



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.

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1<sup>st</sup> November 2019

## CONSULTATION – PROPOSED CHANGES TO ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2021 – YEAR 7

The Governors of Blackfen School are consulting on their proposed Admissions criteria for 2021.

The proposed change is to add a further criteria:

### Priority 5 - Children of a member of staff

This gives priority to children of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application was made.

Please see the full admissions criteria, for other priorities.

Comments are welcomed and should be emailed to [nro@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:nro@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk).

Consultation start date: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019. End date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Governors will consider any comments made and will aim to approve the policy in March 2020.

Yours faithfully

**Matthew Brown**  
Head Teacher



## **ADMISSION STATEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2021**

Blackfen School is a progressive and vibrant learning community that focuses on raising the aspirations and releasing the potential of every young person in our care. The school is an Academy and is part of the Penhill Academies Umbrella Trust with Sherwood Park School, Hurstmere, Bexley Grammar School and Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School. This enables us to continue ensuring that students leave Blackfen School as successful, happy and fulfilled young people who are equipped with the necessary skills, qualifications and experiences to make them successful in their future lives. We believe everything is possible and can be achieved through hard work, determination and perseverance. We believe that all our young people have a growth mind set and that their intelligence is not fixed.

Our beliefs are demonstrated through a learning community that thrives on innovative and challenging teaching, complemented by frequent visits and enrichment activities.

Students participate in extra-curricular activities ranging from Music, Drama, Book Club and the Duke of Edinburgh awards to life-changing trips to, for example, New York, Poland, Barcelona, Rome and our partner school in India. The welfare programme is characterised by strong personal and academic support, as well as the development of students' leadership skills. Our frequent rewards and celebrations for high-level attainment and progress are welcomed by students and their parents.

The success of Blackfen students at school is underpinned by the support of parents – at home and in partnership with staff. The contribution of our parent partners ensures that Blackfen School provides an educational experience that nurtures the very best outcome in every student. We invest heavily in nurturing our new students. All Year 6 pupils are visited in their primary school and spend a day with us in the summer term to familiarise themselves with different school routines. We look forward to welcoming prospective Year 6 pupils and their families to one of our Open Mornings to see the school in action and to the Open Evening, to collect a Prospectus and further subject information.

## **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021**

At age 11 (Girls born between 01.09.09 and 31.08.10 inclusive)

The school participates in the Bexley Co-ordinated Secondary School Admissions Scheme and the application process dates will be those set out in that scheme.

### **Consideration of Applications**

Blackfen School will consider all applications for places. Where fewer than the published admission number (230) for any relevant age group are received Blackfen School will offer places to all those who have applied.

Girls with a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (when Blackfen School is named on the statement or plan) will be admitted.



## Over-subscription criteria and priority

### Priority 1 - Looked After Students

This is given to a girl in public care ('Looked After') or a girl who has previously been in public care (previously Looked After), but has ceased to be so because she has been adopted or become subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order.

### Priority 2 – Medical

This is given where a girl, sibling or a parent has a medical condition which makes it essential on medical grounds, for the girl to attend Blackfen School. Documented social, medical or psychological evidence must be provided from an appropriate independent registered professional. The Council's own medical advisor may be asked for a professional opinion on the case presented.

### Priority 3 – Sibling

This is given to a girl with a sister or brother attending a Penhill Academies Trust school named in the list here (Sherwood Park Primary School, Blackfen School or Hurstmere School). This includes a full or adopted sister/brother or step/half-sister or brother or foster sister/brother living at the same address at the time of application. Where twins or children from a multiple birth apply, if one child is allocated a place, their sibling or siblings will automatically be allocated a place.

### Priority 4 – Penhill Academies Trust Feeder School named here (Sherwood Park Primary School)

This is given to a girl who attends a Penhill Academies Trust primary school (Sherwood Park Primary School).

### Priority 5 – Children of a member of staff

This gives priority to children of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application was made.

### Priority 6 – Distance

On the basis of proximity to the school between the applicant's home address to the School's main visitor pedestrian entrance where priority is given to those determined to be closer to the school as measured by the Local Authority's system. Home address will be taken as the girl's home address at the time of application. That is the address at which she lives with the parent or registered guardian who is the main carer; that is the parent eligible to receive Child Benefit and/or Child Tax Credit. Where the last remaining place is to be allocated and two or more children are deemed to live at the same distance from the school the place will be decided by the drawing of lots.

### Tie-break

Distance (as defined above) is used as a tie-breaker in any case where two applicants cannot otherwise be separated and random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same. This process will be independently verified.



## **In-Year Admissions**

Applications for places during the year should be made direct to the school. A girl's position on the waiting list is determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above.

## **Right of Appeal**

There is a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel for unsuccessful applicants. Please contact the school to make an appeal.

For applications for in-year admissions, appeals must be heard within 30 days of the appeal being lodged.

## **Waiting List and Continued Interest List**

Where applications exceed places, a waiting list will be maintained until 31st December in the year of admission, in accordance with the admission criteria. After that date a new Year 7 list will be created and held from January 1st to 31st July, containing the names of students whose parents have expressed (in writing) a continued interest in a place at Blackfen. Similarly, continued Interest lists will be created and held from September 1st until 31st July each year for Years 8-11 inclusive.

Continued Interest lists will be ordered in line with the oversubscription criteria, and therefore positions on those lists are subject to change in the event of new applications.

## **Fair Access Protocol**

Blackfen School is required to participate in the Fair Access Protocol. The school can be directed to admit a student and this could mean such a child being admitted ahead of the waiting list or even if the year group is full.