



PLATANOS COLLEGE ADMISSIONS POLICY 2016 ONWARDS

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

For Admissions to Year 7 in September 2016

The main principle of admission to Platanos College is to secure and maintain the character of the school as a comprehensive school, providing for the needs of young persons within the 11 – 16 age range. In order to achieve this, the admissions criteria have been designed to produce an intake that is representative of the national ability range. Pupils will, therefore, be admitted according to a banding system.

1. ABILITY BANDS

Five ability bands (encompassing high and low ability) will be determined by the results of Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT scores) and the school will admit approximately equal numbers of applicants into each band.

2. ADMISSIONS NUMBER

The number intended to be admitted to Year 7 in September 2016 will be 210 (unchanged).

The school participates in the Local Authority (Lambeth) co-ordinated scheme and all deadlines within that should be adhered to by applicants.

3. PRIORITY ADMISSIONS

As according to the Admissions Code, children with statements of special educational needs (SEN) naming the school will be admitted. The school will also give top priority to applications on behalf of children in, or previously in, public care ('looked after children') residing with the primary carer with the relevant documentary evidence.

A MAXIMUM OF UP TO 10% OF OUR ADMISSION NUMBER WILL BE DESIGNATED FOR OUR BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE SPECIALIST PROGRAMME AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUPILS WHO SHOW APTITUDE AND INTEREST IN ART, MUSIC AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS.

THE PLATANOS TRUST WILL MAKE AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES TO SUPPORT PUPILS WITH MARKED APTITUDE IN ART, MUSIC AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS.

APTITUDE ASSESSMENTS ARE ADMINISTERED SEPARATELY FOR PUPILS WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR PLACES WITHIN THE BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE SPECIALISM PROGRAMME. SELECTION FOR PLACES WILL INVOLVE PRESENTATIONS OF PORTFOLIOS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND INTERVIEWS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS IN THE AUTUMN TERM 2015. DATES TO BE CONFIRMED VIA THE COLLEGE WEBSITE.

4. OVERSUBSCRIPTION

In the event of oversubscription in any ability band, admissions will be determined using the following criteria:

- a) Children in the care, or previously in the care, of a Local Authority.
- b) Children with *exceptional* medical circumstances supported by written medical evidence. The evidence should come from at least two registered health professionals and should set out the particular reasons why Platanos College is the most suitable school and what difficulties would occur if the child had to go elsewhere. Any such applications will be considered by the Admissions Committee of the school. Applications under this criterion do not guarantee a priority place and cannot be considered without the appropriate supporting evidence.
- c) Siblings of pupils who are attending the school at the time of the applicant's admission.
- d) Proximity of the child's home to Platanos College using a straight-line distance from the front door of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school (Clapham Road) with those living nearest to the school receiving the higher priority.

Tie-breaker: In the event that two applicants for a particular ability band fall at the exact same position and cannot be separated by the above oversubscription criteria, the place will be allocated by random allocation.

5. DEFINITIONS

'Sibling' refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

'Looked after children' refers to children who are (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions at the time of making an application.

'Previously looked after children' refers to children who were looked after (as above), but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order) *immediately* following having been looked after.

'Home address' is the address at which the pupil should live permanently and full time as the principal residence. It does not include accommodation occupied on a short-term rental basis.

In all the above criteria, documentary proof of residence will be required.

6. MAKING AN APPLICATION

Parents/Carers resident in Lambeth must ensure that they complete the Local Authority (Lambeth) **Common Application Form (CAF)**. Please ensure that Platanos College is clearly listed as one of the preferred schools on the CAF. *All CAFs must be submitted to the home borough.*

Applying to Platanos College from another borough other than Lambeth. Parents/Carers resident in another borough are welcome to apply to Platanos College for their child. Please *contact your home borough* for a CAF and instructions on how to apply to a school in a different borough. Ensure that Platanos College is clearly listed as one of the preferred schools. You should also contact Lambeth and request an admissions booklet, which will contain further information such as entry arrangements.

Supplementary Information Form (SIF). All parents/carers must also complete the SIF and *return this directly to the school office.* This can be obtained from Lambeth or direct from Platanos College. An electronic copy of the SIF can be downloaded from the school website (www.platanoscollege.com).

For 'In-Year' applications (i.e. applying to join the school in the middle of the academic year) please contact the school office directly.

7. LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications may be made to the school and will be maintained in order of the over-subscription criteria for each band in each year group. Any pupil not offered a place will be placed on the Waiting List and will have the statutory right of appeal. Where places become vacant in a particular band, they will be allocated to applicants on the Waiting List for that band in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

8. APPEALS

Appeals against admission decisions are heard by an Independent Admissions Appeal Panel and will be in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. An appeal against a refusal of a place must be made within 20 school days of the date of the refusal letter.