

BARKER'S LANE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Admissions Policy

Introduction

The governing body of Barker's Lane Community School applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school. This policy conforms to regulations and the statutory School Admissions Code of Practice and the statutory Appeals Code of Practice.

We are an inclusive school that welcomes children from all backgrounds and abilities.

The level of ability of a child or any special needs that she / he may have plays no part in the admissions policy of this school.

How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our school

As our school is a community school, the school determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the Local Authority (LA). The LA is therefore the 'Admissions Authority' for our school. The regulations for entry to each school, where the Admissions Authority is the LA, are published each year by the LA. Parents can receive a copy of these regulations directly from the LA.

The LA publishes a composite admissions prospectus entitled 'Parents, Guardians & Carers' Guide to Education Services in Wrexham' each year, which gives information about how parents can apply for a place in the school of their choice. Parents have a right to express a preference for the school of their choice and they should do so on the application form. Expressing a preference does not, in itself, guarantee a place at this school. Application forms can be obtained from the Children & Young People Services, at the LA and should be completed by the date stipulated on the forms. The LA notifies parents about the school place as soon as all the applications have been considered

Responsibility for Admissions

- The County Borough Council, as the Local Authority (the LA), is responsible for determining the criteria procedure for admission.
- The LA will comply with the statutory requirements and will give full recognition to the expression of parental preference in the context of its duty to ensure the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of educational resources. The LA will not refuse applicants to Barker's Lane Community School unless the school has reached its standard number for admissions, that being the number a school can admit in one year. The standard number for Barker's Lane Community School is increasing from 30 to 45 year on year from September 2020.
- The LA will only admit pupils in excess of the standard number where it is deemed not to be prejudicial to the provision of efficient education or use of resources.
- The standard number shall be established in accordance with the appropriate statutory requirements and shall relate to total admissions during the course of the relevant school year.
- The school has an Equal & Diversity Policy which states that there will be no discrimination on the grounds of ability, age, appearance, culture, gender, disability, religion, race or sexual orientation.

Nursery Pupils

Children are admitted to school in the September following their 3rd birthday.

Parents who would like their child to be admitted to this school during the year their child is four should ensure that they complete the necessary application process for Nursery by mid-February of the year the child is due to start in September.

Parents are made aware as soon as the Nursery admission process is available through posters and the local playgroup.

The LA informs parents in May if their application for a place has been successful.

Reception Pupils

Children are admitted to school in the September following their 4th birthday.

Parents who would like their child to be admitted to this school during the year their child is five should ensure that they complete the necessary application process by mid-November of the year before the child is due to start in September.

The LA informs parents in April if their application for a place has been successful.

Parents are requested to sign Home / School Agreement adopted by the Governing Body when their child commences school.

Transfer to Secondary School

The application process for Year 6 pupils is in the Autumn Term. This process needs to be completed stating preference of Secondary School by early-November. Parents are informed by the LA if their application for the Secondary School of their choice has been successful in March.

Over Subscription Criteria

The following criteria is applied in rank order by the Local Authority:

- The needs of children in public care (Looked After Children)
- Children who have exceptional medical, or educational needs (additional learning needs), which in the opinion of the Admissions Authority justify admission to a particular school;
- Children for whom the preferred school is the nearest suitable school to the pupil's home address;
- Children who have a brother or sister attending the school at the date of their admission;
- Other children for whom criteria 1-4 above do not apply. If there are more applications than places, the places will be allocated in distance order with those living nearest to the school receiving priority.

Admission appeals

If parents wish to appeal against a decision made by the LA to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the Local Authority. An independent appeals panel then meets to consider all appeals by parents who have been refused a place at our school and who wish to appeal against this decision. An appeals panel's decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that a child should be admitted to our school, then we will accept this and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school. (Details of appeal arrangements are set out in the Code of Practice on School Admissions Appeals, which came into force in September 1999.)

The standard number

The standard number is the number of children the school can accommodate. The standard number for Barker's Lane Community School is increasing from 30 to 45 year on year from September 2020.

Additional Learning Needs

From September 2021, the Local Authority and schools are implementing the requirements of the ALNET (2018). It also requires the Local Authority (LA) in the first instance to secure education for children and young people with ALN in maintained mainstream schools. Exceptions to this are limited.

Barker's Lane, like the vast majority of mainstream schools within Wrexham is able to meet the needs of most pupils with ALN through the implementation of appropriate strategies, carefully differentiated and targeted interventions and programmes delivered by school staff. External agencies may support schools to implement the targeted interventions for some learners.

For some learners their individual needs may be best met in a smaller class within a mainstream school. These are called Resourced Provisions. Although there is no Resourced Provision at Barker's Lane, Wrexham Local Authority has a number of Resourced Provision classes in nursery, primary and secondary schools, which meet the needs of pupils with a range of ALN.

For a very small percentage of learners, their ALN may meet the requirements of the ALN Act's exceptional circumstances and may therefore require access to specialist provision. Admission to access specialist provision is determined through the Local Authority Inclusion Panel.

For learners who are undergoing an assessment of their ALN by the Local Authority, it is important that parents still apply for a mainstream placement through the normal admission procedure. Parents who wish to obtain further advice and information concerning ALN, should contact the Inclusion Service, through ALN@wrexham.gov.uk (Tel: 01978 295498/5499).

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

The Local Authority is responsible for determining the arrangements for admission of pupils requiring E.A.L. support to all Wrexham Primary Schools.

It is the LA's policy that E.A.L. pupils should be integrated as fully as possible in mainstream education with opportunities for individual or small group support where necessary. Barker's Lane Community School fully complies with this policy.

Review

This policy was compiled by Miss C Edwards in January 2012 and was amended in June 2019. Further amendments were made in October 2023.

It will be reviewed with the Admissions Authority in the light of any changed circumstances in our school or the local area.