

Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children

Admissions Policy

Ratified: March 16

Review: March 19



Frank Barnes
School for Deaf Children

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1. Introduction

Frank Barnes School is a primary school for deaf children with a sign bilingual philosophy. It caters predominantly for severely to profoundly deaf children whose first language is British Sign Language. The curriculum is delivered through BSL and the children are provided with adult deaf role models in order to develop a positive Deaf identity and knowledge of Deaf culture and community.

We admit Deaf children from across all the London boroughs, and in exceptional cases, the home counties. We have a positive view of all Deaf children and do admit children with additional needs provided that their needs can be met through a differentiated curriculum and with support from external professionals. Sometimes, we are unable to admit children with severe or complex additional learning needs that require specialised teaching programmes over and above those provided by a Teacher of the Deaf, and where we feel their needs cannot be met. We do offer opportunities for integration for children with such additional needs if their Local Authority can provide them with 1-1 support. Our Additional Special Education Needs policy provides further information on our procedures and practice in meeting the needs of pupils with additional SEN. In some cases, we offer assessment placements for children undergoing the statutory assessment process, which are agreed in liaison with the Local Authority.

Placements for 2-3 year olds

Pupils are admitted to the Nursery from the age of 2 years on a part-time placement. . In most cases we offer two full consecutive days and an additional consecutive half day placement (15 hours' equivalent) in consultation with parents. . Full time places may be considered for Child In Need pupils or those with a Child Protection plan. Placements for 2 year olds are based on various factors, which include:

- the travel distance;
- consultation & decision by Local Authority e.g. Child in Need;
- Additional factors linked to the individual case.

Placements for 3-5 year olds

Pupils aged 3 and 4 are admitted full-time (30 hours) in line with the Government guidelines, once funding from the child's Local Authority has been agreed. Through our assessment procedures it may be decided by the school that some children require additional staffing (1:1 Teaching Assistant) to meet their needs, and this additional funding will be sought by the school from the Local authority in an interim or Annual Review/EHCP review.

Placements for 5 year old upwards

Pupils across the full primary age (5 to 11) range are admitted to the school if their needs can be met following an assessment against the school's admission criteria. . On occasions, we will request the provision of 1-1 support to be included in a pupil's Statement or Education Health Care Plan if they require intensive language input to fully access the curriculum or have an additional physical, sensory, medical, emotional, behavioural or specific learning need. Whilst receiving the 1-1 support the primary focus would be on developing independent learning, language and social skills. This support would be constantly under review with the aim that it would be withdrawn at the earliest possible opportunity.

2. Admissions Procedures

Parents are invited to make an initial visit to the school and the peripatetic teacher from their local authority, should they wish. They meet with the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher or a senior member of staff and are given a tour of the school.

All potential pupils will be required to attend an assessment morning to determine if their needs can be met appropriately at Frank Barnes School. They are also given the opportunity to meet the nursery/ classteacher and their year group peers and encouraged to spend some time in their appropriate class group. Classteachers will complete an assessment outcome form and give to the school's Business Administrator with responsibility for Admissions, who will then liaise with the Headteacher who will confirm if a placement is appropriate.

The Business Administrator will write to the parents and Local Authority informing them of the decision whether the placement is suitable. The pupil's Local Authority will consult formally with the school and Camden's SEN department. The Business Administrator will then liaise with the Local Authorities and confirm a start date in writing to parents and both Local Authorities. The school transport can only be granted by the pupil's home Local Authority. It is not the responsibility of Frank Barnes School or Camden Local Authority unless the pupil is a Camden resident.

Parents are invited to accompany their child on the start date in order to help them settle into the school and to complete the following paperwork and permission forms with our Office Manager:

- Pupil Details;
- Home School Agreement ;
- Emergency Contact Details;
- Permission Form;
- Medical Form;
- Free School Meals Form;

- Birth Certificate;
- Any other relevant paperwork, e.g. SEN Statement, School reports, etc.

If parents are unable to accompany their child during this first week they will need to make an appointment to come to school to complete the necessary forms before their child is due to start, otherwise the start date may be postponed. The school will arrange for interpreters to be available to support parents with completing the forms when necessary.

2. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Procedure Owner	Camden LA
Approving Body	Frank Barnes School's Curriculum Committee of the Governing Bodies
Date Approved	March 2016
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