**Admissions criteria**

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available we apply the following criteria in priority order for deciding which applications to accept.

1. ‘Looked after children’ or children who were previously looked after but left local authority care because they were adopted or became subject of a residence order or special guardianship order. Please see note 1 for more details.

2. Children who, with one or both parents regularly go to the Church of St Peter and St Paul Dagenham (‘Dagenham Parish Church’). Please see note 2 for the definition of regularly going to church.

3. Children who have a sibling at the School at the time they would start at the school. Please see note 3 for definition of sibling.

4. Children who go to Village Infants School at the time of application.

5. Children who, with one or both parents, regularly go to a Christian Church, other than Dagenham Parish Church, of a denomination which is a member of Churches Together in England. Please see note 2 for the definition of regularly going to church.

6. Any other children who do not fall within the categories listed above.

**Important notes**

1. 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. In the case of such children we will require a letter signed by a fully qualified social worker employed by the local authority concerned.

2. In the admission criteria “regularly going to church” means going at least once every two weeks to either Sunday Service or other midweek activities (not including those of a purely social nature) for at least two years. The parish priest or another minister needs to confirm this, in writing on the supplementary information form.

3. ‘Sibling’ means a full brother or sister, a half-brother or half-sister, a stepbrother or stepsister, and an adopted brother or sister living at the same address or children who have been living in the same household in a long-term foster relationship for more than one year.

4. The current School Admissions Code states ‘schools are required to admit children with statements of special educational need where the school concerned is named on the statement’. We process these applications first and the rest of the places will then be processed using the school’s admissions criteria.
5. The governors will consider applications equally in line with the school’s criteria. They will not take account of the preference order that you have given the school on your application form.

6. If we discover we have given your child a place based on false, inaccurate or misleading information, we have the right to withdraw the place. Other brothers and sisters of any child who is offered a place based on false, inaccurate or misleading information will not be considered under the sibling criterion. However in circumstances where a child who has had their place withdrawn because of such false, inaccurate or misleading information on their application and who is later admitted to school genuinely from the waiting list, or following a successful appeal, that child’s brothers and sisters will be considered under the sibling criterion.

7. For a list of churches that are members of Churches Together in England, visit www.churches-together.net.

8. Barking and Dagenham Schools Admissions Team will measure all distances using SIA’s geographical information system, (SMART). They will measure the distance from the centre of the child’s permanent home to the main entrance of the school in a straight line basis (as the crow flies).

9. If two or more children have an equal claim to a place within any criterion, we will give priority to children who live closest to the school. If the distance for two or more children is the same (for example, because the children live in the same block of flats), we will use a lottery system (random allocation) to decide who to offer places to. This process will be independently checked. If parents have shared responsibility for caring for a child who lives with each of them for part of the week, we will use the address closest to the school for this purpose.

10. We cannot consider other factors not listed in the admission criteria as it is important that we are consistent in our judgment and apply the criteria fairly.