

*Unique and valued before God*



## **Archbishop Tenison's School**

### **GOVERNORS' ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 ENTRY**

#### **INTRODUCTON**

Archbishop Tenison's has been judged by Ofsted as a good Church of England School with outstanding features (Ofsted January 2012). Our core values are "CHART" – Compassion, Hard Work, Accountability, Respect and Trust – and these are at the centre of everything that we do.

We have a great history, one that goes back to 1685, but we are always looking to the future and are open to new ideas and approaches which enable our students to achieve their full potential.

Although the school has had a mixed sixth form for a number of years, girls were only admitted into year 7 from September 2015. We now combine the best features of both single sex and co-education by teaching boys and girls separately whilst enabling all the students to be fully involved in the wider life of a mixed, comprehensive school. This is called the diamond model of teaching.

We are also excited with our Federation with St Mark's Primary School which also started in September 2015.

Archbishop Tenison's is a small school and this helps to create a real family atmosphere with all the students known by the staff. Students achieve at Tenison's, whether it is the high flier with a string of A grades and a place at a top university or someone who just needs that extra push to help them on the way to further education or into their chosen career.

Everyone is expected to work hard and do their best, however although success at exams is important academic achievement is not everything. We want to offer a rounded education that means our boys and girls leave the school able to go out into the world as good citizens.

We encourage you to visit us to see for yourselves what we can offer and how we motivate our students to do their best.

#### **ADMISSIONS**

Most students will be admitted at age 11, though in-year applications will be considered in all years and we encourage applications for entry in the sixth form. The number of admissions for the year commencing September 2017 has been approved by Lambeth as 92.

Governors' have agreed that, as a mixed school using the Diamond Model of teaching, we will aim to have a balanced intake of boys and girls in years 7 to 11. In addition, they have agreed that 70% of places under the Foundation criteria, will be available to children from worshipping Anglican families and of other Christian denominations. The remaining 30% will be open to everyone under the Open Admissions criteria.

Finally, Governors stated the intention that in recognition of the Federation with St Mark's CofE Primary School, all applicants from the school should be allocated a place at Archbishop Tenison's School.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

Before completing an application form and supporting documents, prospective students and their parents/carers should read the current school prospectus carefully. The School accepts a serious and sincere commitment to every student admitted to the school in regard to their progress, achievement and welfare.

As one of the enclosures contained in the prospectus makes clear, the offer of a place at the School establishes an implicit contract with you, the parent(s), to assist your child in regular and punctual attendance, in completing homework assignments, in wearing the required school uniform, and in observing the highest standards of behaviour both on and

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beyond the School premises. We expect students applying for a place at the School, and their parents or carers, to understand and accept their commitments throughout their child's education at the School.

We also strongly recommend that you visit the School on one of our Open Days, to see the School at work and to ask any questions that would assist you in making your choice of school.

### **RANGE OF ABILITY**

As a Voluntary-Aided Church of England Comprehensive School, we are committed to offering places across the full range of academic achievement and potential from the most able students to students with Special Educational Needs.

All applicants seeking admission through the Year 7 secondary transfer process are required to take a standardised test in verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and numeracy set by GL Assessment (formerly National Foundation for Educational Research).

On the results of these tests, applicants will be placed in one of three broad ability bands: Above Average, Average, and Below Average. The school will normally admit 30% above average applicants, 50% average and 30% below average.

### **PLACES**

There are two types of places: **FOUNDATION** and **OPEN**

#### **FOUNDATION**

The Governing Body has designated 70% of the available places to students who are from worshipping Anglican families and worshipping families of other Christian denominations. If there are more applicants than places available, places will be allocated according to the following criteria in order of priority:

- Looked after children or Previously Looked after children (**see note 1**)
- Children from worshipping Anglican families. (**see note 2**)
- Students from worshipping families of other Christian denominations. (**see note 3**)
- Siblings: Applicants with another child from the same family already at the school will expect to be on roll in September 2017. (**see note 4**)

If the Foundation Places are oversubscribed, length of regular church attendance of child and parents will be taken into account.

#### **OPEN**

30% of places will be allocated in this category.

Parents applying for an Open Place do so knowing that the school aims to provide an education based on Christian principles, and therefore Governors expect that all students will take part in the Christian worship of the school and will attend Religious Education lessons.

- Looked after children or Previously Looked after children (**see note 1**)
- Attendance at a Church primary school. (**see note 6**)
- Siblings: applicants with another child from the same family already at the school will expect to be on roll in September 2017. (**see note 4**)
- Up to five places are initially reserved for students from each of the parishes of St Martin-in-the Fields and St James's, Piccadilly (**see note 5**)

- Students whose parents express a clear desire for a school with a religious foundation and who can demonstrate from their application that their child will benefit from the school's Christian ethos. **(see note 7)**
- Students with an exceptional and professionally supported social or medical need for a place at this school. This must be supported by written evidence, e.g. from a doctor, social worker or educational psychologist, which sets out why this school is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. **(see note 8)**
- The travelling distance and ease of travel to school. **(see note 9)**

#### **NOTES ON THE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA**

1. Looked after children who are in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions as defined by Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to the school. Previously looked after children who were looked after immediately prior to being adopted, or who became subject to a residence order. (Now termed child arrangement order under the Children & Families Act 2014), or special guardianship order. The Governors will require written confirmation that the child is looked after, or previously looked after.
2. Evidence of religious commitment of children and their families will be established by production of the Clergy Form signed by the family's administering priest at the time of application. If the places are oversubscribed, length of regular church attendance of child and parents will be taken into account.
3. 'Other Christian denominations' are those belonging to ecumenical bodies in full membership of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland (CCBI), and the current list of recognised bodies may be consulted at the School. Here, too, a confirmatory letter from the appropriate priest or minister will be required at the time of application. If the places are oversubscribed, length of regular church attendance of child and parents will be taken into account.
4. "Sibling" is defined as a full, half or step brother or sister living at the same home address. It also includes an adopted or fostered child living at the same home address and dependent on the same primary carer. In all cases the sibling must be expected to be on the roll of the school at the time of admission.
5. The reservation of places for students from these two parishes reflects a historic link, which the Governors would wish to continue.
6. As stated above, places will be reserved for applicants from St Mark's School. This category relates to attendance at a Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled Church primary school. Regulations exclude private or independent schools from this category, whatever the nature of their Trust or Foundation deeds. Priority will be given to Anglican families in this respect.
7. This category relates to families who wish their children to be educated in a church school, supporting the Christian ethos of the school.
8. Consideration will be given on an individual basis to an application from parents or carers who can demonstrate **at the time of applying** that the prospective student will gain a social, pastoral or educational benefit from attending Archbishop Tenison's School. Supporting written evidence from, for example, a social worker, medical practitioner or educational welfare officer, must accompany the application form.
9. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the main entrance of the child's home address to the main entrance of the school. Applicants from the same block of flats will be treated as living the same distance from the school, regardless of the floor on which they live. Where parents share responsibility for the child, the address at which the child spends the majority of school nights (Sunday to Thursday nights) will be considered the home address.

## **APPEALS**

Parents of applicants who have not been offered a place have the right of appeal and such appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel. This should be done in writing within 20 days of the date of the letter concerning the Governors decision not to offer a place.

## **THE WAITING FILE**

When oversubscribed, a waiting file is maintained; when a place becomes available it will be filled 'like to like' by a student meeting the same criterion. The waiting file will remain active until the end of the autumn term in the admission year, as it is assumed that by this time the student will be happy and settled elsewhere. Parents may, however, contact the School after this time if they wish their child to remain on the active waiting file. Placing a child on it does not affect the parent's right of appeal.

## **ADMISSION INTO YEAR 12**

The following are the minimum entrance requirements for all applicants to Archbishop Tenison's School.

- 6 GCSEs graded A\*-B including English Language and Mathematics  
Meeting the entry requirements for the particular courses. Please see specific course requirements in the current prospectus.

Conditional offers will be made subject to places being available on chosen courses, and where subject specific entry requirements for these courses are likely to be met.

## **EDUCATION OUT OF NORMAL (CHRONOLOGICAL) AGE GROUP**

Children are normally educated in school with others of their age group; however, in exceptional circumstances parents/carers may seek a place outside of their child's normal age group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case. Parents/carers must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interests and may provide recent professional evidence to support this. Further details of how to make such a request are available from the school.

The School is committed to taking its fair share of vulnerable children who are hard to place, in accordance with locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal round of admissions, the Governing Body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol which carries the agreement of both the Governing Body and the diocese for the current admission year. The Governing Body has this power even when admitting such a child would exceed the normal admission number.