



Consultation on Halley House School Admissions Policy 2026-27

4 November 2024

Background

Halley House School is a one-form entry primary free school which opened in 2015 to serve the community of Hackney. The school was opened when there was a shortage of primary school places in the borough, and has been popular ever since. The school has been judged 'Good' by Ofsted in July 2024.

Bellevue Place Education Trust (BPET), as the owner and manager of Halley House School is its Admissions Authority. Halley House School is situated in the London Borough of Hackney.

In accordance with the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period. A consultation on arrangements must run for a period of six weeks and be completed by 31 January 2025.

There are no changes to the policy we are proposing; we are undertaking this process as the last consultation was carried out in 2019-2020. This is our formal notification letter.

Who is consulted

This consultation is for the attention of:

- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen
- b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions
- c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area
- d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority is not the admission authority;
- e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority.

The consultation papers will be published on the Halley House School website as well as the Bellevue Place Education Trust website.

How to Respond

This consultation will run from Monday 4 November 2024 to Friday 15 December 2024 (6 weeks). You are invited to submit comments in writing about the Halley House School 2026-2027 Admissions Policy - attached with this email - by emailing office@halleyhouseschool.org.uk

Please write "Halley House School 2026-27 Admissions Policy Consultation" in the subject line.



What happens after the consultation closes

Following the consultation period BPET, as the Admissions Authority, will take any responses into account before determining the final policy arrangements and will prepare a report to be published on the BPET and Halley House School websites by 28 February 2025.

Halley House School - Admissions Policy 2026-27

PAN and Oversubscription Criteria

The published admission number is 30 places into Reception. The school admits up to this number each year to the Reception year and, when full the school will have 210 pupils on roll.

This Admissions Policy has been approved by the Bellevue Place Education Trust (BPET) Board, as the admissions authority for the school.

In accordance with the law, children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHP) will be admitted to the school where the Local Authority has specifically named Halley House School as the most appropriate placement.

Where there are fewer applicants than places available all applicants will be admitted. In the event of there being greater demand than there are places available to the school and after the admission of children with an Education Health and Care Plan that names the school, places will be offered using the following oversubscription criteria in keeping with the School Admissions Code 2021:

- 1 Children in care i.e. children in the care of the Local Authority as defined in the Children Act 1989. This category includes *'looked after children'* and children who have previously been looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order, including those children 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 A child subject to a Child Protection Plan for whom Halley House School is their nearest school.
- 3 Children with a sibling at the school at the time of admission.
- 4 Children of staff at the school.
- 5 Proximity to the school. This will be measured in a straight line from the address point of the pupil's home to the main entrance point of the school site as determined by the London Borough of Hackney's Geographical Information System.

Notes

1. A child *'looked after'* is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. A child arrangement order is defined by section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.
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. Proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority, will also serve to differentiate between pupils in criteria 2-5 if there are more applicants than available places under each criterion. Proximity to the school will be measured in a straight-line measurement. Applicants will be prioritised by distance (starting with the nearest). For the purpose of calculating distances, the home address is identified by using the property geographical references as determined by the borough council in which the child lives to the main entrance of the school in Arcola Street. In blocks of flats, where applicants have identical distance measurements, priority amongst them will be determined at random.

A child's home will be their habitual residence and must be the address where you live with your child, unless you can prove that your child lives elsewhere with someone who has legal care and control of your child. A child's home must be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence¹, not an address at which your child may sometimes stay or sleep due to your domestic arrangements. The property must be owned, leased or rented by the child's parent/s or the person with legal care and control of the child. Additionally, a child's home address is where he or she spends most of the school week unless this is accommodation at a boarding school.

4. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as: a brother or sister, a half-brother or sister, an adopted brother or sister, a step-brother or sister or the child of the parents' partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is permanently living in the same family unit and at the same address as that sibling or a foster child permanently living in the same family unit whose place has been arranged by the social service department of the Local Authority. Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings. Proof of the sibling relationship will be required.
5. For families living on boats, distance will be measured from the authorised mooring point. If the family is itinerant, the nearest mooring point will be used on the closing date for the receipt of applications.
6. Where parental responsibilities are equally shared, the home or residential address will be considered to be with the parent/carer with whom the child spends the majority of time

¹ The address should be where the parent and the child live. Where a child has two homes due to parental responsibility being shared, the address used will be the one where the child spends most of the School Week (i.e. Sunday to Thursday nights inclusive) as confirmed by written evidence from both parents/guardians. If the same, reference will be made to NHS registration address and any child care provision (nursery or childminder). If a false declaration of address is deemed to have been made, the offer of a place may be withdrawn, even after a child has started at the school.

and nights Monday to Friday. This will normally be expected to be with the parent/carer that receives the child benefit. This address must be used for all preferences.

7. In cases of multiple births where there is only one place available, and the next child on the list is a twin, triplet, or other example of multiple birth, we would admit both twins (and all the children in the case of other multiple births) even if this meant exceeding the agreed admission number of 30 for reception 2026/27 or the number of places in other year groups.

Tie Breaker

In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school, the tie breaker will be random allocation in line with Hackney Education's admission arrangements, where every preference is assigned an individual random number (between 1 and 1 million) as the application is processed and the applicant with the lowest random number is given priority.

Method of Applications for Reception

The school will be participating in coordinated admission arrangements administered by the London Borough of Hackney. Parents/carers must apply on Common Application Form of the local authority where they live. This can be completed online via [the Hackney Council's website](#) or on a paper form available from the local council's School Admissions Team. The closing date for reception class applications will be 15th January 2026. Notification letters will be sent out on 16th April 2026 by the London Borough of Hackney. Applications received after the set closing date will be accepted, but will not normally be considered for a place at the school until after the initial offer date.

Date of Admission/Deferred Entry

Children will normally be admitted to the reception year in the September following their fourth birthday.

In line with the Admissions Code, parents can defer their child's entry to the reception year until later in the school year, where they have been offered a place at a school to start before they are of compulsory school age. Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. However, entry cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the final term of the Reception Year. A child may attend school part-time until he/she reaches compulsory school age. Parents should inform the school if they wish to exercise this option.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Children will normally be admitted to the reception year in the September following their fourth birthday and the vast majority of pupils are educated within their normal chronological age group. Any request for admission outside of the child's chronological year of entry will be considered in accordance with paragraphs 2.18-2.20 of the Schools Admissions Code 2021.

The school's admission authority will consider requests on 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. Parents may, if they wish, provide supporting evidence from a professional (GP, hospital consultant or social worker) to assist the admission authority in making its decision. If the request is approved, the application will then be considered in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria in the event of oversubscription.

Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at the school but this right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Waiting List

Waiting lists will be maintained by the Hackney Council Local Authority if the school has more applicants than places available. Positions on waiting lists may go up or down due to pupil withdrawals or new or revised applications received. Therefore, waiting lists will be revised:

- Each time a child is added or removed
- When a child's changed circumstances will affect their priority
- When parents respond to periodic requests to see if they wish to remain on the waiting list.

The waiting list will be removed at the end of every academic year, when a new list will be created, in accordance with the Local Authority process.

Children who are the subject of a direction by the Local Authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on a waiting list.

Parents will be able to apply online to Children's Services to Hackney Education for each year if they wish to be placed on the waiting list for that year. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that the school admissions team is informed in writing if they want their child's name to be removed from the waiting list or if their circumstances have changed from the original application.

Waiting list information will be available in accordance with the published timeline.

To understand more how the Borough of Hackney processes waiting lists, visit [National offer day - what happens next? | Hackney Education](#).

Appeals

Parents who are not offered a place for their child have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. Parents wishing to appeal should [submit their claim online](#).

The appeal claim should be submitted and reach the Clerk to the Appeal Panel, within 20 school days of the date of the letter confirming the decision not to offer a place.

In-Year Admissions

For in-year admissions, parents/carers must apply to the school on the In-Year application form. Applications will be considered in accordance with above oversubscription criteria. In the event that it is not possible to offer a place, the child will be added to the waiting list and the appeals procedures described above will apply. [See more information on how to apply for a in-year admission](#).