

# River Mill Primary School admission arrangements for 2019

## Introductory statement

River Mill Primary School is a new primary school based on the new Northern Gateway housing development in North Dartford. Our new school will offer our children exciting and inspirational opportunities through a curriculum that is built around excellence and enjoyment. Our curriculum will have clear themes linked to regular trips both local and beyond, outdoor learning opportunities and our in-depth focus on science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects, along with the most up to date technology, will inspire children to achieve their best. Our children will benefit from high quality sports coaches and the opportunity to learn a different instrument every year. Their learning will be further supported through an individual iPad approach and further technology based stations across the school that will support exposure to a range of languages.

## Admission number(s)

The school has an admission number of 30 for entry in year Reception, upto 15 for Year 1 and upto 15 for Year 2, in its first year of opening.

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year group are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

## Application process

The school will process applications outside the normal local authority process for co-ordinating school offers. This means you will need to complete your LA common application form for your other choices of school in addition to a separate application for this school.

Applications for this school should be sent to the Chief Executive Officer at the following address: River Mill Primary School, c/o Connect Schools Academy Trust, Towncourt Lane, Orpington, Kent BR5 1EL.

The closing date for applications is 14/01/2019

Offers will be made on 16/04/2019. If we have not entered into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State opening the school by that date, they will be conditional offers and will be confirmed once we have a signed funding agreement.

The application form can be obtained from [www.rivermillprimaryschool.com](http://www.rivermillprimaryschool.com)

## Oversubscription criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school, priority for

admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. 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 Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
2. Priority will next be given to children based on their exceptional medical or social needs or those of their parents. Each application must include evidence, from a medical specialist or social worker of the child's/parent's need and why they must attend this school rather than any other, based on those needs. If evidence is not submitted to the school with the application, a child's or parent's medical or social needs cannot be considered.
3. Priority will next be given to children living on the Northern Gateway development. (See Appendix A)
4. Priority will next be given to the siblings of pupils attending the school at the time the application is received. Within the first year of opening, sibling priority will only apply to in-year applications.
5. Priority will next be given to the children of staff who have been recruited to fill a skill-shortage area.
6. Other children

## **Tie-break**

If in categories 2-5 above a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission. Nearness of children's homes to school - we use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school.

Random allocation undertaken by the local authority will be used as a tie-break in categories 2-5 above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between a child's home and the academy/free school is equidistant in any two or more cases.'

Random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family tied for the final place. We will admit them all, as permitted by the infant class size rules and exceed our PAN.

## **Late applications**

All applications received by the school after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

## **Deferred entry for infants**

Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

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

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested. Parents should contact the Head Teacher in writing in the first instance.

When such a request is made, the academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

## **Waiting lists**

The school will operate a waiting list. Where the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the first term after the beginning of the school year. This will be maintained by the Academy Trust and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

## **Appeals**

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Appellants should contact the Chief Executive Officer at the following address: River Mill Primary School, c/o Connect Schools Academy Trust, Towncourt Lane, Orpington, Kent BR5 1EL by 15/05/2019 for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on our website at [www.rivermillprimaryschool.com](http://www.rivermillprimaryschool.com) .

## Notes:

Home address:

The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

Sibling:

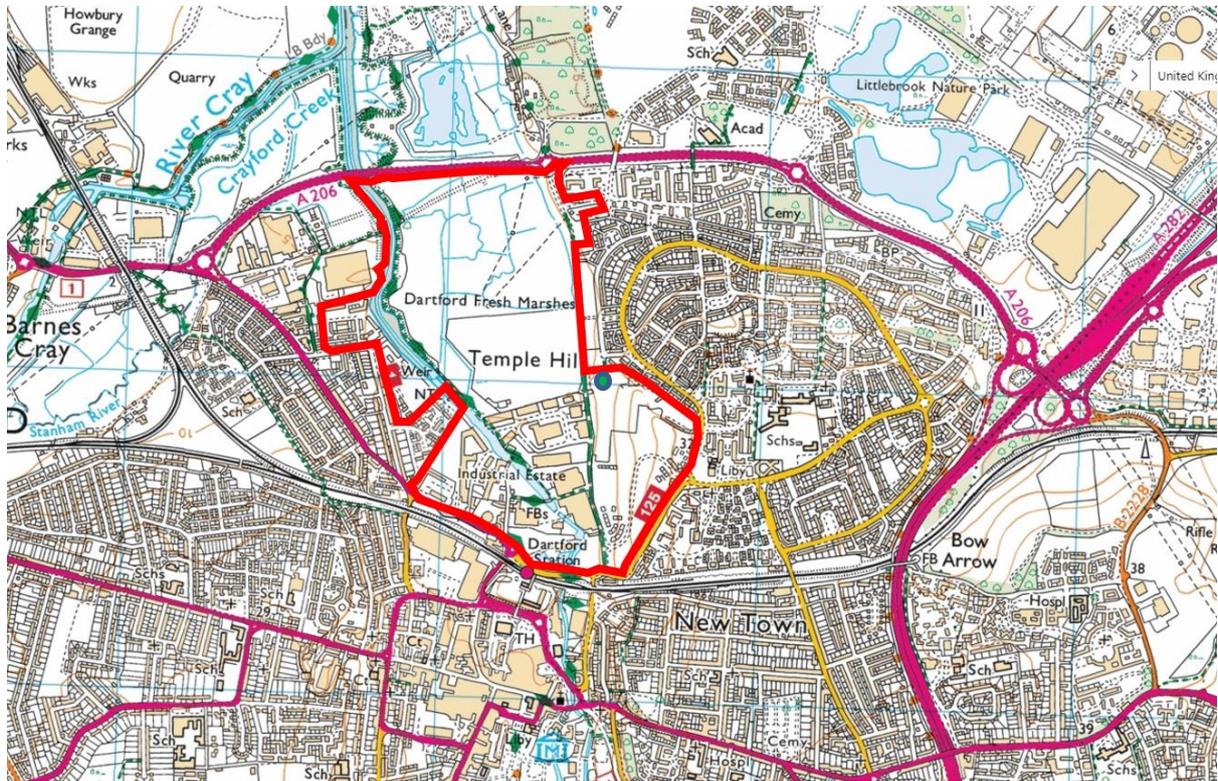
'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a step brother or sister or other child living in the same household as part of the same family who, in any of these cases, will be living at the same address at the date of their application for a place.

Medical and Social Need:

'Social need' does not include a parent's wish that a child attends the school because of a child's aptitude or ability or because their friends attend the school. 'Medical need' does not include mild medical conditions.

## Appendix A

The map below with the lined area shows the site of the Northern Gateway development. For the avoidance of doubt, the catchment area will be to the outside of the red boundary line.



● Proposed location of River Mill Primary School

□ Northern Gateway Development area