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# Darlinghurst Academy



## Admissions

2024-25

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# **Legra Academy Trust (LAT) for DARLINGHURST ACADEMY ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR SEPTEMBER 2024**

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**Published admission number: 60 (Yr R, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6) 90 (Yr 5)**

Darlinghurst Academy welcomes all applications. If at the closing date for applications, there are not enough places for all those who have expressed a preference to have their child admitted to the academy; places will be allocated using the admission criteria as below. This will not apply to children with statement of special educational needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans as the plan/statement names the school and therefore the child must be admitted to the named school. The admission criteria are listed below by school with explanatory notes following:

## **Admission Criteria for all year groups:**

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children;
2. Pupils who have a sibling attending the academy;
3. Pupils of staff at the academy;
4. Pupils who live in the catchment area served by the academy;
5. Pupils of the academy attending Darlinghurst Nursery in the term preceding the application deadline;
6. Remaining applications  
(for all criteria see explanatory notes below)

## **Admission Criteria Explanatory notes:**

**As required by law parents/carers must make a separate application for transfer from nursery to primary school.** Parents must complete a Southend-on-sea Borough Council Common Application Form (CAF) for applications to reception at the academy between 14<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> January. Pupils cannot be considered under the admission criteria unless an application has been submitted.

## **Looked after children and previously looked after children:**

Children who are in the care of local authorities as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. In relation to school admissions legislation a 'looked after child' is a child in public care at the time of application to the 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 order or special guardianship order).

Looked after and previously looked after children are given the highest priority for each relevant age group and in all ranking for all schools.

## **Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) and Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP):**

A Statement of Special Educational Need is a statement made by the local authority under Section 324 of the Education Act 1996, specifying the special educational provision required for that child. If the school is oversubscribed, the admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan where the school is named in the Statement or Plan, is mandatory.

**Siblings:**

A sibling is a child who will have an older brother or sister still at the academy at the time of admission. (A sibling of the same parents, will be considered to be a brother or sister whether living at the same address or not. Fostered and adopted children and step, or half brothers and sisters, living at the same address will all be classed as siblings.)

**Pupils of staff at the school :**

Children will be ranked in admission criteria 3, if they are children of staff at the school in either or both of the following circumstances:

- a) Where the member of teaching staff (including, staff that are at the school in positions, such as: Senior Leadership Team/level, Head Of Year Group, Head of Department, Office Manager or SENCO) has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made;  
and/or
- b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is demonstrable skill shortage

**Distance and Tie Break:**

In the case of over subscription in any one category "straight line" distance will be used to measure the distance between the pupil's home and the nearest pupil entrance to the school. Distances will be measured using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system for the main round and google maps for in-year admissions. The pupils living closest will be given priority. If the pupil's home is a flat the distance will be measured to the main external entrance to the building.

Tie-Break to be used to decide between two applications that cannot otherwise be separated:

If the same distance is shared by more than one pupil, and only one place is available, the place will be awarded on the basis of a computerised random allocation process (supervised by someone independent of the Council / governing body). In the case where the last child offered is a twin or sibling of a multiple birth sibling both children will be offered and the sibling will be an 'excepted pupil'.

**Distance where parents have separated**

The distance is measured the same for all applications. Only one application can be received. The Academy not the LA should not have the details of both parents or know of the marital status of the parents. If more than one application is received from parents, applications will be placed on hold until such time that:

- 'an application is made that both parents agree to; or
- 'written agreement is provided from both parents; or
- 'a court order is obtained confirming which parent's application takes precedence'

Details on address checks and which address is relevant are also provided in the admission booklet. In all cases the child's normal place of residence is applicable for the purposes of the application.

**Catchment areas:**

A look up postcode list is available on [www.southend.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.southend.gov.uk/admissions) and a map is provided below.

**Children attending the Darlington Nursery:**

Children will be ranked in admissions criteria 5 if they are on roll in the Darlington Nursery which is part of the school. In regard to the main round for reception children must be part of the Nursery before the application closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January of any given year. This is to enable the admission authority to rank applications accordingly. Children admitted to the nursery after 15<sup>th</sup> January will be ranked under these criteria after the national offer day (16<sup>th</sup> April).

**Waiting lists:**

Children's names will automatically be on the waiting list if they did not receive an offer until the last day of the school year for which they applied, therefore - for reception it will be up to the end of the school year for reception.

**Over and Under age applications (including children admitted outside normal age group)** Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, (usually during the school year and not at the point of admission), for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

All other applications for over or under age in-year will be handled in line with the School Admissions Code 2014, 2.17 (a & b).

Such requests for Schools in Southend-on-sea are directly to the school and the school advises the LA of their decision. Requests for year 3 and 6 must have been submitted by the parent and considered by the admission authority before the closing date for applications to year 7, i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> January for year 3 of any given year. Admission authorities must ask parents to submit a full request with any relevant documentation and should make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

This will include documenting the following:-

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

When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the academy will set out clearly the reasons for their decision. (2.17a School Admissions Code 2014).

In circumstances where a child transfers from another school already 'outside of normal age group', the Academy will support any over or under age application where the above has been met and the Academy is satisfied that the child should continue to be educated out of normal age group.

**Appeals**

Parents will also have the opportunity to appeal against the refusal. Parents can apply by submitting an appeal form which is available on the academy web site. Appeals for

reception are heard according to the published timetable and appeals for in-year admissions of 30 days.

### **In-year applications**

Application for admission during reception and for years 1-6 must be made using the application form on the website and submitted directly to the academy.

### **Admission Arrangements:**

Prospectuses are available from the academy. The application form used, relating to entry to the academy is the Single Application Form used across the Local Authority. Parents wishing for their child to be considered for entry to Darlington Academy must name the academy as one of their preferences on the form, which will be returned to the Local Authority by the advertised closing date.

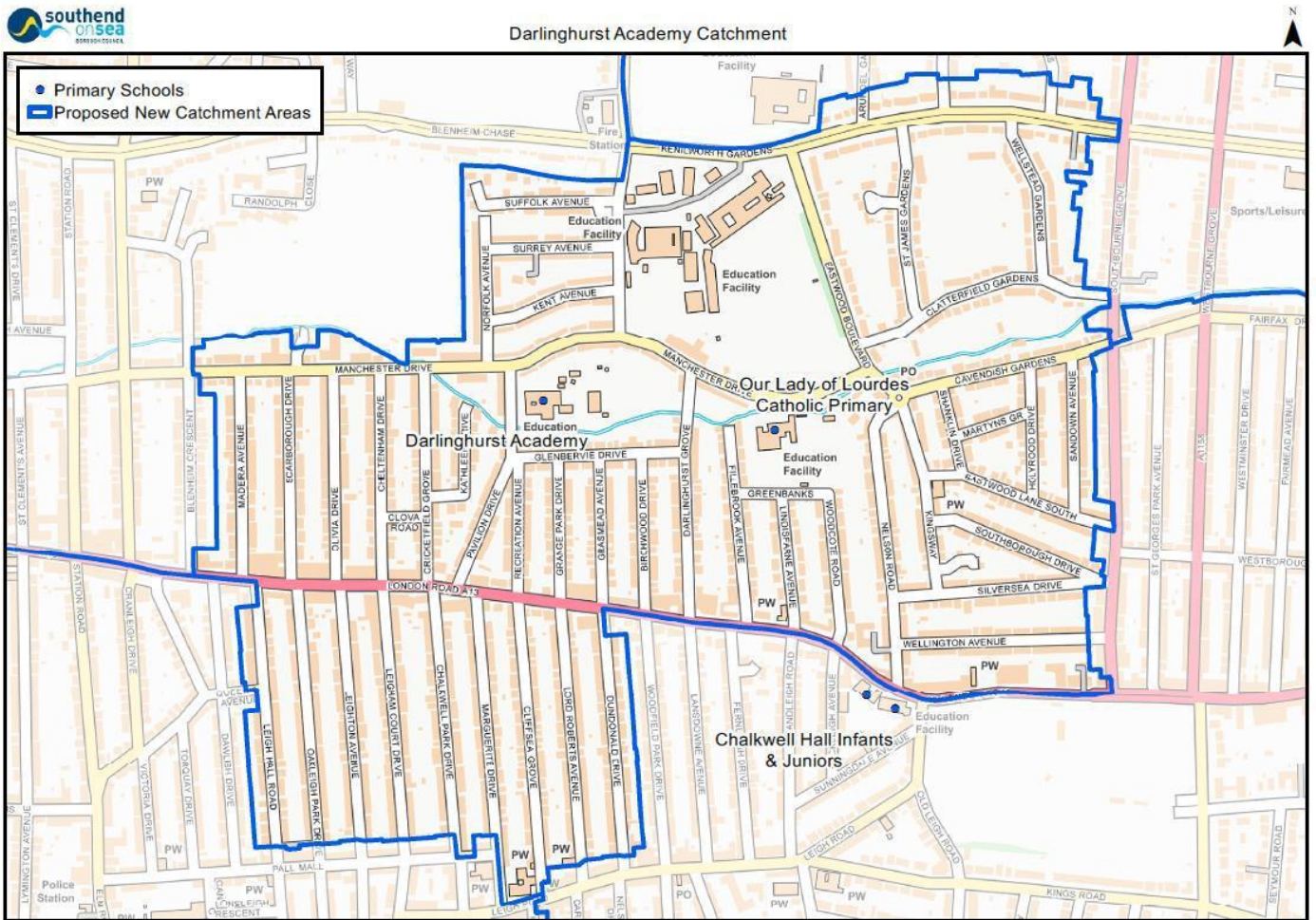
The Local Authority follows the process as detailed in the approved admission scheme, published on the Southend Borough Council website and will make offers of places on the National Offer day, 1 March 2022. Appeals are held in May and June. Information on admission to the Academy will also be available from the Borough of Southend annual publication to parents on Secondary School Admissions. Applications for admission to the academy other than for the beginning of Reception should be made directly to the academy using the application form available on the website.

### **Admission to the Nursery:**

The nursery has three intakes in the academic year; September, January and April. Pupils can be admitted after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday without reference to ability or aptitude. Any given session can have a maximum of 32 pupils in attendance. The oversubscription criteria for the nursery is the same as for the rest of the school.

Nursery admissions are made directly through the school. Please contact us on 01702 509205/ [admissions@darlingtonacademy.org.uk](mailto:admissions@darlingtonacademy.org.uk)

# Appendix 1: Catchment area map



A drill down map and postcode look up table is available on [www.southend.gov.uk/schoolconsultation](http://www.southend.gov.uk/schoolconsultation)