simon marks
jewish primary school
תורה עם דרך-ארץ

Admissions POLICY 2026

ADMISSIONS POLICY
2026/27

The school will admit 30 children to the reception class, including children for whom the school has been named in a statement of special educational needs.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

In the case of oversubscription, the school will give priority to those who meet a religious practice test based on guidelines from the Chief Rabbi. Those applicants wishing to be considered as priority applicants for available places will need to obtain a Certificate of Religious Practice (CRP) based on criteria such as the family's synagogue attendance, prior commitment to Jewish education and voluntary work within the community.

ORDER OF PRIORITY

If there are more applications than places available for the reception class or any other year group, the governors will admit pupils in the following order of priority:

1. A looked after child with a CRP or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order.
2. Children with a CRP subject to a Child Protection Plan.
3. Children with a CRP for whom there is a demonstrable need on the grounds of their acute medical or social need.
4. Children with a CRP with a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of the proposed admission.
5. Children with a CRP on the roll of the Simon Marks nursery.
6. Other Children with a CRP
7. Other looked after child or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order.
8. Other children subject to a child protection plan.
9. Other children for whom there is a demonstrable need on the grounds of their acute medical or social need.
10. Other children with a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of the proposed admission.
11. Other children currently on the roll of the Simon Marks nursery.
12. All other applicants.

In the event that there are more applicants in any category than places available, priority will be given to children living nearest the school. Distance is measured from the address point for the home address to the address point of the school site using the local authority's digital mapping system based on ordnance survey data. In cases where applicants live equidistant from the school and places cannot be offered to both children, the available place will be allocated using a random computer selection.

The child's residential address shall be determined at the deadline for application, ie 14 January. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the home address will be where the child resides for the majority of the week.

Places can be withdrawn by the school after an offer has been made if it is found that the offer was made on the basis of false or fraudulent information.

HOW TO APPLY
Parents are invited to visit the school prior to applying. Please phone the school office to book a place: 020 8806 6048.

Parents must apply to their home local authority, even if the school is in a different borough, by completing the relevant Common Application Form (CAF), by the deadline of 14 January in the year prior to entry.

Supplementary Information Forms (SIF) and Certificates of Religious Practice (CRP) should be completed and sent with full supporting documentation to the School office by 14 January in the year prior to entry. Applications arriving after this date will be treated as late applications and will be considered after those received on time.

The local authority will post a letter informing parents whether or not their application has been successful in April.

Parents are requested to indicate in writing their intention or otherwise to take up a place in May.

RIGHT OF APPEAL
Applicants refused a place in Reception, or higher classes, have the right to appeal. If parents decide to appeal, they should write to the Clerk to the Governors at the school within 14 days of receiving the letter of refusal. There is no right of appeal for the Nursery.

WAITING LIST
All unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list and children will be ranked on the list in accordance with the published over-subscription criteria above. The waiting list will be maintained throughout the school year. Ranking on the waiting list is strictly based on the admissions criteria listed above. Priority will not be given to children based on the date of their application.

APPLICATIONS FOR PLACES OUTSIDE THE NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND
Parents should make a formal application to the local authority by completing the relevant Common Application Form. The Supplementary Information Form and Certificate of Religious Practice should be returned to the school. Applications will be considered in conformity with the over-subscription criteria and without delay. If a waiting list exists for the age appropriate class, a CRP will be required and the applicant will be added to the list. If there is a vacancy, a CRP might not be required.

DEFERRED ENTRY
If a place in a Reception class is offered before a child is of compulsory school age, parents can request that their child's entry be deferred until later in the same school year. This means that the place is held for the child and is not available to be offered to another child. Parents would not, however, be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted.

FAIR ACCESS
The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admissions round the governing body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under a local protocol that has been agreed for the current school year. The governing body has this power even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

Children with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school will be admitted.

If a child is already in Simon Mark's nursery class, please note the following statutory proviso: Attendance in the nursery does not guarantee admission to the school for education. A separate application form must be completed for transfer from nursery to primary school (School Admissions Code 2010 – para 2.66).

NOTES

(i) For educational or medical reasons, Headteachers can take into account any specific needs such as developmental, speech and language delay or physical needs. The school will require further information from doctors, hospital consultants, health visitors, education and child professionals.

(ii) For these purposes, 'sibling' includes adopted siblings, step- or half-siblings, and other children who are living as permanent members of the household. Where necessary, preference will be given to multiple-birth children, to avoid them being split into separate schools.

(iii) Attendance in the nursery does not guarantee admission to the school for primary education. Applications must be submitted by parent(s) or carer(s) whose children attend the nursery in the same way as other parents.

(iv) If your child is cared for by a childminder during the week, the minder's address can be used to determine nearness to school. The school will ask to see proof of this arrangement.

Definition: *"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*" (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989)