

Abbey Primary School
'opening windows of opportunity'



ADMISSIONS POLICY 2020

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1.0 Admissions for September 2020 Entry into Reception

Abbey Primary School participates in the Pan-London Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for entry to Primary and Secondary School. Applications must be made through the London Borough of Sutton during the period 1st September to 15th January before the child is due to start. The application process is for children born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016. Attendance in the Nursery does not give priority for a place in Reception, therefore a separate application must be made by parents wishing to apply for a place in Reception.

Abbey Primary School will offer full time education to children from the September before their fifth birthday. Parents can defer the date their child is admitted to school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach the compulsory school age of five years old or, for children born between 1st April and 31st August, not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Where parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which they reach the compulsory school age of five years old.

The key dates for the Reception process, which are set in accordance with the London Borough of Sutton's Pan-London Admissions Scheme can be found in the following table:

Open Mornings	School tours run every Thursday morning at 9.00am by appointment only.
1 st September 2019	Online applications open at www.sutton.gov.uk/admissions

15 th January 2020	Closing date for receipt of applications. Applications received after this date will be regarded as late.
7 th February 2020	Latest date that an application that is late for good reason can be accepted. Reasons and evidence must be presented to the Local Authority with the application before this date.
16 th April 2020	Offer letters will be posted to applicants who applied using a paper form. Parents who applied online on-line will be able view the outcome of their application from the evening of 16 th April 2020.
30 th April 2020	Date by which on-line acceptances must be submitted and acceptance slips must be returned.
21 st May 2020	Closing date for submitting an appeal.
June to July 2020	Admission appeals.
September 2020	Pupils start school in Reception.

1.1. Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception

Abbey Primary School has 60 places available in Reception. Included within this figure are children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) which names Abbey Primary School, who will be allocated a place before other applicants are considered.

1.2 Order of Priority/Over-Subscription Criteria

Where application for admission exceeds the number of places available the following criteria will be applied in the following order of priority:

Priority 1: Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

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 definition in Section 22(1) of the children Act 1989). A previously looked after child is a child who was adopted, or subject to a residence order, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order, immediately having been looked after.

The children in this priority group will be allocated a place in order of the proximity of their home address to Abbey Primary School, with the closest having the highest priority.

Priority 2: Children with Exceptional Medical or Social Reasons for Attending Abbey Primary School

Children with exceptional medical reasons or exceptional social reasons for attendance at Abbey Primary School, rather than at any other school, where the applicant can show that Abbey Primary School is the most suitable school to meet the child's stated needs, why no other local school could meet those needs, and can outline what the difficulties would be if the child had to attend another school, will be allocated a place.

The children in this priority group will be allocated a place in order of the proximity of their home address to Abbey Primary School, with the closest having the highest priority.

Applications must be in writing and supported by written evidence from a Doctor, Social Worker or Borough School Attendance Officer or other relevant independent professional. Applications will be assessed by the Trustees'

Admissions Committee. Refugees and Asylum Seeking children may be included in this priority group, depending on individual circumstances.

The Trustees do not consider childminding or parents' working arrangements as evidence of social need.

Applicants will not be individually advised if their application has been prioritised under this criterion.

Priority 3: Children of Permanent Staff Employed by Abbey Primary School

Children of permanent staff will be allocated a place where;

- the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; **or**
- the member of staff employed by the school has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

The children in this priority group will be allocated a place in order of the proximity of their home address to Abbey Primary School, with the closest having the highest priority.

Priority 4: Children with a Sibling at Abbey Primary School

Children who have a sibling at Abbey Primary School in Years 1 to Year 6 at the time of admission to Reception.

The children in this priority group will be allocated a place in order of the proximity of their home address to Abbey Primary School, with the closest having the highest priority.

The term sibling includes a brother or sister, a half-brother or half-sister, an adopted brother or sister, a step-brother or step-sister, and a child of the parent or carer's partner. In all cases, the sibling must live as part of the same family unit as the child for whom a place is sought, at the same address from Monday to Friday each week.

Priority 5: Children Living in Proximity to Abbey Primary School

Children will be allocated a place on the basis of the proximity of their home address to the school, with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority. The distance is measured in a straight line from the main front door of the school to the child's home address.

1.3 Home Address and Distance Calculation

Distances will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority. The point within the school to be used in any distance calculation will be the main entrance to the school building. All distances will be measured by the computerised Geographical Information System maintained by Sutton Admissions team.

The child's home address excludes any business address, a relative's childminder's address, and must be the child's normal place of residence. If there is a genuine equal share custody arrangement between two parents, the address that will be used will normally be the address of

the parent who is claiming Child Benefit for the child, however all available evidence will be considered.

In the case of multi-dwelling buildings (for example, an apartment block), the distance will be measured from the same GIS determined point in the building regardless of the actual location within the building of the child's home address, with the tie breaker being applied if more than one application is received for children living in the building (see below).

The address to be used for the initial allocation of places to Reception will be the child's address at the closing date for application. Changes of address up to February 2020 may be considered if there are exceptional reasons for the change, such as if the family has just moved to the area or has returned from abroad. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation, and for mid-term admissions will be the child's current address. Any offer is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Parents and carers have a responsibility to notify the Local Authority of any changes of address.

Please note:

- Applicants in short term rented accommodation may be asked to provide evidence of their current and former housing arrangements.
- Where an applicant has ownership of a property, that should be used for purposes of school admissions, and the applicant must provide evidence and reasons for the use of any other address.
- Where an applicant rents a property and has ownership of an alternative property, the rented property will only be used for admission purposes if the child has been resident away from the owned property for a period of 18 months or more at the closing date for applications.
- Any applicant who moves from a rented or temporary address in advance of their child taking up their school place may have the place withdrawn if it is found the family have returned to an address already in their ownership.
- The authority will investigate whether the place should be withdrawn if the pupil is not resident at the application address at the time of the September entry point.
- The authority will always investigate a case where the application address has previously been used to gain a school place fraudulently.
- Where it is found an address has been used for the purposes of admission where the child is not ordinarily resident, the application and any place offered will be withdrawn.
- An offer found to have been gained fraudulently will be withdrawn. This may also be the case there the child has started the school.
- In some cases, places may not be withdrawn once a child has been attending the school for a term or more. In these circumstances future sibling applications will not be given sibling priority for places and will be considered under the next appropriate criterion.

1.4 Tie Breaker

Where the order of priority between two children cannot be established because they live an equal distance from Abbey Primary School, the order of priority in which these children will be allocated places will be decided by the drawing of lots in the presence of a person who is independent of the school.

If the last child to be offered a place (the 30th place in a school with a Published Admission Number of 30 for example), is the child's twin, triplet, etc., will be admitted if they apply at the same time. This is because the School Admissions Code allows schools to admit such siblings as exceptions to the infant class size limit and operate with classes of over 30.

1.5 Notification and Acceptance of Offers

Notification of offers of places will be sent to parents or carers by the Local Authority on the National Offer Date, currently 16th April 2020.

Acceptance of the offer of a place should be received by the Local Authority by the closing date as determined in the offer letter.

1.6 Late Applications up to 16th April 2020

If your application is made after the closing date of 15th January 2020 or you change your existing preferences after this date, your application will be treated as late. A late application will not be considered until after those that were received on time and may jeopardise the possibility of your child being offered a place.

Forms that go missing in the postal system can only be reconsidered if there is proof of postage. Lost forms, where there is no proof of postage, are the responsibility of the applicant. For this reason, parents are advised to apply online wherever possible.

1.7 Waiting Lists

Where there are more children applying than the total number of places available in Reception, a waiting list will be maintained. Children on the Reception waiting list will be ranked in accordance with the order of priority outlined in paragraph 1.2 above and not in relation to the date that the application was received or when the child's name was added to the waiting list. Children with an EHCP which names the school will take priority over children on the waiting list.

The waiting list for Reception admission will be kept open until the end of the Autumn Term 2020. Parents or carers who want their child to remain on the waiting list (which will become the Mid-Term waiting list) after this date must write to Abbey Primary School by 31st December 2020 confirming their decision, providing the child's name, date of birth and the name of their current school.

After 31st December 2020, parents or carers of children who are not already on the in-year waiting list must apply for an in-year admission through Sutton Local Authority Admissions, if they wish to apply for a place. In-year waiting lists will be ranked in the order of priority outlined in paragraph 1.2 above.

Waiting lists for all other year groups will be reviewed at least twice a year. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest. Further information regarding mid-term admissions is contained in paragraph 2.0 below.

Parents and carers should note that their child's position on the waiting list may go down as well as up. This is because other children might be added to the waiting list who have a greater priority for a place in accordance with paragraph 1.2 above, for example, when a new family move into a property which is closer to Abbey Primary School, or when a family who had not previously named Abbey Primary School as a preference, asks for their child to go on the waiting list after the initial allocation date.

1.8 Appeals

Parents or carers have a statutory right of appeal under the School Standards & Framework Act 1998 if a place is not offered.

There is no right of appeal against a decision not to offer a Nursery place.

Appeals for entry in September 2020 must be received by 21st May 2020 at the latest if these are to be heard by the Independent Appeals Committee in June and July 2020. Appeals received after this date, where possible, will be heard by July; however, this will depend on the date the appeal is lodged and cannot be guaranteed.

If you wish to appeal, please contact the Admissions Manager c/o Glenthorne High School.

1.9 Admission of Children Outside Their Normal Age Group

Children are educated in school with others of their age group. However, parents may request that their child is exceptionally admitted outside their age group. The school will decide whether or not the individual child's circumstances make this appropriate, taking into account the child's individual needs and abilities and considering in which year group these needs can best be met. Such requests will only be agreed in exceptional circumstances.

Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; 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. The Headteacher's views will also be taken into account.

All requests should include recent professional evidence of the child's circumstances which make education outside the age group necessary. Evidence must be of the individual child's need, rather than general factors which relate to a wider group of children born at a similar time.

Parents requesting admission to an age group below the child's actual age should submit an application for the child's actual age group before the relevant closing date. The request for later admissions should accompany the application. This enables the application to be processed and a school place secured in the child's actual age group if the request is refused by the school. Parents will be informed of the outcome of their request prior to offer day.

2.0 Mid-Year Admissions into Reception to Year 6 (After 1st September 2020)

Abbey Primary School is part of Sutton Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Mid Term Admissions. Applications for admission into Reception after 1st September 2020 and for admission into Years 1 to 6 must be made to Sutton Local Authority Admissions on their Mid Term Application form. If you wish to apply for a place at Abbey Primary School, you must name the school as one of your preferences on the application form.

Waiting lists will be maintained for each year and reviewed at least twice a year and will be based upon the over-subscription criteria/order of priority outlined in the admissions arrangements which were applicable when that year group originally entered Reception. For the Reception intake, the waiting list will be reviewed at the end of the Autumn Term.

Parents and carers have a statutory right of appeal if a place cannot be offered. An appeal form is available from the school upon receipt of a written request. Appeals will be heard by an Independent Appeals Committee and must be heard within 30 working days.

3.0 Useful Background Information

The table below shows the number of on time applications and how places were allocated last year for Abbey Primary School as at the offer day on 16th April 2018:

No. of Places Available	No. of Applications Received	SEN	LAC	Medical / Social	Siblings	Distance	Furthest Distance Offered (Metres)
60	153	0	0	0	26	34	1077.410

APPENDIX A

Nursery Admissions

Abbey Primary School has a nursery provision on the same site. However, attendance at the Nursery does not give priority for a place in the Reception Class of Abbey Primary School and a separate application must be made.

Abbey Primary School has 52 places available in the Nursery. Pupils will be eligible for consideration for entry to the Nursery following the date of their third birthday. There are 21 places for children in the morning session and 21 places for children in the afternoon session; each session lasts three hours. In addition to the 21 places for morning and afternoon sessions, there are a further 10 places available for parents/carers wishing to apply for the 30 hours extended entitlement. Parents/carers can specify their preferred session on the application form, but please note that the school cannot guarantee your preference.

Where application for admission exceeds the number of places available, application for admission will be ranked in the same order of priority/over-subscription criteria as for children applying to Reception (see section 1.2 above).

Applications for a nursery place at Abbey Primary School must be made to the Admissions Manager c/o Glenthorne High School and a copy of the child's birth certificate and proof of address must be produced. The closing date for applications will be Friday 17th January 2020. Applications for the school outside the normal point of entry to Nursery should also be made to the Admissions Manager c/o Glenthorne High School.

The key dates for the nursery class 2020 admissions process is shown in the table below:

Open Mornings	School tours run every Thursday morning at 9.00am by appointment only.
17 th January 2020	Closing date for receipt of applications.
March to April 2020	Applications will be ranked according to the order of priority/over-subscription criteria in Section 1.2.
May 2020	Parents will be notified of the outcome of their application.
June 2020	Second round of offers issued.

Children applying for Nursery who are not offered a place will automatically be added to the school's waiting list. Nursery waiting lists will be reviewed regularly. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.