

## **Proposed Admission Criteria (2021-2022) – Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School, Finchley**

The Governing Body of Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School is undertaking a formal consultation upon its pupil admission arrangements for 2021-2022. This consultation follows amendments to our existing School Admission Policies and our Supplementary Information Form (SIF).

The policies have been updated in several respects. In summary:

- The School's admissions policies have been amended to provide that the definition of "siblings" will include not only 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 who is living permanently at the same address as the child, but also to a brother or sister (including adoptive, half or step brothers and sisters and foster children) who has attended the School prior to the date of admission and is living permanently at the same address as the child.
- The School's admissions policies have been amended to include any Priority Children who attended at least 18 Shabbat morning services at any orthodox synagogue located within a 3-mile radius of the School's main entrance address, which on the date of the publication of the admissions policies is Kinloss Gardens, London, N3 3DU (with distance measured in a straight line between the address point for the synagogue).
- The School's admissions policies have been amended to provide that, if in any category there are more applicants than there are available places, admissions will be determined on the basis of a random ballot involving the applicants in that category rather than distance from the School's main entrance address (above). Random allocation ballots will be supervised by a person independent of the School.
- The School's admissions policies have been amended to provide that, if a place becomes available on the School's waiting list and there are more applicants than there are available places in the first priority category on the waiting list, admissions will be determined on the basis of a random ballot involving the applicants on the waiting list in that category
- The School's admissions policies have been amended to provide that the Governors will have the discretion to refuse a place or withdraw a place where it is determined that the place was offered on the basis of materially inaccurate or misleading information, not just fraudulent or misleading information.
- The School's SIF section 1 has been amended to provide 2 points for attendance on at least 18 Shabbat morning services at any orthodox synagogue located within a 3-mile radius of the School's main entrance, which on the date of the publication of these admissions policies is Kinloss Gardens, London, N3 3DU.
- The School's SIF section 2 has been amended to specify that 1 point will only be awarded for Jewish educational activities only if they are formal and Torah-based.
- The School's SIF section 3 has been amended to specify that 1 point will not be awarded for individual shifts on a synagogue security rota, but specifies that 1 point will be awarded for team leaders on security rotas or for persons who have completed the CST security training for team leaders.

The consultation will run until 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. Any responses or comments on the proposed policy should be emailed to [admissions@morashajps.org.uk](mailto:admissions@morashajps.org.uk)

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Nicolaides', written in a cursive style.

Mark Nicolaides  
Chair of Governors



*Subject to consultation*

## **Admission arrangements**

**2021–2022**

This is the admissions policy and procedure for entry into Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School (the “School”). The School was established with the assistance of Finchley United Synagogue (“Kinloss”) which is located at Kinloss Gardens, London, N3 3DU.

The School’s ethos reflects orthodox Jewish belief and practice, embodied in the principles of Torah and Halachah, in a modern setting. These include encouraging and preparing for lifelong Jewish learning, spiritual growth and practice, mutual responsibility within the Jewish community and the wider world, and the importance of Israel in Jewish life. Jewish belief and practice permeate every aspect of the School’s activities.

Priority for admission is given to those who are able to demonstrate commitment to the principles of Torah and Halachah as verified by way of a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) to be completed by the family, and by an officer or Rabbi of the Synagogue at which the family are attendees.

The decision as to whether or not an applicant qualifies for priority consideration will be based on the information provided by the applicant family and the third party signatories on the SIF. In this policy, those who qualify for such priority are referred to as ‘Priority Children’ and, in the event of any dispute as to whether a child is a priority child, the ruling of the Admissions Committee of the School will be final.

### **Admissions**

1. The School has a published admission number of 30 children each year. If only one place is available at the School and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of multiple birth siblings, the School will go over the published admission number to support the family. If there are fewer applicants than places available all applicants will be admitted.

2. In the event that the School is oversubscribed, priority will be given as follows:

- a. Looked After Priority Children and Previously Looked After Priority Children.

A Looked After child is a child who is (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 (see the definition in s22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. Previously Looked After Children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order.

- b. Priority Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a genuine medical or social need to go to this School. Parents applying under this criterion will need to provide appropriate supporting evidence (i.e. a letter from a specialist doctor, a general practitioner, or a social worker). A panel for this will meet once the deadline for applications has closed.
- c. Priority Children with siblings who are at the School. For these purposes, “siblings” means a brother or sister (including adoptive, half or step brothers and sisters and foster children) either who has attended the School prior to the date of admission or who will be attending the School at the date of admission and is living permanently at the same address as the child.
- d. Up to two places for Priority Children whose parent/carer is a member of staff employed by the School to work at the School who either:
  - (i) are, or were within one year before the date of application, recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage; or
  - (ii) have been employed by the School for a continuous period of at least two years and who, in the two years immediately before the date of application, have worked full-time or not less than 0.6 full-time equivalent.

Provided that:

- (A) If more than two Priority Children are eligible under this category in any one year, only one place shall be awarded to a Priority Child falling within sub-category (i) above, unless there are no Priority Children falling within sub-category (ii) above.
- (B) If more than one Priority Child falls within sub-category (i) above, precedence shall be given to the Priority Child of the teacher who is filling the more senior post and, if the posts being filled are of equal seniority, a random ballot shall be held to select which Priority Child is awarded the place.
- (C) If more than one Priority Child falls within sub-category (ii) above, precedence shall be given on the basis of the length of continuous employment of their parent at the School, so that the Priority Child of the member of staff employed for the longest period of time takes priority. If two members of staff have been employed by the School for the same period of time, a random ballot shall be held to select which Priority Child is awarded the place.

For the avoidance of doubt, any random ballot held in accordance with this admissions policy must be supervised by a person who is independent of the School.

- e. Priority Children whose parent/carer has attended at least 18 Shabbat (Saturday) services between 19 June 2021 and 1 January 2022 at an orthodox synagogue located within a 3-

mile radius of Kinloss Gardens, London, N3 3DU, which on the date of these admissions policies is the School's main entrance. Distance will be measured in a straight line between the address point for the synagogue and Kinloss Gardens, London, N3 3DU.

- f. Priority Children whose parent/carer has attended at least 18 Shabbat (Saturday) services between 19 June 2020 and 1 January 2021 at any orthodox synagogue.
- g. Other Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.
- h. Other children whose parent/carer is a member of staff employed by the School to work at the School who either:
  - (i) are, or were within one year before the date of application, recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage; or
  - (ii) have been employed by the School for a continuous period of at least two years and who, in the two years immediately before the date of application, have worked full-time or not less than 0.6 full-time equivalent.
- i. Any other children.

3. If in any category there are more applicants than there are available places, admissions will be determined on the basis of a random ballot involving the applicants in that category. Random ballots will be supervised by a person independent of the School.

4. Verification of attendance at an orthodox synagogue should be obtained from a Rabbi or other official of that synagogue and be clearly marked on the SIF.

### **Admissions procedure**

1. All applications for places at the School must be submitted on the Common Application Form (CAF), which should be either submitted online or returned to the local authority where the child lives. If the applicant seeks consideration for priority admission, the applicant should also complete the SIF. The SIF must be sent to the School at the same time that the CAF is completed.

2. The closing date for all applications to the Reception class is in accordance with the National Closing Date, i.e. **15 January 2021** for primary school applications. Late applications will not be considered until after offers have been made to those who applied by the National Closing Date, i.e. **15 January 2021**.

3. Parents will be notified by the London Borough of Barnet or their own local authority in accordance with its Coordinated Admissions Scheme on or about the National Offer Day, 16 April 2021. Parents must indicate in writing within 10 days their intention to take up a place.

### **Special needs**

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs, or an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the School will be admitted. This is a separate process to the normal admissions procedure.

## **Waiting list**

When all available places have been filled, children not allocated places will be placed on a waiting list in groups ranked in categories in descending order according to the published admissions criteria. The waiting list will remain in operation from the day the original places are awarded and will be open until the end of the academic year. Those who wish to remain on the waiting list after this period should contact the School and ask to remain on the waiting list. Please note, a child's place can change on a waiting list due to subsequent applications received.

If a place becomes available and there are more applicants than there are available places in the first priority category on the waiting list, admissions will be determined on the basis of a random ballot involving the applicants on the waiting list in that category.

## **In-year applications**

Should places be available during the year, these will be considered in accordance with the above oversubscription criteria. Application for a school place outside the normal admissions round should be made to the London Borough of Barnet or their own local authority and also directly to the School. This form is available from the School Office or on the School's website ([www.sacksmorasha.org.uk](http://www.sacksmorasha.org.uk)) and must be returned to the School. The School reserves the right to ask for proof of address.

## **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

If parents wish for their child to be considered for admission to a year group which is outside their normal age group, then they must submit a request in writing to the School as early as possible outlining the reasons for their request and providing all supporting letters and/or documentary evidence in support of the application.

The School will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

This will include taking account of:

- the parent's views;
- any available information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the view of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely; and
- the views of the head teacher.

## **Deferral of entry**

Where a reception place has been offered to a child, that child is entitled to a full time place in the September following their fourth birthday. However, there is a legal right for parents to defer entry of their child to Reception class until later in the school year, but not beyond the child's fifth birthday when they reach compulsory school age. There is no legal right to defer entry beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made. Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age. It should be noted that taking up any of these options has educational implications in relation to the syllabus for the first year at school and parents are encouraged to discuss and agree in advance with the School the appropriate course of action for their children.

### **Incorrect or misleading applications**

If the information given in the application form is not accurate or up to date, your child may lose priority. In such a case, the Governors will have discretion to refuse the offer of a place. The Governors reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a place where it is found that the place was offered on the basis of fraudulent, intentionally misleading or materially inaccurate information given at any time during the application process.

### **Appeal procedure**

If a place is not offered, parents will be advised as to their right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel convened by the Governors of the School for this purpose and will be advised on the process for appeal.

### **Fair access protocol**

The Governors of the School acknowledge that the Admission Forum of the London Borough of Barnet may require the School to admit a child exceptionally, either outside the normal admission arrangements or in excess of the published admission number, in order to protect the interests of vulnerable children and those with challenging behaviour. The Governors of the School have been informed that these pupils will be shared between schools in ways that are fair, objective and transparent.



*Subject to consultation*

## Supplementary Information Form (SIF) 2021-2022

A completed copy of this form should be sent to the school no later than **15 January 2021**.

The purpose of this form is to allow Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School ("the School") to offer places fairly and accurately.

The questions are designed to assess whether applicants meet the requirements to be classed as 'priority children'. Those who meet the requirements will be given 'priority status', which means they will be offered a place ahead of those who do not have 'priority status'.

In order to be given 'priority status', applicants must attain **THREE** points in the questionnaire below. Having achieved three points, **there is no benefit to achieving more points** (i.e. four).

None of the information requested on the School's SIF is mandatory. However, failure to provide this information may mean that priority status cannot be established.

**Please remember that a COMMON APPLICATION FORM (CAF) must also be completed and submitted to your HOME BOROUGH. It must NOT be sent to the school, as this will delay your application.**

### PUPIL'S DETAILS

FIRST NAME:	SURNAME:	DATE OF BIRTH:
ADDRESS:		
Name of any siblings that have or are currently attending Sacks Morasha (if any):		

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill out **this form** and obtain third-party verifications as specified in each section.

Third-party verifications can be provided in the declaration within each section or as separate documents.

Email print-outs, showing sender's email address, will be accepted.

A score of THREE points is needed to obtain priority status.

## **SECTION 1: SHABBAT OBSERVANCE AND SYNAGOGUE ATTENDANCE**

Between 19 June 2020 and 1 January 2021 there are 29 Shabbatot. **To obtain two points, you or the child's other parent/guardian must have attended synagogue on Shabbat morning at least 18 times in this period.**

**To obtain one point, you or the child's other parent/guardian must have attended synagogue on Shabbat morning at least 14 times in this period. How many times have you attended? Please complete the section below.**

Dates of Shabbat attendance need to be verified by the Rabbi or authorised official of the synagogue attended, either by attaching a signed letter or by completing the declaration below.

Please tick one box only:

- Attended orthodox morning Shabbat services at least 18 times or more (2 points)
- Attended orthodox morning Shabbat services at least 12 times (1 point)
- Attended orthodox morning Shabbat services less than 12 times (0 points)

If you have attended 18 services or more, please tick one box only if applicable:

- The 18 Shabbat services** I attended were at an orthodox synagogue located within a 3-mile radius of Kinloss Gardens, London, N3 3DU, which on the date of the publication of this supplemental information form is the School's main entrance
- The 18 Shabbat services** I attended were at any other orthodox synagogue

Note: Families will not receive points for simply arriving on the premises. synagogues are empowered and are required to decline to record attendance on that basis.

**Note:** For late or in-year applications, the period for synagogue attendance will be the six months prior to the date of application. Arrangements for registering and recording attendance at Shabbat morning religious services should be made with your synagogue.

### **DECLARATION BY RABBI OR AUTHORISED OFFICIAL OF THE SYNAGOGUE**

Name of synagogue:	
Name of signatory:	Position of signatory:
Address of signatory:	
I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information in Section 1 is correct.	
Signed:	Dated:

**SECTION 2: JEWISH LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

Have you or the child's other parent/guardian participated in formal Torah-based Jewish educational activities (e.g. shiurim, family education, adult education including Jewish language, Jewish history and Jewish cultural learning) **at least two times in the six months** prior to application? This can be the same activity. Please note that Jewish educational activities do not include Shabbat morning rabbinic sermons.

- Yes (1 point)
- No (0 point)

If yes, please specify activities, venue and frequency:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Participation in Jewish learning must be verified by a teacher/course leader of the class/course attended, either by attaching a letter/email or by completing the declaration below.

**DECLARATION BY TEACHER/COURSE LEADER**

Name of course/shiur and/or institution	
Name of signatory:	Position of signatory:
Address of signatory:	
I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information in Section 2 is correct	
Signed:	Dated:

**DECLARATION BY TEACHER/COURSE LEADER 2 (if required)**

Name of course/shiur and/or institution	
Name of signatory:	Position of signatory:
Address of signatory:	
I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information in Section 2 is correct	
Signed:	Dated:

Notes: \*If you require more declaration forms these can be found on page 6.

**SECTION 3: VOLUNTEERING AND INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNAL LIFE**

Have you or the child’s other parent/guardian participated in unpaid voluntary activities in a communal, charitable or welfare capacity **at least 3 times** over the past 6 months? Please note that individual shifts on a synagogue security rota will qualify for volunteering and community involvement only for persons who have completed the CST security training for team leaders. (If the same voluntary activity was carried out more than once, this is still counted as multiple voluntary activities.)

- Yes (1 point)
- No (0 point)

If yes, please specify the organisation and give a brief description of the activity:

.....

.....

.....

**DECLARATION BY COMMUNAL/CONGREGATION/CHARITABLE/WELFARE ORGANISATION 1:**

Name of organisation:	
Name of signatory:	Position of signatory:
Address of signatory:	
I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information in Section 3 is correct	
Signed:	Dated:

**DECLARATION BY COMMUNAL/CONGREGATION/CHARITABLE/WELFARE ORGANISATION 2 (if required):**

Name of organisation:	
Name of signatory:	Position of signatory:
Address of signatory:	
I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information in Section 3 is correct	
Signed:	Dated:

Notes: \*If you require more declaration forms these can be found on page 6.

**SECTION 4: PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S DECLARATION**

**I confirm the above information is correct.**

Name of the person making the application: .....

Are you the child's mother/father/guardian?.....

Please indicate how we can contact you:

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Child's Hebrew Name (If Applicable): .....

Signature: .....

Date:.....

*In the event that it is discovered that a parent/guardian has submitted information above which is later found to be incorrect, this may result in the refusal of the School to offer a place to the child. If a place has already been offered on the basis of fraudulent, intentionally misleading or materially inaccurate information, the School may withdraw the offer.*

*For the avoidance of doubt, this form does not confirm that the child for whom this application is made is Jewish in accordance with orthodox Jewish law.*

**For school use only**

Date received:.....

Total number of points:.....

Child meets threshold: YES/NO

## SUPPLEMENTARY DECLARATION FORMS

Name of organisation/institution:	
Name of signatory:	Position of signatory:
Address of signatory:	
I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information in Section ____ is correct	
Signed:	Dated:

Name of organisation/institution:	
Name of signatory:	Position of signatory:
Address of signatory:	
I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information in Section ____ is correct	
Signed:	Dated:

Name of organisation/institution:	
Name of signatory:	Position of signatory:
Address of signatory:	
I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information in Section ____ is correct	
Signed:	Dated: