



Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School

Admissions Policy 2026–2027

This is the admissions policy and procedure for entry into Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School (the “School”). 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 can demonstrate commitment to the principles of Torah and Halachah as verified by way of a Certificate of Religious Practice (CRP) to be completed by the family/legal guardian, and by an officer or Rabbi of the Orthodox 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 CRP. 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 into Reception

- a. The School has a published admission number of 30 children each reception 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 normal admission number to support the family. If there are fewer applicants than places available all applicants will be admitted

Admissions procedure

- a. All applications for places at the School must be submitted on the Common Application Form (CAF), via the Barnet Parent Portal (eAdmissions). This should be submitted online.
- b. If the applicant seeks consideration for priority admission, the parent or guardian should also complete the SIF/CRP (1 combined form). This form must be sent to the School office at the same time that the CAF is completed. It is available on the School website and can be emailed or sent in hard copy. These children will then be allocated as priority during the admissions process.
- c. The closing date for all applications to the Reception class is in accordance with the National Closing Date, i.e. **15 January 2026** 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 2026**.

- d. Both the common application form and the SIF / CRP must be returned by the above deadline to be considered.
- e. Parents or guardians 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 2026**. Parents must indicate in writing within 10 days their intention to take up a place.

Oversubscription Criteria

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

1. 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 as well as those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care because of being adopted

2. 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.

3. Priority Children with siblings who are at the School.

For these purposes, "siblings" means a brother or sister (including adoptive, half or stepbrothers 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. These families will be expected to collect 2 CRP points in order to be classed as priority for admissions purposes.

4. 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Staff members have gained **2 CRP points**, gained by attendance at any Orthodox Synagogue.

5. Priority Children whose parent/carer has acquired **3 CRP points**, gained by attendance at any Orthodox Synagogue **within 3 miles** of Finchley United Synagogue plus Jewish Education (adult or via child's nursery) and / or Volunteering.

These CRP points must include attendance on at least 8 Friday night **or** Shabbat Morning (Saturday) services between 30th May 2025 and 10th January 2026 at an orthodox synagogue (or a synagogue recognised as orthodox by the Office of the Chief Rabbi). Points will have been collected at a synagogue located **within a 3-mile** radius of Finchley Synagogue, Kinloss Gardens, London, N3 3DU. Distance will be measured in a straight line between the address of where the synagogue points were collected from and Finchley Synagogue.

Please note parents cannot gain the priority 3 points from synagogue attendance alone. The remaining points can be obtained by Jewish Education (adult or via child's nursery) and / or Volunteering. More information about collecting additional points can be found on the School's supplementary information form.

6. Priority Children whose parent/carer has acquired **3 CRP points** gained by attendance at any orthodox synagogue **outside the 3-mile** radius from Finchley United Synagogue, plus Jewish Education (adult or via child's nursery) and / or Volunteering.

These CRP points must include attendance on at least 8 Friday night **or** Shabbat Morning (Saturday) services between 30th May 2025 and 10th January 2026 at an orthodox synagogue (or

a synagogue recognised as orthodox by the Office of the Chief Rabbi). Points will have been collected at a synagogue located **outside a 3-mile** radius of Finchley Synagogue, Kinloss Gardens, London, N3 3DU. Distance will be measured in a straight line between the address of the synagogue points were collected from and Finchley Synagogue.

Please note parents cannot gain the priority 3 points from synagogue attendance alone. The remaining points can be obtained by Jewish Education (adult or via child's nursery) and / or Volunteering. More information about collecting additional points can be found on the School's supplementary information form.

7. Priority Children whose parent/carer has obtained **2 CRP points**

These CRP points must include attendance on at least 8 Friday night or Shabbat (Saturday) services between 31st May 2025 and 10th January 2026 at any orthodox synagogue (or a synagogue recognised as orthodox by the Office of the Chief Rabbi), and / or by completing either Jewish learning (adult or via child's nursery) or volunteering in the prior 12 months.

8. Other Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.

9. Any other children.

Please note – home address is not used as a qualifying criteria for admission to Sacks Morasha JPS, nor is membership of a synagogue. Points are allocated based on CRP collection location and quantity of visits.

If in any of the above any categories 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. 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. They are also recorded.

Verification of attendance at an orthodox synagogue (as recognised by the Office of the Chief Rabbi) should be obtained from a Rabbi or other official of that synagogue and be clearly marked on the CRP section of the SIF.

Special needs

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

Waiting list

Once initial offers have been made for reception, the waiting list is adjusted to include late applications, in accordance with the Schools Admissions Code. A child's position on the waiting list will not depend upon when the application was made, or on parental preferences during the application process. All children will be grouped according to the categories above, ranked in descending order.

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. Applicants with continued interest need to re-apply via Barnet, in accordance with Barnet's in-year coordinated admissions process. 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 (non-Reception)

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. The CRP / SIF should also be returned to the School. As points will not be able to be collected a letter from a Rabbi will be sufficient in this case. The form is available from the School Office or on the School's website (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

There is a legal right for parents / guardians to:

- Defer entry of their child to Reception class until later in the year when they reach compulsory School age. (This is 31 December, 31 March or 31 August immediately following the child's 5th birthday or beyond the academic year for which admission is sought; or
- Request that their child attends School on a part-time basis until they reach compulsory School age; or
- Request, under paragraph 2.18 of the Schools Admissions Code that their child is admitted to a School year outside their normal age group. Parents should note that this is a right of request and not of guaranteed entry. Any decision of the School shall be based on the circumstances of each individual request, taking into account the relevant guidance and factors as provided by the Department of Education. The School will also take into account the views of the Head Teacher. Parents applying for a place outside their child's age group do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place but it is not in the year group they would like. However they may make a complaint under the School's complaints procedure.

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.

Should parents / guardians wish to defer their child's start date by a whole academic year to the next academic year, they will need the permission of the Local Authority of the area in which they live. This will be agreed in consultation with the Head Teacher. Please note in this circumstance, parents will be required to reapply one year later – a School place cannot be held for them.

The School does not currently cap the number of children that can be accepted with a deferral of one academic year. However, the right is reserved to review this should many children apply under these circumstances.

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.

The Right to Appeal

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. The closing date for appeals will be three weeks after offers first go out.

Fair access protocol

The Governors of the School acknowledge that 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 normal 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.

Policy reviewed – 1st October 2024

By – SMJPS Admissions Committee.

Date of next review – by September 2026