



King's Cross Academy

King's Cross Academy Admissions Policy

Chair of Governors: Robert Evans and Alexandra Woolmore

Headteacher: *Stephen Mithcell*

Date Ratified: December 2023

Review Date: December 2024

School Information

King's Cross Academy is a new, vibrant primary school that opened in September 2015. It was built in response to the growing community in the area around King's Cross. The Academy serves its local community and welcomes all enquiries about admission procedures and availability of places. We share a building with Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children but both schools are being run separately with separate admissions.

The Academy is a happy and friendly school where the children are safe, love learning, behave well and succeed, within a supportive, creative and exciting environment. We have recruited qualified, inspirational and enthusiastic teachers and support staff who share this vision, to help children to develop their confidence, capacity, resilience and other learning skills.

Our motto, 'Love Learning Together', embraces our pupils, parents and teachers and our partnership working with incredible neighbours. Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children, Central Saint Martins, PRS for Music, Waitrose, Google UK, Camley Street Natural Park, Eurostar, the Guardian and the Francis Crick Institute are all on our doorstep, offering opportunities to broaden children's experiences and raise their achievements and aspirations.

In particular, our curriculum supports children to become learners that are:

- Confident and self-motivated
- A good reader, writer, communicator and mathematician
- Able to acquire necessary skills and knowledge
- Always questioning
- Curious about the world and about the people in it
- Persistent and resilient
- Open to new ideas
- Respectful and honest
- Able to give and receive feedback
- Able to take a risk, where it might help them learn
- Constantly exploring how to learn
- Able to learn confidently by themselves, with other children and with adults
- Able to enjoy and love learning, knowing that it needs personal effort

In this way, the Academy gives its pupils the best possible education and access to opportunities, so they leave school with the achievements, aspiration and confidence to be successful at secondary school and beyond.

In this document 'parents' includes carers and legal guardians.

Finding out about King's Cross Academy

King's Cross Academy is located in the award winning Plimsoll Building off Handyside Street. On our website www.kingscrossacademy.org.uk you can see King's Cross Academy on a map and videos and photos give you a picture of what happens at the school. We hold weekly parent tours with our Headteacher, Stephen Mitchell. See the list on our website or email us at admin@kingscrossacademy.org.uk

Admissions Policy

King's Cross Academy governing body has accepted Camden Council's policy and criteria for admissions to its reception classes with two additions: one arising from colocation with Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children and the other giving priority to children of staff at the Academy. All children whose SEN or Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), name King's Cross Academy will be considered for admission. In the event of over subscription, the following criteria (priority groups) will be applied:

1. Looked after children (children who are in public care), previously looked after children (children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order) and internationally adopted previously looked after children.
2. Priority to children of staff will be given in either or both of the following circumstances:
 - (i) Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made; and/or
 - (ii) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
3. Applicants who have a brother or sister at the school who will still be on roll when they join; (For this criterion, 'brother or sister' includes any whole or half-brother or sister by adoption, any step or foster brother or sister who lives at the same address with the child for whom the application is made at the date of application);
4. Applicants whom the Academy accepts have an exceptional medical or social need for a place at the school. Parents/carers will need to submit a case supported by appropriate professional evidence from a doctor, social worker or similar professional that sets out the particular reasons why this school is the most suitable and the difficulties that could be caused if they were to attend another school. This evidence will normally be in the form of a letter. It must not be more than six months older than the date of applying.
5. Applicants who have a brother or sister (For this criterion, 'brother or sister' includes any whole or half-brother or sister by adoption, any step or foster brother or sister

who lives with the child for whom the application is made at the date of application) at Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children who will be on roll when they join.

6. Other applicants, with higher priority given to those living closest to the Academy measured in a straight line 'as the crow flies', between the centre of the child's home and the centre of the school building, using the local authority's computerised measuring system. The address given must be the one at which the child normally lives.

Distance will be measured between the middle of the school building footprint and the middle of the home building footprint.

Camden Schools' Admissions Team will use the equal preference model for deciding which school is offered. This means that all school preferences are considered together and the admissions criteria administered equally for all level (rank) of preference. The rank or order of preference will only be used if it is possible to offer more than one of the preferences. The highest ranked potential offer will be offered and the lower preferences will be automatically withdrawn.

If necessary, priority within 2, 3, and 4 will be decided on by the distance criteria.

Children with special educational need or disability

King's Cross Academy is an inclusive school and we welcome all applications. If your child has a special educational or medical need we ask that you email as much information as possible about your child to us as soon as you have applied for a place.

You can email directly to the Deputy Headteacher - kay.baxter@kingscrossacademy.org.uk

This information means that we can ensure the school has the resources available to support your child when they start.

The information you provide is kept strictly confidential and will be destroyed if your child is not successful at obtaining a place with us.

Notes

In order to be given highest priority for admission, a child has to fall within the definition of 'looked after' in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. As this Act applies to England and Wales, a child has to be looked after by an English or Welsh local authority in order to be given highest priority.

Paragraph 1.7 of the School Admissions Code 2014 gives equal highest priority to 'previously looked after children'. Given the definition of a looked after child, a child will have to have been looked after by an English or Welsh local authority in order to be considered previously looked after. Under paragraph 1.7 of the Code, a child has to have been looked after

immediately before they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order.

Any offer of a place on the grounds of proximity is conditional on the child being resident at the address provided at the closing date for application. A business address, a child-minder's address, or any other address other than the child's home will not be accepted. Proof of address will be sought and may be subject to further investigation.

Children with a statement of special educational need / EHC plan that names the Academy will be allocated a place through a separate procedure, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

Multiple births: Key Stage 1 – If only one place is available at the Academy and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of multiple birth siblings, then all children will be offered a place at the same primary school. The additional child (ren) will be deemed as 'excepted' pupils under the KS1 class size legislation.

Multiple births: Key Stage 2 – If only one place is available at the Academy and the next child(ren) who qualifies for a place is one of multiple births then all children will be offered even if this exceeds the planned admission number.

Where one twin has a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health Care plan that names a specific school, the other twin will be treated as having a sibling link for that academic year.

In the minority of cases when applicants' distance measurements are exactly the same, in a block of flats for instance, the computer system operated by Camden Borough Schools Admissions Team and independent of the Academy will randomly order the priority of applicants.

In Year Admissions

Applicants can apply directly to the Academy for a school place through admin@kingscrossacademy.org.uk or by visiting the Academy.

Deferred entry for infants

Parents offered a place for their child have a right to defer entry, or to take a place up part-time, until the start of the term beginning immediately after their child has reached compulsory school age. However, places cannot be deferred until the next academic year.

Please note: Children become of compulsory school age on the first prescribed day following their 5th birthday: 31 August, 31 December or 31 March (or on that day if any of these dates are the child's birthday).

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and either agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows:

With the application, parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group (state which one), and the reasons for that request.

Parents will submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, headteacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include:

- whether the child is 'summer born' and is seeking admission to a year group other than reception (or is seeking admission to reception rather than year 1);
- 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 Academy will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, and the reason for any refusal.

Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time. An application from a child who would 'normally' be a year 1 child for a reception place will be considered alongside applications for reception.

Late applications

All applications received by Camden Borough after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants, King's Cross Academy is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the Academy's waiting list.

Waiting List

King's Cross Academy will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the academic year. Until the half term in October Camden

Borough School Admission Team will administer the Academy waiting list for the Reception year. After that date the waiting list will be administered by King's Cross Academy.

It will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Appeals Procedure

The appeals process for King's Cross Academy will be operated through Camden Borough. Information and guidance on how to appeal together with the timetable for the appeals process is on our website and on the Camden Borough website.

Appellants can only make appeals once offers and rejections have been firmed up. Appellants should submit appeals to Committee Services, Room 226, Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1E 9JE within 20 days of the date that they have been told that their child has not been given a place.

Reception Admissions

Before you apply, please read **Starting School in Camden Brochure**. See www.camden.gov.uk/admissions

You will be able to state a preference for the new King's Cross Academy as one of your six preferred school options on the form - in the same way that you can for any other Camden (or other London) primary school.

Applications can be made online at www.camden.gov.uk/admissions

National Offers Day when you hear which school has accepted your child is mid April. Applications in writing for Reception class places must be made through the Camden admissions team and other local authorities and returned to the address below. For further information see www.camden.gov.uk/admissions

Contact Details:

Schools Admissions Team (Camden Council)

Town Hall
Judd St
London WC1H 9JE

Tel: 020 7974 1625

Email: admissions@camden.gov.uk

If you need help in filling in the application forms please contact the Academy directly on 02075040533.