



Old Ford Primary Academy nursery admission arrangements for the 2026/2027 school year

Introductory statement

Old Ford Primary Academy admits girls and boys of all backgrounds, aptitudes, abilities/disabilities and beliefs. The academy does not have any religious affiliation.

Paradigm Trust is the admissions authority for Old Ford Primary Academy. This means that it will set and apply the admissions criteria for the school. The Trust delegates Nursery admissions to Tower Hamlets who manages Nursery Admissions as part of their coordinated admissions process across the Borough.

Published Admission Number

The school is able to offer nursery spaces for 150 children aged 3 and 4.

Only part-time places will be offered as part of the coordinated scheme - these will be determined by the school.

All parents are entitled to 15 hours per week of free early years education for 38 weeks each year from the start of the school term after their child's third birthday until the child reaches compulsory school age i.e. the term after their fifth birthday. An additional free 15 hours will only be available for families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working). Typically, each parent must earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum or living wage and less than £100,000 a year to be eligible.

For more information on eligibility go to:

www.gov.uk/help-with-childcarecosts/free-childcare-and-educationfor-2-to-4-year-olds.

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number for the

relevant year group are received, the school will offer places to all those who have applied.

Application process

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 and you would like a nursery place for September 2026, you must submit an online application by 16 February 2026. You should apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk It is very important not to apply late, because applications made after the closing date will be considered only after places have been allocated to children whose parents applied on time.

When you have completed and submitted your application you will receive an instant email confirmation. You can then make changes to your application up until the 16 February 2026 closing date. If you are not able to make an online application, or you are not a resident of Tower Hamlets and wish to apply for a Tower Hamlets nursery, you should contact The School Admission Service on 020 7364 5006.

Oversubscription criteria

The Trust has delegated decisions on admissions to the local authority and, therefore, use the same oversubscription criteria as Tower Hamlets community schools. If there are more applications than places, the following criteria for priority will apply;

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. This also includes children who were previously in care abroad;
2. Children for whom it is deemed there is strong educational, medical or social reason to attend the school applied to (see note 1);
3. Children living within the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school (including the school of separate infant and junior schools) and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (see note 2);
4. Children whose parent is a member of staff who has been employed at the school concerned 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;
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 of the catchment area of the school applied to.

Notes:

Note 1: 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.

Note 2: Sibling means a whole, half or step-brother or step-sister resident at the same address.

Tie Break

In the event of oversubscription within the categories 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. In the event of two distances being the same, a decision will be made by random allocation by pupil services.

Waiting lists

The waiting lists for Old Ford Primary Academy will be kept and maintained by The School Admission Services in the order of priorities set out above.

Appeals

As nursery is non-statutory, parents do not have the right of appeal if they do not get their preferred nursery choice. However, parents may contact the Local authority for more information on the reason as to why their child was not offered a place.