Wanstead Church School Admissions Criteria

Our admissions criteria are set and administered by the school’s Governing Body. The criteria are set having regard to our legal obligations and to promote the ethos of our school.

Our school is a one form entry school. We warmly welcome all applications for enrolment and have 30 places to offer in the reception class. Spaces are also therefore limited to 30 in each academic year thereafter up to Year 6.

The words in bold have specific meanings which are set out in the DEFINITIONS section below. It is very important that Parent or Carers read these and the IMPORTANT INFORMATION section below to ensure that the criteria are properly understood before application.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (‘EHCP’) naming Wanstead Church School.

Our school ethos and the law require us to give precedence to children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHCP that names our school.

Admissions Criteria

The Board of Governors will after the specific educational needs of any applicant child are met, apply the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. “Looked after” children and previously looked after children.
2. Children with a sibling attending the school.
3. Children from families who have worshipped regularly and are recorded members of the relevant parish at one of the following churches: Christ Church or St Mary’s in the Parish of Wanstead or at St Gabriel’s, Aldersbrook.
4. Children from families who have worshipped regularly and are recorded members of a church affiliated to ‘Churches Together in Britain and Ireland’ or the ‘Evangelical Alliance’ that is situated in the parishes of Wanstead or St. Gabriel’s, Aldersbrook.
5. Children from families who have worshipped regularly and are recorded members of an Anglican church that is situated in the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Waltham Forest or Newham.
6. Children from families who have worshipped regularly and are recorded members of a church affiliated to ‘Churches Together in Britain and Ireland’ or the ‘Evangelical Alliance’ that is situated in the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Waltham Forest or Newham.
7. Any remaining places will be offered to a child in order of their geographical proximity to the school at the date of application.

Where there are more applications in one category than spaces available, places will then be offered in order of geographical proximity to the school at the date of application.
In-Year Admissions
Applications for a school place as an in-year admission are determined by the same admissions criteria above. If a place is available then the local authority will communicate any offer of a place to the family.

The above criteria are only applied when there are more applicants than places.

DEFINITIONS

Sibling: This means a brother or sister, whether whole, half, adopted or step; provided that the applicant child is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. For a sibling of the applicant child to be treated as being at the school, the sibling must be attending the school in one year group, Reception to Year 5 at the time of the admission application.

Parent: is given its natural meaning but shall include adoptive parents or any person with ‘parental responsibility’ as defined by the Children Act 1989, the Children and Families Act 2014 (or any subsequent substitute legislation) or a recognised guardian.

Families: means at least one parent and the applicant child; and, ‘who have worshipped regularly’: means worshipped at least twice a month for the two years preceding the application.

The parish of Wanstead and St Gabriel’s are defined here:
https://www.achurchnearyou.com/wanstead-st-mary/
https://www.achurchnearyou.com/aldersbrook-st-gabriel/

Those who have recently moved: This means ‘families’, as defined above, that have moved within the two years preceding the application and the parent and applicant child are recorded members of one of the churches in criteria 3 to 6, but the family’s period of regular worship at that church is less than two years. The family will then be treated as having worshipped for two years provided:

(i) that they worshipped regularly at a church of the same denomination as they now worship at for long enough immediately prior to moving; and,
(ii) that when that period of worship is added to the present period of worship at a church listed in criteria 3 to 6, the whole period totals two years; and,
(iii) that this is verified by a reference from the ministers of both churches the family has attended.

Recorded member: For the Church of England this means that at least one parent is at the date of application on the electoral roll of the relevant Church in criteria 3 to 6 (not the electoral roll of the relevant local authority). To be listed, the parent should contact the priest or electoral roll officer of the relevant church. For non Church of England churches, at least one parent should be on any list of membership maintained by that church at a local level capable of independent verification.

Anglican Church: A qualifying church in the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Waltham Forest and Newham for criteria 5 is defined by its address and postcode. The admissions panel will regard this information as being determinative when and if this criterion is applied to any application.
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or the Evangelical Alliance: A qualifying church in the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Waltham Forest and Newham for criteria 6 is defined by its address and postcode. The admissions panel will regard this information as being determinative when and if this criterion is applied to any application.

In order of geographical proximity to the school: Priority will be given to those living closest to the school as measured by the London Borough of Redbridge using the system in operation at the relevant time.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

References: For applications in categories 3 to 5 a reference from the priest/minister of the relevant church will be required to verify church membership and frequency of worship. For churches without a minister, a churchwarden or elder or someone of equivalent status may provide such a reference. This reference will constitute the sole evidence of church attendance and membership save in very exceptional circumstances. Further references and records of attendance can and may be requested.

Waiting list: Where the school is oversubscribed the governors will, at a parent’s written request to the Head Teacher, hold such unsuccessful applications on file and allocate places should they become available on the basis of the admissions criteria set out above.

Deferred Entry: In accordance with legislation, parents/carers may defer their child’s entry to Reception until later in the year they are due to be admitted but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the final term of the school year for which it was made.

Part-time attendance: Children may attend school on a part-time basis but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

In-year Admissions: Applications for in-year admissions are made in the same way as those made during the normal admissions round: an application is made to the London Borough of Redbridge and a Supplementary Information Form (‘SIF’) submitted to the school direct. If a place is available, this will be communicated by the London Borough of Redbridge. If more applications are received than there are places available then applications will be ranked by the governing body in accordance with the oversubscription criteria using the information provided on the SIF.

Waiting List: In accordance with the Admission Code, the school will retain a waiting list, ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, until at least the 31st December of the admission year. Should you wish to remain on the waiting list after this point, please notify the school in writing.

Appeals: Parents of children who fail to gain places may appeal to an independent panel. Notification of any appeal must be addressed to the Clerk to the Independent Appeals Panel, c/o Wanstead Church School. The school will then advise the parents in writing of the appeal procedure.
Nursery Applications: Applications for nursery will be considered using the same criteria as for the school. Nursery application forms are available from the school office. Completed nursery applications should be either returned to the school direct or via the priest/minister for reference (if necessary). Admission to the nursery does not guarantee admission to the school.