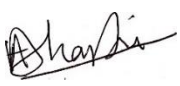
2024-25

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Date of this policy:	Review frequency:	Date to review:	Date to be ratified:
6.12.2022	Annual	CEO Summer 2025	Board of Trustees Summer 2025
How will Trustees be assured this has been implemented?	Through analysing admission numbers, appeals and complaints through working with the Local Authority		
Signed:		Sash Hamidi (CEO)	
Signed:		Aliya Dhanji (CHAIR OF TRUSTEES)	

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Our Vision Statement

At The Welldon Park Academy, our vision and aims of education are underpinned by the UNICEF United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

We believe:

- All learning should be purposeful and experiential
- In learning values and skills for whatever the future brings
- We can be world changers

This means we are committed to providing an education, for all pupils, that should develop their personality, talents and abilities to the full (article 29). We encourage a sense of community spirit, where pupils pastoral care and well-being underpins academic, co-curricular and sporting excellence. We aim to achieve this through an inspiring curriculum, that is child-centred (article 3), and extends pupil learning beyond the constraints of the classroom. We want to instil a life-long love of learning and equip pupils with skills that develop their independence, critical thinking, self-awareness, resilience and self-confidence.

Statement of intent

Throughout this document we refer to Data Protection Legislation which means the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA2018), the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 and any legislation implemented in connection with the aforementioned legislation. Where data is processed by a controller or processor established in the European Union or comprises the data of people in the European Union, it also includes the EU General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR). This includes any replacement legislation coming into effect from time to time.

The Welldon Park Academy aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the legislation mentioned above.

The Welldon Park Academy, from time to time, may be required to share personal information about its staff or pupils with other organisations, mainly the LA, other schools and educational bodies, and potentially social services. This policy applies to all personal data, regardless of whether it is in paper or electronic format.

Safeguarding Statement

At The Welldon Park Academy, we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere (article 31). We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm (article 19). This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at The Welldon Park Academy. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Equality Statement

At The Welldon Park Academy, we ensure equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of age, race, gender (re-assignment), disability (article 23), religion and belief (article 14), sexual orientation, marital/cohabiting status or socio-economic background (article 2). We develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils is monitored by race, gender and disability and we use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

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Admissions Policy

Primary School Admissions Arrangements for 2024-25

The Welldon Park Academy School will comply with the requirements of the Funding Agreement and the School Admissions Code, and recognises that its 'relevant area' is the London Borough of Harrow since this is the local authority area within which the school is situated.

Number of places and applying:

The number of Reception places available for September 2024 entry (the 2024/2025 academic year) will be:

THE WELLDON PARK ACADEMY 60

If you are a parent resident in Harrow, applications for September 2024 entry should be made via the Harrow co-ordinated admissions scheme (for more details see the 'school admissions' section of the Harrow Council website, www.harrow.gov.uk).

If you are a parent resident outside Harrow applications should be made through your home local authority's admissions scheme.

The Welldon Park Academy: Admissions arrangements for 2024/25

The Pegasus Partnership Trust (the "Academy Trust") is the admissions authority for The Welldon Park Academy. The Academy Trust will comply with the requirements of the Funding Agreement and the School Admissions Code, and recognises that its 'relevant area' is the London Borough of Harrow since this is the local authority area within which the school is situated.

This policy relates to admission into Reception to Year 6 for and during the 2024/25 academic year. There is a separate policy for entry into Nursery. There is no automatic right of progression from Nursery to Reception – parents must apply for a Reception place.

Children start school in the September of the school year in which they will become 5 years of age, which means most children are 4 years old when they start school. For entry in September 2024, children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 are eligible to start school in September 2024. Children reach statutory school age at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Statutory school age means the age when a parent is legally required to make sure that their child attends school (or is educated other than at school).

Number of places

The number of Reception places available for September 2024 entry (the 2024/25 school year) will be 60. If you are a parent resident in Harrow, applications for September 2024 entry should be made via the Harrow co-ordinated admissions scheme (for more details see the 'school admissions' section of the Harrow Council website, www.harrow.gov.uk). If you are a parent resident outside Harrow applications should be made through your home local authority's admissions scheme.

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The Academy will advertise on its website how parents and their children are able to visit the academy during the Autumn term.

Admissions Oversubscription Criteria

If there are fewer applicants than there are places available for Reception entry in September 2024, everyone who applies will be offered a place.

Children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan or statement of special educational needs which names the school will be allocated a place at the school in accordance with their statutory entitlement.

If there are more applicants than there are places available after the admission of pupil with an Education, Health and Care Plan or statement of special educational needs naming the school, the following criteria will be considered, in order, to determine who will be offered a place:

1. **Children who are looked after or were previously looked after** - A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, child arrangements order, or special guardianship order including those who appear [to the admission authority] to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. (See below for definitions of children who are looked after or were previously looked after);

2. **Medical or social needs of the child** – Children for whom it is essential to be admitted to a specific school because of special circumstances to do with significant medical needs and or social needs. (See below for definition of medical or social needs of the child);

3. **Medical reasons relevant to parent(s)** - Parent(s) where there are special medical reasons for seeking a place for their child at the school. (See below for definition of medical reasons relevant to parent(s) and parent);

4. **Siblings** - Children with a brother or sister attending the school in Reception to Year 6 at the time of admission (see below for definition of sibling);

5. **Children of staff of the school** – Children where their parent(s) has been employed by the Academy Trust (or Harrow Council prior to a TUPE transfer) at the school for at least two years at the date of admission or where the member of staff has been recruited to a vacant post where there is a demonstrable skills shortage (see below for definition of parent); and

6. **Distance from home to school** - Places are allocated to applicants who live closest to the school. This must be the address where parent and child normally live and they must be living there on the closing date for receipt of applications. (See below for definition of distance).

Tie-breaker: If more applications are received in any one criterion than there are places available the tiebreaker of distance from the address point for the home address to the centre point for the school sites, measured in a straight line, will be applied. The school centre point is computer generated and is the centre point of a bounded polygon of the two school sites that includes elements such as buildings, playgrounds and car parks but excludes playing fields.

In cases where applicants live equidistant from the preferred school and places cannot be offered to all of the applicants affected, the available place(s) will be allocated using a random computer selection.

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Children of multiple births: In cases where there is only one place available at the school and the next child on the waiting list is one of a twin, triplet or other multiple birth group, both twins (or all the siblings in the case of other multiple births) would be admitted, even if this meant that the school would admit in excess of the admission number.

Definitions

Distance - The home address is where a child normally lives. The distance will be measured in a straight light from the address point for the home address to the centre point for the two school sites. Each centre point factors in on-site buildings only and is agreed by the school. Distance is calculated using a computerised mapping system based on Ordinance Survey data. To find distances to schools in Harrow go to www.harrow.gov.uk/distancetool. In cases where applicants live equidistant from the preferred school and places cannot be offered to both children, the available place will be allocated using a random computer selection.

Home address - This must be the address where parent and child normally live and they must be living there on the closing date for receipt of applications. Confirmation of address will be required. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for a part of a week, then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week. Where residence is split equally between parents, if no joint declaration is received by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address of the parent who receives child benefit; in cases where parents are not eligible for child benefit the address will be that of the parent where the child is registered with the doctor.

Children who are looked after or were previously looked after - A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

Medical or social needs of the child - Except in wholly exceptional circumstances such requests will only be considered for the school closest to the home address. The application must be supported by written evidence. The supporting evidence should set out the particular reasons why the school is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. The recommendation for this specific school should demonstrate knowledge of the school in terms of resources and organisation which deems it essential that the named pupil be admitted to the school. The school can only consider entry under this criterion if the required documents have been produced.

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Applications made on medical grounds must be accompanied by compelling medical evidence from a hospital Consultant at the time of application. The letter from the hospital consultant must provide information about the child's medical condition, the effects of this condition and why, in view of this, the child needs to attend the school. If the school is not the school closest to the home of the child, the consultant must set out in detail the wholly exceptional circumstances for attending the school and the difficulties if the child had to attend another school. In assessing these applications advice may be sought from Harrow's Special Education Needs Service.

Applications made on social grounds must be accompanied by compelling evidence at the time of application. Social needs claims will only be considered where there is involvement from a social worker. The application will need to be supported with a letter from a Divisional Director from Children and Families or a person holding a similar role in another local authority. The director must set out in detail the wholly exceptional circumstances that in their view require attendance at the school and the difficulties if the child had to attend another school.

Parent's can only make an application under this criteria (whether for medical or social need) to one school in Harrow.

Medical reasons relevant to parent(s) – Except in wholly exceptional circumstances such requests will only be considered for the school closest to the home address. Applications will only be considered for the parent(s) with whom the child lives and must be accompanied by compelling medical evidence from a hospital Consultant at the time of application. The letter from the hospital consultant must provide information about the parent's medical condition, the effects of this condition and why, in view of this, the child needs to attend the school. If the school is not the closest school to the home address, the consultant must set out in detail the wholly exceptional circumstances for attending the school and the difficulties if the child had to attend another school. In assessing these applications independent advice will be sought as appropriate (e.g. Harrow Association of Disabled People or Harrow's Mental Health Service).

Medical claims relevant to parent(s) will only be considered for one school and this should be named by the consultant.

Parent(s) making a medical claim solely on the grounds of the young person's need to be accompanied on the journey to school will not be allowed.

Sibling - Where children live as brother and sister in the same household they are treated in the same way as siblings for admissions purposes. This includes a child's brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted/foster brother or sister, step brother or sister living in the same family unit at the same address. It does not include cousins or other extended family members who live in the same household. In the case of twins, triplets and other multiple-birth children, if one child can be offered a place in the school, other multiple-birth children will be allocated a place in the school. Where twins are concerned and one twin has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school the other twin will be treated as having a sibling link for that academic year.

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Parent – this means the parent who has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act 1989, or the person in the household who is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996. This could include a person who is not a biological parent but who has responsibility for her or him (such as a child's guardians) but will not usually include other relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles etc unless they have all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority, which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and their property.

Notification and acceptance of places

In accordance with the co-ordinated admissions policy, on or around 16 April each year the Local Authority will make the formal offer of a place to parents or carers on behalf of the Academy Trust.

The onus is on parents to contact the Local Authority by their specified date (expected to be around 30 April each year) to either accept or decline the offer of a place. This will in no way affect parents' right to appeal for a place at another school. Harrow Council will write to all parents who have not accepted or declined an offer giving them a further 7 days. If no response is received a further letter will be sent to advise that the place has been withdrawn. Unaccepted places will be allocated to other applicants.

Appeals procedure

Parents can choose to appeal against the decision of the Academy Trust not to offer their child a place at the school.

Harrow Council administer any admissions appeals on behalf of the Trust.

To appeal against the decision not to offer their child a place, parents must complete the appeal forms that are available on the Harrow Council website (www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions) or from the Harrow Council Admissions Team (020 8901 2620). To be considered in the first round of appeals, the notice of appeal must be received by the Council by their specified date (expected to be around 14 May each year).

The appeal will be heard by an independent appeals panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admissions Appeals Code. Parents will receive written notification of the date and time of their appeal hearing, which they can attend to explain their case. If they wish, parents may be accompanied by an adviser or friend. Following the appeal, the Clerk to the appeals panel will write to parents with the decision.

Waiting list

Parents / carers can ask for their child's name to be put on a waiting list for the school. The waiting list will be maintained by Harrow Council Admissions Team on behalf of the Academy Trust from the offer date.

The waiting list will give priority in accordance with the admissions criteria. Any places that become available will be filled in priority order from the waiting list or late applicants. Whenever an applicant is removed from or added to the waiting list, the list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

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Please note carefully: Waiting lists will be closed on the last day of term each year and will not roll over. If you wish your child to remain on the waiting list into the new academic year you will need to submit a new in year application. It is your responsibility to remember to reapply.

In-Year applications

If a parent wants to make an in-year application for a child to join the school they should complete the Common Application Form for In-Year Admissions that is available on the Harrow Council admissions website (www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions) or from the Harrow Council Admissions Team (020 8901 2620). There is no Supplementary Information Form for the school; parents only need to complete the Common Application Form. The Common Application Form should be returned to the Harrow Council Admissions Team who will then liaise with the schools who are listed on the form and write to the applicants with the result of their application.

In-Year admissions will be considered in accordance with the number of places available at the school in that specific school year and oversubscription criteria outlined above and any places that become available will be filled in priority order from the existing waiting list and any current applications.

Fair access protocol

As part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with Harrow Council the school may accept hard-to-place pupils onto the school roll from time to time in accordance with the In-Year Fair Access agreement.

Admission of a child out of the normal age group

In exceptional circumstances, parents or carers may wish to seek admission to a year group that is not the normal group for a child of that age. If a parent or carer is considering this they must contact the school for a discussion prior to making an application. The Headteacher will consider a request and make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and the best interests of the child concerned. This will include consideration of the parent's or carer's views, the academic, social and emotional development of the child, any relevant information provided by medical professionals, and whether they have previously been educated outside of their normal age group. If the Headteacher refuses a request to consider an application for outside of the child's normal age range, they will set out the reasons for this refusal. If the Headteacher agrees to the request, the application would be processed as using the over-subscription criteria outlined above. While parents have a right of appeal against a decision to refuse admission to their child, there is no right of appeal if they have been offered a place but not in their preferred year group.

Parents of summer born children may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. The term summer born children relates to all children born from 1 April to 31 August. These children reach compulsory school age on 31 August following their fifth birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on 31 August). It is anticipated that most requests for summer born children to be admitted out of their normal age group will come from parents of children born in the later summer months or those born prematurely.

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The school will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In making the decision the following will be taken into account:

- views of the parents;
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

Parents seeking admission to an age group below the child's actual age should submit their request for the September of the year before the year when children of the same age are due to start school. This enables a parent to apply for a school place in their child's actual age group before the closing date on 15 January, if the request for later admission is refused by the Academy Trust.
If the school approves the request, the parent will be advised to re-apply in the following year and provide a copy of the decision. However there can be no guarantee of a place being available at the school, as this is dependent on the number of applicants that year. It is not possible to reserve a place for the following year. Parents are therefore advised to have alternative arrangement in place.

Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Deferred Entry (delaying entry to school within the 2024/25 school year)

If you feel that your child is not ready to start school in the September following their fourth birthday, you can either arrange for your child to attend part-time until they reach statutory school age, or defer the date your child is admitted to the school until later on in the Reception year, the latest being at the beginning of the summer term 2025.

False information

Where the Academy Trust makes an offer of a place at the school on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, the offer of a place will be withdrawn. If a child starts attending the school as a result of an offer made based on fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, the place may be withdrawn by the Academy Trust, depending upon the length of time that the child has been at the school and any other factors considered relevant by Academy Trust. Where a place or an offer has been withdrawn, the application will be re-considered by the Academy Trust based upon accurate information and a right of independent appeal offered if the place is refused.

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