ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The Urswick School has an agreed admission number of 150 students. The Urswick School will accordingly admit 150 students in the relevant age group each year. Students will not be admitted outside of their chronological Year group.

All children applying for a place at The Urswick School will be required to take the Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT) arranged by Hackney Learning Trust. Children will be placed in one of four bands based on their CAT score. The boundaries of each band reflect the national range of abilities and are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>CAT score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band A</td>
<td>Above 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band B</td>
<td>101-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band C</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band D</td>
<td>Below 90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where possible, the same number of children will be admitted into each of the four bands to ensure a balanced intake that reflects the full ability range. Children with Education, Health and Care Plans or Statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) and looked after children who do not take the tests will be allocated an appropriate band on the basis of an alternative assessment (for example, KS2 Teacher Assessments in English and Maths).

Having received a band allocation on the basis of their CAT score, children will be awarded places within each band using the oversubscription criteria.

PROCEDURES WHERE THE URSWICK SCHOOL IS OVERSUBSCRIBED

Where the number of applicants for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of children with Education, Health and Care Plans or Statements of SEN where The Urswick School is named on the Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement, places will be allocated to applicants in the following priority order:

a. Looked after children and children who have been adopted (or made subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after;

b. Children subject to a Child Protection Plan;

c. Children who are the subject of an Education Supervision Order which names The Urswick School;

d. Children whom the Governors and Headteacher accept have an exceptional medical or social need for a place at The Urswick School. Applications will only be considered under this category if they are supported by a written statement from a medical consultant, senior social worker or other appropriate professional. In each case there must be clear connection between the child’s needs and The Urswick School, and an explanation of the difficulties which would be caused if the child were to attend another school;

e. Admission under a. to d. will be considered irrespective of any religious affiliation.

BALANCE OF FOUNDATION AND COMMUNITY PLACES

The Governors will designate 50% of the remaining annual intake as Foundation Places (Church), with the remainder classified as Community Places (Open). Vacant places in one category will be taken by oversubscription from the other. In the event that either or both of the categories of Foundation and Community places are oversubscribed, then the remaining places will be allocated using the oversubscribed criteria and procedures.

1 The School appreciates that, in certain exceptional circumstances, parents may seek a place for their child outside the normal age range. This may apply at secondary transfer (between Year 6 to Year 7) or at any other time of the year (In-Year Admission). In this instance, parents should read the guidance on ‘out of normal age admission’ in Hackney’s Secondary School booklet. The Governing Body will consider an exceptional individual case on its own merits.
FOUNDATION PLACES

1. Children who regularly attend\(^2\) a Church of England church;

2. Children who regularly attend other Christian churches or chapels, or other Christian denominations as defined by ‘Churches together in Britain and Ireland’ or members of the Evangelical Alliance or Afro-Caribbean Evangelical Alliance.

IN THE CASE OF OVERSUBSCRIPTION WITHIN FOUNDATION PLACES, PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO:

1. Children with siblings at the school at the time of admission or previously. A ‘sibling’ refers to a brother or sister, half-brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step-brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer’s partner.

2. Children living nearest to the main entrance of the school measured in a straight line. For the purpose of calculating distances, addresses will be identified using geographical references determined by the information provided by the borough council in which they live. In the case of more than one child having the same distance, a decision will be made by drawing lots.

COMMUNITY PLACES

1. Children who regularly attend\(^3\) other World Faith organisations.

2. Children with siblings at the school at the time of admissions. A ‘sibling’ refers to a brother or sister, half-brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step-brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer’s partner. In every case the child should be living in the same family unit, at the same address;

3. Children living nearest to the main entrance of the school measure in a straight line. For the purpose of calculating distances, addresses will be identified using geographical references determined by the information provided by the borough council in which they live. In the event of parental responsibility for a child being equally shared between separated parents living at different addresses, the home address will be considered to be that of the parent/carer who receives the relevant Child Benefit Allowance. In the case of more than one child having the same distance a decision will be made by drawing lots.

IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

Applications for In-Year admissions are made in the same way as those made during the normal admissions round. If a place is available and there is no waiting list then the Governors will communicate their offer of a place to the family. If more applications are received than there are places available, then applications will be ranked by the Governing Body in accordance with the oversubscription criteria without reference to banding.

If a place cannot be offered at this time, then you may ask for the reasons and you will be informed of your right of appeal. You will be offered the opportunity of being placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained by the Governing Body in the order of the oversubscription criteria (as detailed above) and not in the order in which the applications are received. Names are removed from the list at the end of each academic year. When a place becomes available, the Governing Body will decide who is at the top of the list so that the parent/carer can be informed that the School is making an offer.

\(^2\) ‘Regular attendance’ at church will mean attendance for at least a year, at least once per month. This must be ratified using the Supplementary Information Form signed by a vicar, minister, pastor or religious leader. The only exception will be those families who have moved into the area within the previous year and can provide a signature from a vicar, minister, pastor or religious leader to confirm that they attended a church regularly in their previous place of residence.

\(^3\) ‘Regular attendance’ will mean attendance for at least a year, at least once per month. This must be ratified using the Supplementary Information Form signed by a religious leader. The only exception will be those families who have moved into the area within the previous year and can provide a signature from a religious leader to confirm that they attended a place of worship regularly in their previous place of residence.