



Admissions Policy for Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary

Approval Body:	MST Trust Board
Approval Date:	September 2026
Implementation Date:	September 2026
Review Date:	June 2027

This policy has been adopted by the Mulberry Schools Trust from the Tower Hamlets 'Determined Admissions Policy for Community Primary Schools 2027/2028' and will be applied to Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary School.

1. Foreword

- 1.1 Tower Hamlets Local Authority seeks to operate an admissions system that provides equal and fair opportunities to all applicants. This includes having due regard to children living in areas where there are limited options in applying for a local school place.
- 1.2 The Local Authority's community school admissions policy has been determined following approval by Corporate Director and Lead Cabinet Member. It is reviewed annually by the Tower Hamlets School Admission Forum, a group representative of all key stakeholders including parents, headteachers, school governors, diocesan bodies and community organisations.

2. Children with Education, Health and Care Plans

- 2.1 Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school applied to must be offered a place. This process is separate from the standard admission arrangements set out below.

3. Oversubscription Criteria

- 3.1 In cases where a school is then oversubscribed places will be filled in the following priority order:
 - 1) Children looked after by the local authority including adopted children who were previously looked after and children who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order and adopted children who were previously in state care outside of England (**See Note 1**);
 - 2) Children for whom it is deemed there is strong medical or social reason to attend the school applied to. This can include the parents', carers' or other family members' medical conditions and the family's social needs. Parents must complete the relevant section on the application form and attach medical and/or social reports from a suitable professional (e.g. a doctor or social worker) to support the application (**See Note 2**);
 - 3) Children living within the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school (including separate infants and junior schools) and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (**See Note 3**);
 - 4) Children whose parent is a member of staff who has been employed by the Trust for two or more years at the time of application and/or children of a member of staff who has been recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage (**See Note 4**);

- 5) Children who live within the catchment area of the school and for whom the school applied for is their nearest community school within the catchment area;
- 6) Other children from within the catchment area of the school;
- 7) Children living outside of the catchment area with a sibling at the school;
- 8) Children living outside the catchment area.

- 3.2 In the event of oversubscription within any of the categories 2 to 8 above, priority will be given to children who live closest to the school by the shortest walking distance. A digitised ordnance survey map is used to measure the distance from the home address to the school's designated official entrance.
- 3.3 Should two or more children live an equal distance from the school, including instances where more than one child lives in a multi-occupancy building, the offer of a place will be decided by random allocation.
- 3.4 **Note 1:** Confirmation of a child's looked after status will be required.

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Parents must provide documentary evidence of both adoption and that the child was in state care for the local authority to consider.

Note 2: Applications under this category are considered by the Primary to Secondary Transfer Committee, comprising a Headteacher, a senior member of the Attendance and Welfare Service and a medical professional. The Committee will decide whether the application should be given priority under this category.

Note 3: Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, stepbrother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner. Resident at the same address. The address used should be the one that the child usually lives at and attends school from.

Includes the sibling of child who does not live within the school's catchment area, but who was admitted on or before 21 July 2026.

Note 4: Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year, with an additional maximum limit dependant on the size of the school as follows:

Planned admissions number	Max per year group	Max per school
30 to 45 pupils	1	4
50 to 60 pupils	2	8
75 to 90 pupils	3	12

The staff applicant must complete the relevant section on the application form and attach documentation supporting admission on these grounds. It is the staff applicant's sole responsibility to provide this information. Without the provision of the relevant documents, the child will not be considered on these grounds.

4. Catchment Area

- 4.1 The school catchment area is the defined area in which a school is located. It is generally bounded by major roads and/or railway/canal. The catchment area for each Tower Hamlets Community school is set by the Local Authority and is designed to ensure that each address in the borough falls into the catchment area of a local school. Details of the community schools within the catchment area for a particular address can be viewed on the Local Authority's website:
<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/equalchance>.

5.0 Age of Admission

- 5.1 Children born on and between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 would normally start primary school in Reception in the school year beginning in September 2027. All Tower Hamlets infant and primary schools provide full-time education for children offered a place in the Reception Year from the September following their fourth birthday.
- 5.2 Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age during the school year. A child's attendance at school does not become compulsory until the start of the term following their fifth birthday. Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. The parent would not however be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the start of the summer term in the academic year for which the original application was accepted.
- 5.3 Where parents choose to defer entry, a school may reasonably expect that the child would start at the beginning of a new school term/half term. Where a parent of a 'summer-born' child (1 April – 31 August) wishes their child to start school in the autumn term following their fifth birthday, they will need to re-apply for a place at the correct time.
- 5.4 It is the view of the Local Authority that children should start primary school with their normal age group. However, a parent may seek admission for their child outside the normal group; for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has been born prematurely. If a parent wishes to request for their child to be admitted outside of the normal age group, they should include a letter with their reception application and also provide a report from an appropriate education or health professional.

6. Nursery Provision

- 6.1 Some schools have a nursery class or deliver pre-school nursery education. The admission arrangements set out in this document do not apply to applications for the school's nursery. Parents of children who are admitted to a nursery provision at a school must apply in the normal way for a place at the school, if they want their child to transfer to the reception class. Attendance at the nursery or co-located children's centre will not guarantee admission to the school.

7. Applying for a Place

- 7.1 Applications can be made by parents or carers with parental responsibilities who are residents of Tower Hamlets and professionals with parents' agreement.
- 7.2 How to apply for a primary school place is set out in the Local Authority's school admissions booklet, 'Starting Primary School in Tower Hamlets'. Applications are then co-ordinated for all the schools in the Tower Hamlets area in accordance with the Authority's published scheme. The scheme can be viewed on the following webpage: [School admissions \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/school-admissions)
- 7.3 The closing date for applications is **15 January 2027** and the date on which families are sent notification of the outcome is **16 April 2027**.

8. Late Applications

- 8.1 Applications received after the **15 January 2027** closing date will be treated as late applications unless there is evidence to show that the application or amendment could not reasonably have been made on time. A new preference or change in the order of preferences will not be accepted after the closing date unless the circumstances are deemed to be exceptional. Late applications will be dealt with after all on time applications in the first round of offers on **16 April 2027**. Where a school is oversubscribed late applications will be refused and placed on the waiting list in accordance with the admissions criteria.
- 8.2 Where the Local Authority has determined there are exceptional circumstances for the late submission of an application it will be treated as 'on time' and, where possible, considered alongside existing applications.

9. Twins and Multiple Births

- 9.1 For applications made in the normal admission round, if the last child to be offered a place is a twin and their sibling cannot be offered initially, the Local Authority will ensure both twins are offered a place. In the case of triplets or other multiple births, if the majority of children can be offered a place initially, the Local Authority will offer places to the remaining children. For example, if two triplets can be offered a place, the remaining child will also receive an offer of a place.

10. Waiting List

- 10.1 The Admissions Service will hold waiting lists for all oversubscribed community schools until the end of the autumn term and continue to allocate places from these lists if spaces become available. Applicants will be ranked on these waiting lists in priority order, according to the school's admission criteria. If a vacancy arises, it will be offered to the first applicant on the waiting list.

If parents wish for their child to remain on the Reception waiting list **after 31 December**, they must complete an [In-Year Application](#). Please note that transfers take place at the beginning of each term. Full details, including the timetable can be viewed on the [Council website](#).

- 10.2 The order of priority for the in-year waiting list will be:

1. Children looked after by the local authority including adopted children who were previously looked after, children who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order and adopted children who were previously in state care outside of England.
2. Children without a school place who have a strong medical or social reason to attend the school applied to.
3. Children who have a strong medical or social reason to attend the school applied to.
4. Children without a school place with a brother or sister at the school.
5. Children without a school place.
6. Children with a brother or sister in the school.
7. Children of staff.
8. Children with a brother or sister at the school who would otherwise require travel assistance
9. Children who would otherwise require travel assistance
10. Children who live within the catchment area of the school and for whom the school is their nearest community school within the catchment area
11. Other children from within the catchment area of the school;
12. Children living nearest the school.
13. Distance

If a vacancy arises, it will be offered to the first applicant on the waiting list.

Proximity to school will determine priority where there are competing claims to a place under each of the criteria.

Distances will be measured by the shortest walking route from the home address to the nearest available pupil entrance in constant use to the school, using a computerised digitised map.

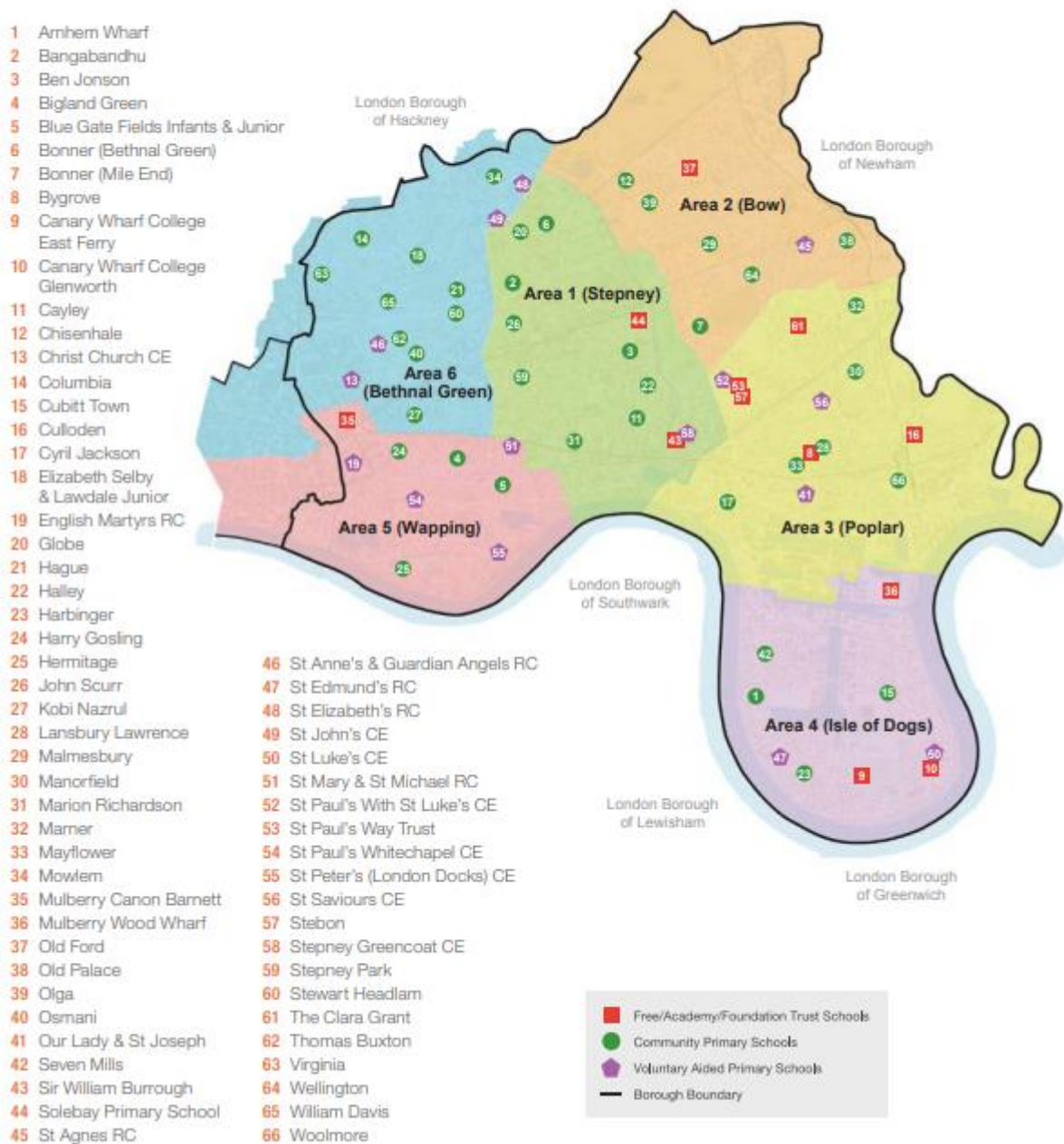
Should two or more children live an equal distance from the school, including instances where more than one child lives in a multi-occupancy building, the offer of a place will be decided by random allocation.

11. Infant to Junior Applications

- 11.1 Parents of children in Year 2 of an infant school must make an application to transfer to the linked junior school by **15 January 2027**. A child is guaranteed a place at the linked junior school provided an application is made by the closing date and the child is still in attendance at the school. The application simply involves completing a form online via the E-admissions website.

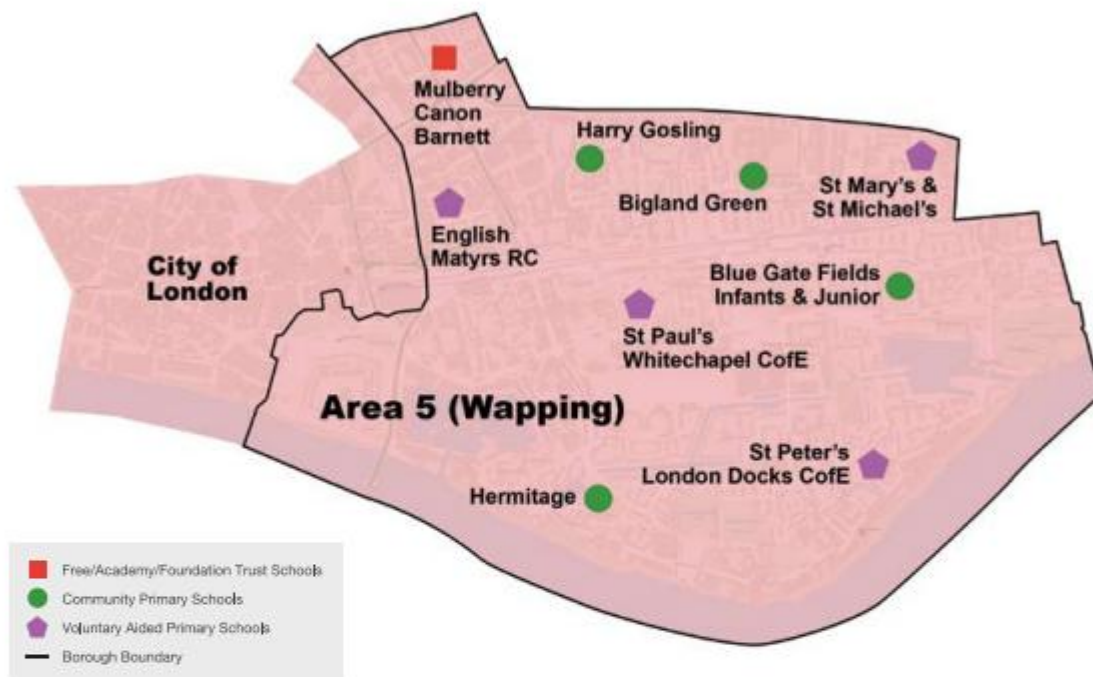
Parents who wish to apply for a Year 3 place at schools other than the linked junior school will need to complete the Local Authority's In-Year Transfer Form available from the School Admissions Website: [School admissions \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/school-admissions).

Tower Hamlets Primary Schools Catchment areas



In accordance to the map set above by the Local Authority, Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary School is situated in catchment Area 5 (Wapping).

Tower Hamlets Primary Schools Catchment area 5 (Wapping)



Schools in the catchment area

Community schools

- 4 Bigland Green
- 5 Blue Gate Fields Infants & Junior
- 24 Harry Gosling
- 25 Hermitage

Voluntary primary schools

- 19 English Martyrs RC
- 51 St Mary & St Michael RC
- 54 St Paul's Whitechapel CE
- 55 St Peter's (London Docks) CE

Academy/Free schools

- 35 Mulberry Canon Barnett
(uses same admissions policy
as community schools)

Area covered

Tower Hamlets

- South of Wentworth Street (up to Osborn Street)
- South of Commercial Road (from Whitechurch Lane to Lukin Street)
- South of Poonah Street
- West of Lukin Street, Devonport Street and Brodlove Lane
- North of River Thames
- East of Trinity Square, Mansell Street and Middlesex Street

City of London

- South of Cornhill, Leadenhall Street, Aldgate High Street
- South of Harrow Place (from White Kennet Street)
- West of Middlesex Street, Mansell Street and Trinity Square
- North of River Thames
- East of King Williams Street