

fortismere

Admission Arrangements for entry in September 2017

1. Background

As a mixed, 11-18 Foundation School, Fortismere is its own Admission Authority. Applications for places should be made via the Local Authority in which you live, as described in their prospectus, as part of the pan-London co-ordinated admissions scheme. If you live in Haringey this should be done using the Haringey Local Authority's form. Fortismere school is heavily over-subscribed and determinations about the priority order in which places will be offered will be made by the Admission Authority according to the criteria outlined below.

Admission into Year 7

2. Published Admission Number

The admission number is 243. If there are 243 or fewer applications, all applicants will be offered a place.

3. Special Educational Needs

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the school will automatically be offered a place.

4. Over-subscription criteria

For all other applicants, where there are more applications than places available, priority will be given in the following order:

a) Looked after children/previously looked after children

Children who are looked after by a local authority or were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after, became subject to an adoption, residence, 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 in accordance with Section 22 Children Act 1989.

b) Exceptional medical or social need

Children who the Governors and Head accept have an exceptional medical or social need for a place at Fortismere. Applications will only be considered under this category if they are supported by a written statement from a doctor, social worker or other appropriate professional. Governors will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this category. The evidence provided must relate specifically to Fortismere and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the needs of the child.

c) Children with siblings

Children where, at the time of application, an older sibling is expected to be on roll (including in the Sixth Form) when a younger child starts at the school. This category includes foster brothers and sisters, half brothers and sisters and stepbrothers and sisters. In all of these cases the brother or sister must be living at the same address as the child for whom the application is being made.

d) Children of staff

Children of members of staff. A staff member is defined as a person who has a permanent contract of employment with the governing body of the school at the time of application and qualifies in the following circumstances (a) the member of staff has been employed by the school for two or more years at the time the application for admission to the school is made, or (b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. The child must be living at the same address as the staff member.

e) Children living closest to the school

Children living closest to the school as measured in a straight line from the front door of the home address where the child normally lives, to the school address point, which is the Reception in South Wing.

This criterion will also be used as a **tie-breaker** for all the over-subscription criteria a. to e

5. Notification of offer of places

Parents will be informed by Haringey Local Authority (or their home authority if they do not live in Haringey) which school they have been allocated on 1 March 2017. Parents are asked to confirm their acceptance of the offer, to Haringey (or their home local authority) by the deadline specified.

Once a place has been offered, parents will be asked to by the school to provide a current Child Benefit letter and a signed letter from a professional person, who is not a relative (e.g. a doctor, headteacher, solicitor) confirming that the address given on the application form is the address where the child normally lives. Fortismere will then write to parents confirming the place.

Parents and students will then be given more information about the induction process, including further visits to the school, in order to enable a smooth transfer to Fortismere.

The Governors reserve the right, within the terms of the School Admissions Code, to withdraw a place if it proves to have been fraudulently obtained.

6. Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants may appeal for a place at the school by writing and stating the reasons for the appeal. The letter should be addressed to The Admissions' Clerk, Fortismere School, Tetherdown, Muswell Hill, London, N10 1NE. Appeals will be heard by a panel which is independent of the Governors. Letters of appeal should be submitted by the deadline specified. If your appeal is received after the deadline, the school cannot guarantee that your case will be heard before the end of the Summer term, and may have to be carried over to the Autumn term.

7. Waiting list

In the case of a child being offered a school lower in their list of preferences the child's name will automatically be added to the waiting list for places.

The waiting list will be kept in the same order as the over-subscription criteria.

Waiting list positions can change at any time depending on other applicants' circumstances and it is important to note that a child's position may go down as well as up if other applicants join the waiting list. Being on the waiting list does not guarantee a place in the school.

8. In-Year Admissions

If you are applying for a place at any stage other than at secondary transfer, or are applying for your child to transfer from their current secondary school, you should contact Haringey Local Authority, who co-ordinate in-year admissions on behalf of Fortismere. Places will be offered in accordance with the over-subscription criteria set out in paragraph 4 above.

Evidence of a child's date of birth and home address will be required and a place will not be allocated on the basis that a change in address is expected.

9. Application date and late applications

The closing date for applications will be *31 October 2016*. Applications received after this date will be deemed late and will only be considered after all other applications that were received on time, unless there is written evidence of exceptional circumstances that prevented the application from being submitted on time. Haringey Local Authority will discuss any late applications with Fortismere Admission Authority. Parents should note that a late application will prejudice your child's chance of a place at Fortismere.

10. In-Year Fair Access Protocol

The Fair Access Protocol exists to ensure that access to education is secured quickly for children who have no school place. Fortismere will participate in any Local Authority scheme agreed by the Governors.

Admission into the Sixth Form

11. Admission to the sixth form

The admission number for the sixth form is 50. This is the minimum number of external students admitted into the sixth form. The actual number of places will depend on the number of existing Fortismere students continuing into the sixth form. Fortismere expects to be able to offer sixth form places to all students meeting the academic entry requirements. In the event of oversubscription, places will be allocated in accordance with the over-subscription criteria set out in paragraph 4 above.

12. Academic entry requirements

The minimum entry requirement for admission to Fortismere Sixth Form will be C grades in 5 different GCSE subjects, including English and Maths.

However, students wishing to follow an academic A level pathway must demonstrate appropriate ability through their GCSE grades as follows:

- A minimum of B grades in 5 different subjects
- A minimum of B grades in the subjects they wish to study or in related subjects
- A minimum of B grades in English and Maths
- Any specific subject requirements as stated in the subject entry in the sixth form prospectus

Students wishing to follow an applied A level pathway must demonstrate appropriate ability through their GCSE grades as follows:

- A minimum of C grades in 5 different subjects
- A minimum of C grades in English and Maths
- Any specific subject requirements as stated in the subject entry in the sixth form prospectus

The Director of Sixth Form will review and make decisions on particular courses followed for any borderline cases or special considerations for combinations of academic and applied subjects.

Experience has shown that students wishing to progress from Year 12 into Year 13, where the academic demands are at a much higher level, are most likely to succeed where they demonstrate a good work ethic and full commitment. They should have attained at least 3 D grades at AS level at the end of Year 12.

For students who have not achieved 3 Ds: borderline cases will be considered very carefully in the light of any special circumstances; some students will be invited to restart Year 12 where it is felt they did not fulfil their potential; others will receive guidance on more appropriate courses of study, including those at other institutions.

13. Appeals for sixth form

Students who are not offered a place in Year 12 may appeal against the decision as described in paragraph 6 above.

Agreed at a meeting of the governing body 4 February 2016