

PICKHURST ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS POLICY

2023/2024

Pickhurst Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Pickhurst Academy - Admissions 2023/2024

CHANCERY EDUCATION TRUST

PICKHURST ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2023/2024

The admissions authority for Pickhurst Academy is Chancery Education Trust. Pickhurst Academy has developed its admissions arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

Application Procedure

Application for admission into Year 3 must be made to Bromley Council in accordance with the published Primary Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements. Bromley Council co-ordinates admissions as part of the wider PAN London admission process.

PAN (Published Admission Number)

Pickhurst Academy has a published admission number of 132 places in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Children with an EHCP naming Pickhurst Academy will be admitted with the number remaining admissions places reduced accordingly. In addition, there are a further 20 places within the Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP).

Admission Criteria

Where the school is oversubscribed places will be offered in line with the admission criteria in the order set out below:

1. A child looked after child (CLA) is a child who is:
 - (a) in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions. These children must still be "CLA" when the child starts school unless (b) applies.
 - (b) or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order (90) 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.
2. Children in attendance at the linked infant Academy. If the number of applications from children in the linked Infants exceeds the number of places available in the Academy, decisions on the allocation of places will be made in accordance with criterion 3 (siblings) and then criterion 5 (proximity of the home in relation to the Academy).

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3. Current Family Association – a brother or sister in Pickhurst Infant Academy. In this context brother or sister means children who live as brother and sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters or the child of the parent/carer's partner. In every case, the child should be living in the same family unit at the same address and the sibling must still be on roll at Pickhurst Academy or Pickhurst Infant Academy at the time of entry, or in the process of transition from Pickhurst Infant Academy to Pickhurst Academy through the coordinated admissions process.

The siblings of children attending the Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) will NOT be treated as siblings when applying for places in the mainstream school.

4. Children whose parents work as permanent staff members at Pickhurst Academy in either or both of the following circumstances:
 - i) where the member of staff has been employed by the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the Academy is made and/or
 - ii) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
5. Proximity "Distances will be measured using Ordnance Survey data to plot an address in this system. Distances are measured as the crow flies from the main entrance of the child's home to the main entrance of the school as specified by Bromley Council's electronic measuring system which relies on Ordnance Survey GIS references."

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Notes

In the event of any of the above criteria being oversubscribed, priority will be given based on distance as described above with those closest being given higher priority. In the unlikely event that two or more children 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.

A child's home address is defined as a residential property that is the child's main or only residence. It must be the residence of both the parent/guardian and the child on the deadline for submitting your application. If you apply before the closing date, you must ensure you will still be living at that address on the closing date.

Bromley Council can only accept one address on the application and if your child lives at two different addresses during the week because of joint residency or another formal living arrangement, we will regard the child's home address as the one at which they sleep for the majority of school nights. You should not select an address simply because it is closer to a school of your preference. You should not use an address at which your child may stay during the week such as at a friend's, grandparent's or child minder's home.

If you are unsure which address to use if your child does stay at two addresses, please contact the Primary Admissions team for advice.

If siblings from multiple births (twins, triplets, etc) apply for a school and the school would reach its Published Admission Number (PAN) after admitting one or more, but before admitting all of those siblings, the LA will offer a place to each of the siblings, even if doing so takes the school above its PAN.

The sibling criteria operates across Pickhurst Academy and Pickhurst Infant Academy as they are deemed as Primary Schools that provide primary education (section 5 of the Education Act 1996) if at the time of admission their older sibling will be on roll of the junior school or will transfer from Year 2 into the junior school in the September.

Waiting list will be held for at least the first term of the academic year in oversubscription criteria order.

Where an offer has been made, the Academy will provide for the admission of all children in the September following their seventh birthday.

Admission of Children outside of their normal age group

For the purpose of the following advice, the relevant paragraphs of the School Admissions Code are paragraphs 2.18 and 2.19.

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child has experienced problems such as ill health.

The Academy and Trust will consider applications outside of the child's normal age group on an individual basis 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.

Parents are required to complete an application for the normal point of entry (at the same time as the request to defer application) in case their request is declined. This application can be cancelled if the school agrees to accept a deferred application for entry to the following year. Deferred applications must be made via Application to Bromley Council, with written confirmation from each named school attached. Deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications for the cohort in the following admissions round and offers will be made in accordance with each school's oversubscription criteria. Further advice is available from Bromley Council Admissions Team.

Pickhurst Academy is very skilled at differentiating the curriculum to meet the educational needs of all children, if you wish to defer entry, it is highly recommended that you make an appointment to discuss the relative merits of this with the Principal in the first instance.

In-Year Admissions

All applications that are made for admissions to all year groups at Pickhurst Academy are made to the London Borough of Bromley. Parents/carers who request a school transfer mid-term and where no house move is involved may be advised that their child will not be able to start until the beginning of the next term, unless there are special circumstances to be considered and it is agreed between the present and new school. In year waiting lists will be maintained by the Local Authority until the end of the academic year. Applicants wishing to remain on a school waiting list will be required to reapply at the beginning of the next academic year.

Fair Access Protocol

Additionally, students directed via the LA 'fair access protocol' will take precedence over any student on the waiting list and the referral of a student from 'fair access protocol' includes admitting students over the published admission number. (This refers to a statutory requirement placed by DCSF on admission authorities, from September 2007.) Under the protocol we must agree to share 'hard to place' students in local primary schools. Further details are available from the Admissions Team of the Local Authority.

Appeals

All applicants have a statutory right of appeal in the event that their preferred school is unable to offer them a place. An Appeal for Admission form is available from the school's Independent Appeal Clerk. Please contact Pickhurst Academy's school office for further details.

Any appeal will be heard by an independent appeals panel and the decision will be communicated by the Independent Clerk to the school and parents and is binding on the Admission Authority/Local Governing board. There is no further right of appeal. Parents who are dissatisfied with the decision may seek a judicial review or have their case investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman. Please note that the Ombudsman cannot overturn an appeal decision but may make recommendations for a suitable remedy.

Waiting lists (for all year groups)

Waiting lists are maintained by the LA and kept in the order of the published admissions criteria.

Children with an Education Health Care Plan

Children with a full Education Health Plan (EHCP) are dealt with under a separate process by the Special Educational Needs team. The published admission number of all Bromley academies is inclusive of students with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) that are admitted to the Academy pursuant to the school being named in their EHCP.

| | Name | Date |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Policy written by | D Siggs, Principal | September 2021 |
| Agreed by Committee | CET Board | October 2021 |
| Adopted by Governing Board | LGB/CET Board | December 2021 |
| To be reviewed annually | | |

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