



Admissions Policy

Branziel Primary School, Ravenswood Park, Belfast, BT5 7JU
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1 Introduction

Our Board of Governors applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 introduced a new framework for school admissions as of September 2000. This was later revised in the Education Act of 2002. Our admissions policy conforms to the regulations that are set out in that Act and are further explained in the statutory School Admissions Code of Practice and the statutory Appeals Code of Practice. These were revised in January 2003 and came into force in September 2004.

2 Aims and Objectives

We seek to be an inclusive school, welcoming children from all backgrounds and abilities. All applications will be treated on merit, and in a sensitive manner.

The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we adopt the procedure set out below to determine whether a child is to be accepted or not. It is our wish for parents and carers to find a place for their child at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to excess demand on the places available.

A child's level of ability is irrelevant to this school's admissions policy, as are any special needs the child may have.

3 How Parents and Carers can apply for their Child to be admitted to our School

Our school is a community school, and it determines the admission arrangements in agreement with EA. The Admissions authority for our school is therefore SEELB, which publishes its entry regulations every year. Parents and carers can receive a copy of these regulations directly from EA.

EAs annual Open Enrolment Booklet informs parents and carers how to apply for a place at the school of their choice. Parents and carers have a right to express their preference, but this does not, in itself, guarantee a place at that particular school. Application should be made on a form that can be obtained from the school, and should be returned by the date stipulated on that form. The school will notify parents and carers of the decision as soon as all the applications have been considered.

In this area, children enter school at the start of the academic year in which they become five. There is one admission date per year, early in September (i.e. when the autumn term begins). Therefore, parents and carers who would like their child to be admitted to this school during the year their child is five should ensure that they return the necessary application form by the end of [xxxx].

4 Admission Appeals

If we do not offer a child a place at this school, this will be because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the number of children in the school to increase too much.

If parents and carers wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the EA. An independent panel considers all such appeals, and its decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to whom we had refused a place, then we will accept this decision and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school. (Further details of appeal arrangements are set out in the revised Code of Practice on School Admissions Appeals, which came into force in September 2004.)

5 The Enrolment Number

The 'enrolment number' is the number of children that the Department of Education considers the school can accommodate. The standard number for our school is 408 and 78 in the Nursery Unit. We keep this number under review, and the governors will apply to change the number if circumstances change.

6 Sizes of Classes

We teach younger children (Y1 to Y4) in classes that have a maximum number of 30 children.

7 Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Board of Governors, who will always take due note of the guidance provided by SEELB.

The policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier in the light of any changed circumstances, either in our school or in the local area.