

LONG MEAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2016

Long Mead CP School became part of the Tonbridge Federation on 19th April 2010 and at the same time became a Foundation School. The number of registered pupils at the point of federation was 137. The following arrangements with respect to the admission of pupils to the school will be adopted.

Boys and girls will be admitted without reference to ability or aptitude in the school year during which they become five. The number of admissions for the year commencing September (PAN 30) will be 30. Admission to the reception class occurs at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Although parents may wish to defer their child's school place until the start of the term following their fifth birthday we do have facilities to admit these children at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Applications for admission must be received in line with deadlines set by the LA; and children will be 4 plus years of age on entry.

Before the application of oversubscription criteria children with a statement of special educational need which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit.

1. **Children in Local Authority Care**

A child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who ceased to be so because they were adopted or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act.

2. **Sibling / Current Family Association**

A brother or sister attending Long Mead CP School when the child starts; in this context brother or sister means children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters. The sibling link is maintained as long as the family live at the same address as when the first child applied, or has moved closer to the school than when the first child was offered a place, or has moved to an address that is less than 2 miles from the school using the distance measured by the method outlined in the distance/nearness of children's home to school criterion.

3. **Health and Special Access Reasons**

Medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend this school. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents'/guardians' physical or mental health or social needs mean that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend this school. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and Long Mead CP School.

4. **Distance / Nearness of children's home to school**

The distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using Ordnance Survey address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by Ordnance Survey. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for an oversubscribed Community school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school.

The school uses measurements provided by the LA and further information on how distances are calculated is available in the Admissions Booklets provided by the LA. A map of the locality is held at the school for consultation should it be required.

A block of flats has a single address point of reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the school. In the unlikely event that two or more children live in the same block and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

Child's home address

A child's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence (not an address at which the child may sometimes stay or sleep) and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian or leased or rented to them under a lease or written rental agreement. Where partners live apart but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of week days.

Where applications are received after the deadline set by Kent County Council an Enquiry List will be maintained. Priority of admission will be determined by the above criteria.

In the event of a tie breaker situation the nearness of an applicant's home to school will be the decider. In the event more than one applicant has the same distance from home to school (as measured by the local authority), then a random selection will be applied.

General

After a place has been offered the school reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

- i) when a parent has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time or
- ii) when a parent has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- iii) the admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent.

The school will establish arrangements for appeals against non-admission which will include an independent element. Details of the arrangements for admissions and appeals will be published each year.

Admissions to the school will be based on the above criteria. Initially admissions in any year will be dealt with by an admissions panel consisting of Governors and teachers. Any appeals will be dealt with by the Appeals Committee.