

NORTH SOMMERCOTES BIRKBECK SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ARTS COLLEGE

Birkbeck School and Community Arts College is a Foundation school, which means the governors are responsible for determining the school admission policy and, if the school is oversubscribed, making decisions on who is offered places. The published admission number for the school is 71 and the governors will apply the oversubscription criteria given below if the school is oversubscribed.

In accordance with the 1996 Education Act the allocation of school places for children with a statement of special educational needs will take place first. We will then allocate the remaining places in accordance with this policy.

For entry into year 7 in September we will allocate places to parents who return an application before we consider any parent who has not returned one.

The oversubscription criteria are listed in order. Words marked with a number, for example 1, 2 and 3 are explained separately in the definition and notes section.

Oversubscription criteria

- A. The child is in the care of the local authority. (1)
- B. There is a brother or sister (2) at the school who will still be attending when the child is due to start.
- D. The distance from the home to the school. Priority will be given to the child living nearest the school, as defined in note (3).

Definitions and notes

1. A child in the care of the local authority is provided with accommodation by them in accordance with section 22 of the Children's Act 1989 at the time of application.

2. Brother or sister.

- A full brother or sister, whether or not resident in the same household.
- Another child normally living for the majority of term time in the same household, where an adult in the household has parental responsibility as defined by the Children Act 1989. Or any child in the household where an adult in the household is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996.
- In the case of twins, or brothers and sisters in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the school, both will be considered together as one application. The school will be allowed to go above its admission number by one

3. The nearest address to the school is found by measuring the distance from your address to the school by driving distance along public highways. We measure electronically along public highways using the post office address point of the home to the post office address point of the school.

By home we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of the school term time with a parent who has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act 1989. Or any child in the household where an adult in the household is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996. This could include a person who is not a parent but who has responsibility for her or him.

It could include a child's guardians but will not usually include other relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles etc unless they have all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority, which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and their property.

Where your child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address for the purposes of school admissions will be that of the parent who lives closest, as measured by driving distance, to the school in question.

If you have more than one home, we will take as the home address the address where you and your child normally live for the majority of the school term time.

5. If any of the oversubscription criteria have too many applicants then the tie-break will be by distance using the method in note 3.

6. For admission into year 7 the governors will keep a waiting list which we call a reserve list. This list is in the order of the oversubscription criteria. Names can move down the list if someone moves into the area and is higher placed on the oversubscription criteria. The list is kept by the Schools Admission Team until the end of August prior to admission. After this schools will keep the reserve list until the end of the autumn term and possibly longer, you should contact the school for information about the reserve list.

The school is not required to keep any lists for any other year groups. If you wish your child to join the school at other times you can ask if the governors keep a reserve list. If we do it will be kept in the order of the oversubscription criteria. The time you have been on the list is not taken into account.

7. Appeals

The procedures for appeals relating to admissions will be in accordance with all relevant legislation. They are independent and organised by the County Council Legal Services Section and entirely separate from the admission system. The decision of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.

You should send your appeal to the school by the end of March and your papers will be passed onto the Legal Services Section

8. Mid-year admissions

The governors will accept admissions into other year groups if there are places. If there are more applications than places then the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who should be offered the place. If there are no places then you will be told of the independent appeal system.

9. Fair Access

The government has stated that all Local Authorities must have a Fair Access agreement that allows hard to place children, for example those that have been permanently excluded, to be given a place before any oversubscription criteria are applied and before anyone is considered from the reserve list. Such children are shared out to make sure no one school has to take too many of these children.

10. Fraudulent applications

We will investigate any concerns we have about information given on your application form and may withdraw the offer of a College place if there is evidence of a fraudulent application.