

Rimon Jewish Primary School

Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2025/2026

Consultation Document

15 December 2023 to 25 January 2024

Introduction

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, admission authorities are required to consult on any proposed changes to the admission arrangements. For Rimon Jewish Primary School, the Governors are the relevant admission authority.

The Governors of Rimon Jewish Primary School are consulting on admission arrangements for the academic year 2025/26 and in particular propose two changes to the oversubscription criteria. This is a set of criteria that will determine how places will be allocated in the event that there are more applications than places available for admission to reception class or for casual and in-year admission to other year groups.

The consultation will run from 15 December 2023 to 25 January 2024.

Responses to the proposal outlined below are invited and should be submitted to the Admissions Governor in writing Jenny Sandler c/o Rimon Jewish Primary School 41A Dunstan Road NW11 8AE by email Jennifer.sandler@rimonschool.org.uk.

In this document we set out:

- what changes we propose to the admissions arrangements
- the reasons behind the proposed changes

What we are asking your views on?

We would like to know to what extent you agree or disagree with our proposals for changing the admissions arrangements for our School.

How to have your say:

The consultation is open to all Barnet residents. In addition, the Governors, as an Admissions

Authority, must consult with

- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
- b) other parents in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- c) all other admissions authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
- d) the local authority;
- e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority; and
- f) in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination, in the case of Rimon Jewish Primary School this includes, (but is not limited to) The United Synagogue and Golders Green Synagogue.

There are three ways you can give your feedback about the proposed changes

- By emailing the Admissions Governor jennifer.sandler@rimonschool.org.uk
- By writing to the Admissions Governor Jenny Sandler - Admissions Governor, Rimon Jewish Primary School, 41A Dunstan Road, London NW118AE

If you would like a paper a paper copy of this consultation document, please contact the school administrator by:

- emailing office@rimonprimaryschool.org.uk,
- telephoning 0208 209 1805, or
- writing to Rimon Jewish Primary School, 41A Dunstan Road, London NW11 8AE.

The consultation is open from Thursday 15 December 2023 until Thursday 25 January

2024.

What changes are we proposing?

Proposed changes to the sibling and faith criteria for entry to the Reception Class and Casual and In-Year Admissions to Rimon Jewish Primary School.

- *Change 1: To change the sibling oversubscription criterion so that siblings of departing Rimon pupils will be offered places before non-sibling applicants.*

Currently pupils need to be enrolled in Rimon at the time their sibling joins the school. However, there have been instances where the eldest child was due to start secondary school and the younger sibling was due to start Reception at Rimon and therefore not eligible for a sibling place. By changing the policy so that it states the (older) sibling needs to be enrolled at the time of the (younger) sibling's application (as opposed to admission), then families with children in Year 6 and a child due to start Reception the following academic year will receive a priority place. We will also require that the “graduating” sibling has attended Rimon for at least three consecutive years or nine academic terms. The reasoning behind this is to ensure that we are offering sibling places to families who are committed to Rimon and the school community.

The current policy regarding siblings states:

Siblings of pupils at Rimon at the time of admission. Sibling means a brother or sister (including adoptive, half or step brothers and sisters and foster children) who will be attending the School at the date of admission and is living permanently at the same address as the child.

The proposed policy regarding siblings states:

Siblings of pupils at Rimon at the time of application. If a sibling is due to leave Rimon then they must have attended Rimon for three consecutive years or nine academic terms. Sibling means a brother or sister (including adoptive, half or step brothers and sisters and foster children) living permanently at the same address as the child.

- *Change 2: To change the way in which applicants can qualify for faith places by reducing the requirements for synagogue attendance and volunteering.*

After the Covid-19 pandemic we changed the oversubscription criteria to include significantly more synagogue attendance than required during the pandemic. This change was an adaptation to the pre-Covid criteria. However we recognise that Rimon's current synagogue attendance and volunteering requirements are higher than

many other Jewish schools which did not revert to pre-Covid criteria, and it is possible that families may not be able to meet the requirement. If this is the case, we will consider reducing the synagogue attendance and volunteering requirement.

Current (2024-2025) over subscription criteria for applicants for faith places:

1. A combination of 25 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) AND 10 weekday services (including Friday night services) at Golders Green Synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024
2. A combination of 20 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) AND 5 weekday services (including Friday night services) at Golders Green Synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024
3. A combination of 20 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) at Golders Green Synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024
4. A combination of 20 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) AND 5 weekday services (including Friday night services) at any one synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024
5. A combination of 20 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) at any one synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024
6. Submission of the United Synagogue four-point Certificate of Religious Practice (synagogue attendance is only counted between 21 April 2023 and 6 January 2024)

Proposed oversubscription criteria for applicants for faith places:

1. A combination of 20 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) AND 8 weekday services (including Friday night services) at Golders Green Synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024
2. A combination of 15 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) AND 5 weekday services (including Friday night services) at Golders Green Synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024
3. A combination of 15 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) at Golders Green Synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024
4. A combination of 15 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) AND 5 weekday services (including Friday night services) at any one synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024

5. A combination of 15 Shabbat services/ Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities (volunteering) at any one synagogue between 15 January 2023 and 14 January 2024
6. Submission of the United Synagogue four-point Certificate of Religious Practice (synagogue attendance is only counted between 20 April 2024 and 4 January 2025)

These changes would apply equally for admissions to the reception class as to Causal and In-Year Admissions to other year groups.

The elements of our arrangements that are not changing are:

- Our Published Admission Number remains 210.
- All other elements of our published admissions arrangements including the order of our oversubscription criteria remains the same.

The current Admissions Policy, proposed Admissions Policy, current Supplementary Information Form, amended Supplementary Information Form (to match the proposed changes to the policy), and United Synagogue Certificate of Religious Practice are attached as appendices.

Schools Admissions Code

Consultation

1.42 When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

1.43 For admission arrangements determined in 2015 for entry in September 2016, consultation must be for a minimum of 8 weeks and must be completed by 1 March 2015. For all subsequent years, consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year.

1.44 Admission authorities must consult with:

- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
- b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
- d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority who are not the admission authority;
- e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority; and
- f) in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.

1.45 For the duration of the consultation period, the admission authority must publish a copy of their full proposed admission arrangements (including the proposed PAN) on their website together with details of the person within the admission authority to whom comments may be sent and the areas on which comments are not sought. Admission authorities must also send upon request a copy of the proposed admission arrangements to any of the persons or bodies listed above inviting comment. Failure to consult effectively may be grounds for subsequent complaints and appeals.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf

Admission arrangements in the normal admissions rounds

Consultation on admission arrangements

36. Admission authorities are required to consult on their arrangements when a change is proposed to the admission arrangements or at least once every seven years. Many local authorities provided me with information and examples of good practice on consultation. Based on all I have seen, it seems to me that good consultation – whether by local authorities or schools – uses a number of different ways to reach those who may have an interest. It will include a prominent and simple message on the front page of the relevant website, backed up with more detailed information and use of print and social media. Examples of ways in which schools and local authorities have communicated about proposed changes include:

- a. asking (other) schools and early years settings (including childminders) to pass on information about the consultation to parents;
- b. articles in the local press including free papers sent to every household in the area, magazines/newsletters published by voluntary groups in an area, family information directories and child focused magazines;
- c. use of local radio and social media including Twitter and Facebook and online parent forums (one local authority described a parental networking group with over 3,000 members);
- d. seeking feedback and responses online as well as in paper form;
- e. posters in schools, stay and play session locations, supermarkets, doctors' surgeries, children's centres, health centres, places of worship and the local authority's own buildings;
- f. consultation meetings including drop in sessions targeting areas or groups which past experience showed were less likely to respond;
- g. use of personal contacts - talking to parents at the school gate or at parents evenings;
- h. asking local voluntary groups, parish councils and faith bodies to use their networks to pass on material and information; and
- i. direct emails to parents who have given permission and provided email addresses via their applications for admission in previous years; this had a high response rate.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/680003/2017_OSA_Annual_Report_-_Final_23_January_2018.pdf