

WREN ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS POLICY

REVIEW DATE: SPRING 2010

1. Principles

- a) Wren Academy is a secondary school sponsored by the London Diocesan Board for Schools and Berkhamsted School. We wish to create an academy, founded on Christian principles, which is both a community school meeting needs of local residents and which serves the children of the Christian community in Finchley. Our Christian ethos means that we place an emphasis on spiritual development as well as academic, social and personal development. It does not mean that all our students come from a Christian background. Indeed we welcome applications from people from many different backgrounds and faith traditions. We do however expect that everyone who comes to Wren Academy will be fully supportive of the school as a Christian foundation.
- b) Therefore, the admissions policy of the school seeks a balance between those who come from a Christian background and those who come from other faith backgrounds or no faith backgrounds. This is in line with our aim to be a *distinctive* school, but also an *inclusive* school.

ADMISSION INTO YEAR 7 AT WREN ACADEMY

2. Admission Numbers into Year 7

The admission limit into Year 7 is 162. If there are fewer than 162 applications, all applicants will be offered a place. Places will be allocated regardless of ability.

3. Special Educational Needs

It should be noted that any child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs that names Wren Academy as their school will automatically be offered a place at the school.

4. Oversubscription Criteria

Where the Academy is oversubscribed, after the admission of children with statements of SEN, places will be allocated to applicants in the following priority order:

- a) Young people who are in public care, or who are the subject of an Education Supervision Order which names the school.

- b) Young people whom the Governors and Principal accept have an exceptional medical, social or educational need for a place at Wren Academy. Applications will only be considered under this category if they are supported by a written statement from a medical consultant, senior social worker or other appropriate professional. In each case there must be a clear connection between the child's need and Wren Academy, and an explanation of the difficulties which would be caused if the child were to attend another school.

Admission under a) or b) will be considered irrespective of any religious affiliation.

Those admitted as statemented children, LAC, and medical, social or educational need, will be deemed to have taken community places. The remaining places will be allocated first to community places, up to a total of 81 places. Those not offered a place will be considered for the 81 foundation places.

- c) **Community Places** will be allocated to all other applicants regardless of the faith background of the family. Places will be allocated in preference order established by the following cumulative points system. Preference will be given to those applicants with the greatest points score. For those with an identical points score, preference will be given to those living nearest the academy based on the measured distance in a straight line from the student's home address to the Academy gate on Hilton Avenue, regardless of Borough boundaries.

Points will be allocated as follows:

Children who attend a Primary School in the London Borough of Barnet	1 point
Children who have a brother or sister attending Wren Academy in years 8 -11 at the time of admission	1 point

- d) **Foundation Places** will be allocated in preference order established by the following cumulative points system. Preference will be given to those applicants with the greatest points score. For those with an identical points score, preference will be given to those living nearest the Academy based on the measured distance in a straight line from the student's home address to the Academy gate on Hilton Avenue, regardless of Borough boundaries.

Points will be allocated as follows:

Children whose parents regularly attend ¹ a Church of England church.	2 points
Children who attend a Church of England Primary School in the London Borough of Barnet	2 points
Children whose parents regularly attend ¹ any other Christian denomination in fellowship ² with the Church of England, except those who are of a faith which provides secondary schools in Barnet	1 point

Children who attend a Church of England Primary School outside the London Borough of Barnet	1 point
Children who have a brother or sister attending Wren Academy in years 8 -11 at the time of admission.	1 point

¹ Regular attendance at church must have been for at least two years, on at least two occasions per month. A signed statement from the Vicar / Minister will be required in the year before admission. The only exception will be those families who have moved into the area within the previous year and can provide a Vicar's/Minister's statement that they were committed and regular members of a church in the place where they used to live.

² Churches that are in fellowship with the Church of England will either be a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or the Evangelical Alliance.

5. **Wren Academy Supplementary Information Forms**

- a) As well as completing and sending in the common application form that must be sent to the local authority, all applicants for a Foundation Place at Wren Academy are asked to complete and send in a Wren Academy Supplementary Information Form to the school, by the closing date.
- b) The Wren Academy Supplementary Information Form will be available with a copy of the school prospectus or it can be downloaded from the school's website www.wrenacademy.org

6. **Other Notes**

If there are not enough applicants to fill all places in either category, they will be allocated to other applicants.

7. **Notification of Offer of Places**

- a) Parents will be informed by Barnet Local Authority (or their home authority if they do not live in Barnet) which school they have been allocated in writing by a letter posted on 1 March 2010. Parents are asked to confirm their acceptance of the offer with the Local Authority in which they live by 15 March 2010.
- b) Parents and students will then be offered an opportunity to visit the school before September 2010 and meet staff as part of preparing them to give them the best possible start in the school.

8. Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants may appeal for a place in the school. Parents wishing to appeal should write to the school stating the reasons for their appeal. The letter should be addressed to the Chair of Governors, Wren Academy, Warnham Road, London N12 9NW. Appeals will be heard by a panel which is independent of the Academy and the governors.

9. Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful applicants can ask to be placed on the waiting list. Any places that become available will be offered to those on the waiting list in line with the oversubscription criteria set out in Section 4 above. In the event of a place becoming vacant, the place will be offered to the next applicant on the list. If, however, the vacancy is a foundation place, only those qualifying for foundation places will be eligible.

Notwithstanding a child's place on the waiting list, if the local fair access protocol identifies the Academy as offering a suitable place for a child – i.e. one who falls within the scope of the protocol – then he or she will be offered a place.

10. Late applications

- a) Applications received after the closing date of 23 October 2009 and before 11 December 2009 will be considered equally with those applications received on time provided there is a good reason for the late application and provided applicants have filled out the local authority form as well as the Wren Academy Supplementary Information Form.
- b) Applications received directly at the school after 11 December 2009 will be subject to consideration by the school and the local authority along the lines set out in the Barnet Admissions procedure.

ADMISSION INTO THE SIXTH FORM AT WREN ACADEMY

11. Arrangements for Admission into Year 12 (i.e. 16+ years)

- a) We anticipate a Sixth Form of 150+. The minimum number of places in Year 12 for students outside the Academy will be 25. Additional external places may be made available if demand for specific courses can be met.
- b) Places will be offered to any student who meets the entry qualifications for the course being offered. Wren Academy will publish specific criteria in relation to minimum entrance requirements for the range of courses available, based upon GCSE grades or other measures of prior attainment (such as GNVQ, Specialist Diploma, Functional English, Maths and ICT). In the event of a course being oversubscribed, preference will be given to those in the Academy's Year 11 after which proximity to the Academy will then be used as

the tie breaker. Preference will be given to those living nearest the Academy based on the measured distance in a straight line from the school.

IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS AT WREN ACADEMY

12. Arrangements for admitting pupils to other year groups, including to replace any pupils who have left Wren Academy

The Academy will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child. If more applications are received than there are places available, places will be offered to those on the waiting list in line with the oversubscription criteria set out in Section 4 above. Parents whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.

Annex 1

1. Out of Year Students

- a. The Academy is required to consider applications from students eligible through their birth date for the year in question.
- b. Those who are 'out of year', may apply to the Academy but they are in effect applying to enter the correct year for their age. They should be dealt with, as with any other casual admission, by being assessed and allocated points and then placed on the waiting list for the correct year group in the appropriate position.
- c. If there is a vacancy in the correct year group, the Academy should admit them and manage their educational needs appropriately.

2. Definition of 'sibling'

Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, foster brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.