you are likely to be away from home between **16 April** and **30 April 2021**, please let the City of London School Admissions Service know in advance.

Appeal process

If you didn't receive an offer from your most preferred school, you can appeal against the refusal.

What you need to do:

- Contact the school you want to make an appeal against as soon as possible. They will provide you with information about their appeal process – what you'll need to do and by when.
- Present your appeal. Your appeal will be heard during May, June or July 2021 by the Appeal Panel, which is made up of people who have not been involved in any way in the allocation of school places.

The Appeal Panel's decision is final.

Details of how to appeal will be included in the offer letter.

If you intend to make an appeal, you should still accept the school place you've been offered so that your child will have a place if your appeal is unsuccessful.

Accepting the place you've been offered will not affect the outcome of your appeal.

Oversubscription criteria – an example:

According to the list below, children looked after by the local authority is a higher criterion than distance from school:

- Children looked after by the local authority.
- Children whose siblings attend the school.
- Distance to school from child's home address.



In-year admissions

What is in-year admission?

In-year admissions is the process of applying to a school at any time outside the normal admissions rounds. Normal admissions rounds are those that take place during September of the year a child starts either Reception or secondary school.

You must complete an in-year application if your child:

- is transferring from one primary school to another
- has been educated at home and now wishes to apply for a school place
- is newly arrived in the UK and is looking for a school place.

What do I need to do?

That depends, as the in-year admissions application process varies. With some schools you apply directly to the school, while with others you'll need to complete the local authority's in-year application form. Contact the school directly to find out more.

Is there a closing date for in-year admissions?

No, although we advise you to make your application as soon as possible.

I don't like the school that my child is currently attending and want to change their school. Can I make an in-year admissions application?

Yes. But before you do, please consider that moving schools can be very unsettling for children, particularly if they are preparing for exams or have difficulty adapting to new situations and surroundings.



Junior school admissions

If your child goes to an infant school, they will transfer to a junior school in September after their seventh birthday. Children at infant schools normally transfer to their linked junior school at the age of seven, but an application must be made to the junior school. Most linked schools are on the same site and have the same name.

If your child is in Year 2 at any primary school, you can also make an application to a junior school.

- Junior schools cater for children attending Year 3 to Year 6 (Key Stage 2).
- Children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 can apply for a junior school place.
- The application timeline is the same as that for a Reception class place.

Primary schools

THE ALDGATE SCHOOL

St James's Passage, 27 Duke's Place, London EC3A 5DE

t 020 7283 1147 **f** 020 7626 5071 **e** office@sirjohncassprimary.org **w** www.sirjohncassprimary.org

Head Teacher

Ms Alex Allan

Ages

3–11 boys and girls

Reception places

30

Religious affiliations

Church of England

Supplementary Information Form (SIF) required?

Yes. See page 10

Ofsted rating

Outstanding

Nearest tube stations

Aldgate, Aldgate East, Liverpool Street, Tower Hill and Moorgate

Nearest train stations

Tower Gateway, Tower Hill, Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street. London Bridge and Cannon Street are within a 15-minute walk

Nearest buses

8, 15, 25, 78, 100 and 205

Description

At The Aldgate School we aim to provide an exceptional education for every child in a safe, stimulating environment where everyone is valued and respected. We believe education is a partnership between home and school. We encourage the spiritual development of the children and the knowledge of God and the world.

We're a diverse and inclusive school community. We believe in the importance of a rich curriculum with excellent subject teaching. Our Early Years Foundation Stage is a special place to learn. We believe play is learning in the Early Years, that every child is unique and deserves the opportunity to interact in a creative, well-resourced environment, which is rich with language and resources. In Key Stages 1 and 2 we seek to deliver a rounded education which prioritises the vital skills of communication, music, the arts and sport alongside reading, writing and mathematics.

Our aim is for every child to have a wealth of experiences and make exceptional progress in order to be well prepared for their secondary education and life thereafter.

We provide:

- A stimulating, broad and balanced curriculum for every child.
- A religious education according to the principles and practices of the Church of England in a context where everyone is valued and respected.
- Excellent teaching and carefully targeted support to ensure every child is challenged to excel and achievements are celebrated.
- Staff development to ensure our staff are well trained.
- A safe, disciplined environment where all members of our school community are expected to treat each other with courtesy and respect.

Behaviour

We expect all members of our school community to:

- Respect and care for each other.
- Celebrate our unique talents, achievements and strengths.
- Work hard every day and take responsibility for our own learning.
- Be fair and honest in everything we do.
- Look after our environment.
- Move sensibly and quietly around the school.

Homework

Each child is expected to do homework every week. This could be reading, maths, project work or music practice. Work will be set appropriate to age and ability.

Uniform

Children, parents and staff have an agreed school uniform policy for Reception upwards; you can find details of the uniform policy on our website or by contacting the school.

The City of London Child and Family Centre

The school has an integrated Sure Start Children's Centre, providing care and early education for children from three months old to nursery class age.

Childcare

We offer excellent and affordable childcare for children aged three months to 11 years from 7.45am to 6.00pm 48 weeks a year. Contact the school for further information.

How to apply for a school place

You have six preferences and should list them in your order of preference on the City of London's Common Application Form. For example, if The Aldgate School is your first choice, then list this first.

Admissions information

The Aldgate School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School. The responsibility for the admission of pupils rests with the governing body. The school's current maximum admissions number is 30, with 30 children in each class. These arrangements and the admissions criteria (below) are reviewed annually. When there are more applications than there are places available, the governors will admit pupils according to the following criteria, which are listed in order of priority.

Please note: Priority will be given to looked after children and children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan where this school is named in the plan.

Admissions criteria

1. Children Looked After by a local authority, Previously Looked After Children who left care under a child arrangement or special guardianship order, or those adopted from local authority care.
2. Children with a sibling attending the school in the academic year of admission.
3. a) Children whose parent(s) worship and have done so fortnightly and continuously and have done so for the previous three years, in the Parish Church of St Botolph's, Aldgate (equating to 26 times each year).

b) Children whose parent(s) worship and have done so weekly and continuously for the previous two years, in the Parish Church of St Botolph's, Aldgate (equivalent of 40 weeks each year). This criterion will apply for admission in academic years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 only. Thereafter only criterion 3a will apply.

NB: In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church has been available for public worship.

4. Children for whom this is the nearest Church of England school in order of proximity of home to school, measured in a straight line distance, whose parent(s) worship fortnightly and continuously in churches of other Christian denominations (such denominations being members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and the Evangelical Alliance) and have done so for the previous three years.
5. Children who have a place in the nursery class of the Cass Child and Family Centre, who live in the admissions priority area.

6. Children living in the admissions priority area in order of proximity of home to school, measured by the shortest walking route.
7. Children of members of staff if the staff member is filling a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year.
8. Any other children in order of proximity of home to school, measured over the shortest walking route.

Terminology, definitions and notes on the oversubscription criteria

- If there are more applicants than places in any of the above categories, priority will be given to applicants living nearest the school, in order of proximity of home to school, measured in a straight line distance.
- Highest priority will be given to 'Looked After' children and children who were previously 'Looked After'.
- A Parent is a person who has parental responsibility for, or is the legal guardian of the child.
- Length of attendance at the church must be by the application closing date. If you are applying under criteria 3 or 4 a completed supplementary information form (SIF) should be sent to the school directly and you should obtain a receipt confirming the date the form was received by the school. You should contact the school if you do not receive a receipt within 10 schools days as it may mean we have not received your SIF. If we do not receive your SIF by the deadline date, we will not be able to apply your application to criteria's 3 or 4 and will be applied to either criterion 6 or 8 as applicable instead.
- The Aldgate School will use the City of London's Geographical Information System (GIS) to measure straight line distance to prioritise applicants for admission. The distance will be measured from the address point as indicated within the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) to the address point of the school within the LLPG as a straight line. Measurements by

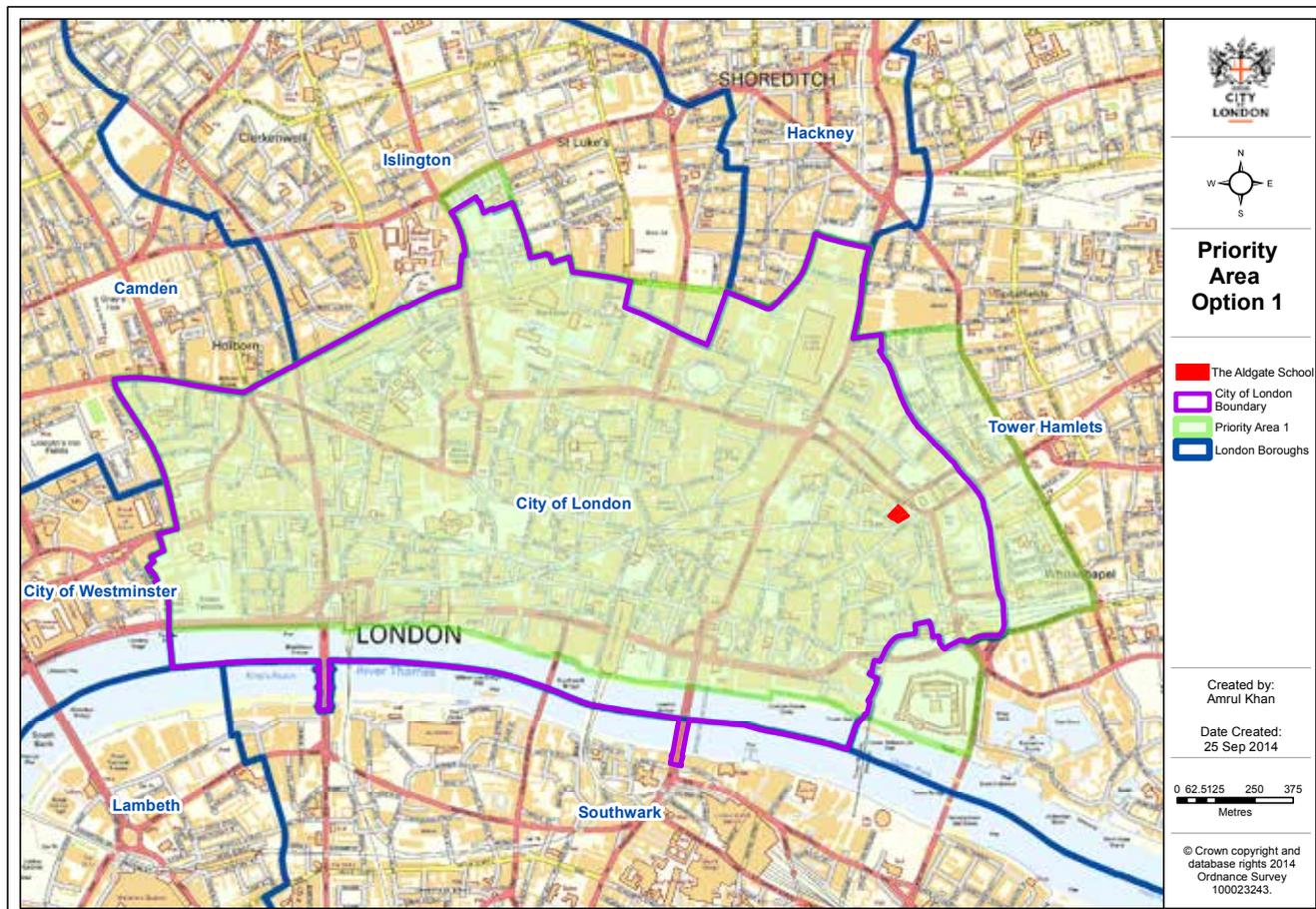
alternative systems and/or to other points will not be taken into account in any circumstances. Where applicants have identical distance measurements, priority amongst them will be determined at random.

- Sibling refers to brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister or foster siblings of the child of the parent/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.
- Children attending nursery class at Cass Child and Family Centre will not gain automatic entry into the reception class. Parents must re-apply for a reception class place.

Admissions priority area

The school has an admissions priority area, which will be used in relation to oversubscription criterion 5 and 6. Please see the map on the next page. A more detailed map or for a copy of the full policy, please visit www.sirjohncass.org





Proof of home address

You will need to produce proof of your permanent home address. This can be a current council tax statement, child benefit letter or similar documentation.

Fraudulent information

If the allocation of a place has been made on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, the governors reserve the right to withdraw the place.

Number of places offered using the oversubscription criteria – 2020/2021

The table below shows how places were allocated using the oversubscription criteria last year. Each criterion number corresponds to the admissions criteria list.

Criterion	Number of children allocated
1	2
2	14
3	1
4	0
5	13

Distance last pupil was allocated a school place: 1074.07 metres.

There were no appeals lodged for Reception 2020.

Term dates for 2020/21

Autumn Term 2020

Term 1	Wednesday 2 September to Friday 23 October 2020
Children back to school on Friday 4 September 2020	
Half Term	Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2020
Term 2	Monday 2 November to Friday 18 December 2020
Children back to school on Tuesday 3 November 2020 Children finish on Friday 18 December 2020 at 1.30pm	
Christmas Break	Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021
INSET Day	Wednesday 2 September 2020
INSET Day	Thursday 3 September 2020
INSET Day	Monday 2 November 2020

Spring Term 2021

Term 3	Monday 4 January 2021 to Friday 12 February 2021
Children back to school on Tuesday 5 January 2021	
Half Term	Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021
Term 4	Monday 22 February 2021 to Thursday 1 April 2021
Children back to school on Monday 22 February 2021 Children finish on Thursday 1 April at 1.30pm	
Easter Break	Friday 2 April 2021 to Friday 16 April 2021
INSET Day	Monday 4 January 2021

Summer Term 2021

Term 5	Monday 19 April 2021 to Friday 28 May 2021
Children back to school on Monday 19 April 2021	
Half Term	Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021
Term 6	Monday 7 June 2021 to Wednesday 21 July 2021
Children back to school on Monday 7 June 2021 Children finish the school year on Wednesday 21 July at 1.30	
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May 2021
Bank Holiday	Monday 31 May 2021

The term dates for Autumn 2021 are not yet set. However, we anticipate that children will be back to school on **Friday 3 September 2021**. Dates for 2021/22 will be finalised next year.

Support for parents and carers

Help with home-to-school travel costs

Transport for London (TfL) provides free travel for children aged 11 years and under at any time on London buses, London Underground, trams, DLR, London Overground and most National Rail services in London for children aged five to ten. If children are travelling unaccompanied, they must have a valid '5-10' Oyster photocard to travel free of charge.

How to apply

- You must apply online via tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/oyster and you'll need a Zip Oyster photocard web account.
- If you have an Oyster photocard account for a non-Zip Oyster photocard, you'll need to use a different email address to create a Zip web account.
- For more information, contact TFL 0343 222 1234.

School meals

All primary schools offer a midday meal. Children may also bring a packed lunch.

Each school has its own arrangements, so please check directly with the school.

Free school meals

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they're in Reception class, Year 1 or Year 2.

Your child may be eligible to receive free school meals if they are in other year groups, if you receive one of these benefits:

- Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

- Child Tax Credit where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income (assessed by HMRC) does not exceed £16,190.
- Guaranteed element of Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit run-on: this is normally paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
- Universal Credit: if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

If you meet these criteria, you can apply for free school meals to the local authority where your child's school is located.

Young people who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

School clothing grants

The school clothing grant is a discretionary, one-off payment of £50, made in August each year, to help with the cost of school uniforms and footwear, including PE kits. To be eligible, you and your child must live in the City of London and your child must be:

- receiving free school meals
- starting reception class in a publicly funded primary school where there is an agreed school uniform.

The grant is paid at the discretion of the City of London.

For more information, please contact the School Admissions Service.

School admissions in other local authorities

Camden School Admissions

5 Pancras Square,
London N1C 4AG
020 7974 1625
www.camden.gov.uk/admissions

Hackney School Admissions

Hackney Learning Trust,
1 Reading Lane,
London E8 1GQ
020 8820 7000 (option 3)
www.learningtrust.co.uk/admissions

Hammersmith & Fulham School Admissions

145 King Street,
Hammersmith,
London W6 9XY
020 8753 1085
www.lbhf.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Islington School Admissions

222 Upper Street,
London N1 1XR
020 7527 5515
www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place

Kensington and Chelsea School Admissions

Town Hall,
Hornton Street,
London W8 7NX
020 7745 6432 or 020 7745 6433
<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/children-and-education/children-and-education/>

Lambeth Admissions Service

International House,
Canterbury Crescent,
London SW9 7QE
020 7926 9503
www.lambeth.gov.uk/schools-and-education

Southwark Admissions

160 Tooley Street,
London SE1 2QH
020 7525 5337
www.southwark.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Tower Hamlets School Admissions

Pupil Services,
Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG
020 7364 5006
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Westminster School Admissions

Hornton Street,
London W8 7NX
020 7745 6433
www.westminster.gov.uk/school-admissions

Useful contacts

Coram Children's Legal Centre

Coram Community Campus,
48 Mecklenburgh Square,
London WC1N 2QA
020 7713 0089
<https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/get-legal-advice/education/>

Independent Schools Council

First Floor,
27 Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1H 9BU
020 7766 7070
www.isc.co.uk/

Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman

PO Box 4771,
Coventry CV4 0EH
0300 061 0614
www.lgo.org.uk

Glossary

When reading through this guide, you may come across some words or terms that you are unclear about. Below is a list of common terms used in the primary school admissions process. If you need further help, please call the School Admissions Service on 020 7332 1002.

Academy Schools

Academy schools are publicly funded, independently managed schools that benefit from freedoms, including freedom from local authority control, the ability to set their own pay and conditions for staff, freedoms around the delivery of the curriculum and the ability to change the lengths of terms and school days.

Admissions Authority

The body that sets a school's admissions arrangements and allocates school places. For voluntary-aided and foundation schools, it is the school's governing body.

Admissions Policy

The policy that determines how the school will allocate places if the school receives more applications than it has places to offer.

All Through Schools

These schools provide education for both primary and secondary school-aged children.

Appeal Panel

An independent panel of trained people that hears and makes decisions on appeals made against admissions decisions.

Catchment Area

A defined geographical area that some admissions authorities use to decide which applications should be given priority to attend a particular school.

Common Application Form (CAF)

The form that must be used when applying for a place in a state-maintained school.

Community Schools

Community schools are run by the local authority, which decides on the admissions arrangements. These schools develop strong links with the local community.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan are legal documents issued by a local authority detailing the particular

needs, resources and provision required to support the child, and can include a named school that is suitable for providing education for that child.

Education Year

The school year starts in September and ends in July of the following calendar year.

Faith Schools

Faith schools have a particular religious character. They are mostly run in the same way as other state-maintained schools. However, their faith status may affect their curriculum and admissions policies.

Foundation Schools

Foundation schools are state-maintained, but it is the school's governing body that employs the staff and has primary responsibility for admissions arrangements. Many foundation schools were formerly grant-maintained schools.

Free Schools

Free schools are funded by the state but set up and run by members of the community, such as parents, teachers, charities and businesses, on a not-for-profit basis. Free schools can set their own admissions policy.

Governing Body

Every school has a governing body made up of members of the community, local authority, school staff and parents. Governing bodies promote high standards of educational achievement. Their key objectives are around setting strategic direction, ensuring accountability, and monitoring and evaluation.

Independent Schools

Independent schools set their own curriculum and admissions policies. They are funded through fees paid by parents. Applications for independent schools are made directly to the school.

Infant Class Size

Government legislation requires local authorities to make sure that no Key Stage 1 class will have more than 30 pupils if there is only one fully qualified teacher available for that class.

Infant School

Reception to Year 2 classes of a primary school.

Junior School

Year 3 to Year 6 classes of a primary school.

Looked After Children or Previously Looked After Children

Children who are in the care of a local authority or who were looked after but cease to be because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.

National Curriculum

The National Curriculum sets out the stages and core subjects your child will be taught during their time at school. Children aged five to 16 in maintained or state-maintained schools must be taught the National Curriculum.

National Curriculum Key Stages

The National Curriculum is organised into blocks of years called key stages. There are four Key Stages plus an 'Early Years Foundation Stage', which covers education for children before they reach five years old (compulsory school age). Each National Curriculum subject has a target for each key stage that sets out the skills, knowledge and understanding your child should achieve at that level.

National Tests

The tests are intended to show if your child is working at, above or below the target level for their age. This enables schools to know whether they are teaching effectively by comparing their pupils' performance with national results.

Ofsted

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills is the government department responsible for inspecting and producing inspection reports on schools.

Oversubscribed School

A school where there have been more applications than places available.

Oversubscription Criteria

Criteria used to decide which children will be given priority if the school receives more applications than it has places available.

Primary School

Reception to Year 6 classes.

Secondary Schools

Year 7 to Year 11 classes and usually attended by children aged 11–16.

SEND

Special educational needs and disabilities.

State-maintained Schools

Any school that is maintained and funded by the local authority. This includes community, voluntary-aided, voluntary-controlled and foundation schools.

Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

A form containing additional information about a child and their circumstances that some schools use to

allocate places when they are oversubscribed, in accordance with their own published oversubscription criteria.

Undersubscribed School

A school that has vacancies because there have been fewer applications than the school has places available.

Voluntary-aided Schools

Voluntary-aided schools are state maintained and are mainly religious or 'faith' schools. The governing body employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria.

Voluntary-controlled Schools

Voluntary-controlled schools are similar to voluntary-aided schools, but are run and maintained by the local authority. As with community schools, the local authority employs the school's staff and sets the admissions criteria. School land and buildings are normally owned by a charity, often a religious organisation, which also appoints some of the members of the governing body.

If you would like this information in
another language or another format
such as Braille, Large Print or Audio Tape,
please contact the
Family and Young People's
Information Service on
020 7332 1002, or email us at
EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Family and Young People's Information Service
Education and Early Years' Service
Department of Community and
Children's Services
City of London Corporation
PO Box 270
Guildhall
London EC2P 2EJ

