



The Bridge Academy Admission Arrangements for 2024-2025



A Bridge to Your Future

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The Bridge Academy determined Admission Arrangements for 2024/2025

1. Admission Number(s)

- a. The Bridge Academy, Hackney has an agreed admission number of **180** students. The Academy Company will accordingly admit to the school at least 180 students in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received.
- b. In any specific year, the Academy Company may set a higher admission number than The Bridge Academy's agreed admission number for an applicable year group.
- c. If the Academy admits a total of 26 students in excess of its admission number in any 3-year period, it will determine a higher admission number.

2. Process of Application

- a. Arrangements for applications for places at The Bridge Academy will be made in accordance with Hackney Education's co-ordinated admission arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form provided and administered by the relevant local authority
- b. The Academy Company will use Hackney Education's timetable for applications to The Bridge Academy each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year). This will fit in with the timetable for the co-ordination of admission arrangements within Hackney as agreed by the, Admissions Forum, Hackney Education, local schools and Academies

The following is an example timetable for secondary co-ordination:

- By September - The Academy Company will publish on The Bridge Academy's website information about the arrangements for admission, including oversubscription criteria, for the following September (e.g. in September 2023 for admission in September 2024). This will include details of open evenings and other opportunities for prospective students and their parents to visit the school. The Academy Company will also provide information in relation to The Bridge Academy to Hackney Education for inclusion in the composite prospectus, as required.
- September/October - The Academy Company will provide opportunities for parents to visit The Bridge Academy.
- October – Common Application Form to be completed and returned to the student's home LA to administer.
- Hackney Education sends The Bridge Academy applications to the Academy Company.
- The Academy Company sends a list of students to be offered places at The Bridge Academy to Hackney Education.
- February - Hackney Education applies agreed scheme for own schools, informing other LAs of offers to be made to their residents.
- 1st March - offers are made to parents.

3. Closing Date for Applications

- a. The National closing date for applications is 31st October.
- b. The Academy will ensure its application processes enable parents to apply before these deadlines.

4. Consideration of Applications

All children applying to the Academy will be required to take CATs (Cognitive Ability Tests - including a verbal, non-verbal, spatial and quantitative reasoning test).

- a. Applicants will be placed in one of five bands, based on their performance across the four elements of the test
- b. As far as possible the same number of children will be admitted in each of the five bands
- c. Children admitted with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) will be included in the band allocations. If they are unable to take the tests their allocation to a band will be based on primary school teacher assessments
- d. Children admitted who are looked after, or previously looked after, are also included in the band allocations based on their last school's assessment, if they are not able to take the test
- e. Apart from students with EHCPs and looked after or previously looked after children, children who do not sit the test will be considered after those who sit the test.
- f. The Academy Company will consider all applications for places received by it. Where fewer than 180 applications are received, the Academy Company will offer places to all those who have applied.

5. Procedures where The Bridge Academy, Hackney is Oversubscribed

Where the number of applicants for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of students with statements of special educational needs to the appropriate bands where The Bridge Academy, Hackney is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- i. Looked after children, or previously looked after children including children in state care outside of England, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order
- ii. Children subject to a Child Protection plan
- iii. Children with a brother or sister on roll at the Academy in Years 7 to 13 at the time of the proposed admission. All children from multiple births will be offered a place if one meets the criteria for admission in any of the four bands

- iv. Children of staff who work at The Bridge Academy, Hackney full time with at least two years' continuous employment at The Bridge Academy, Hackney, or where the Academy reasonably considers a member of staff has been recruited for a position for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- v. *Up to 9 places will be offered to pupils in receipt of Free School Meals or eligible for Pupil Premium Funding with a proven aptitude in music. Aptitude will be assessed by an appropriate musical aptitude test.*
- vi. Children living nearest to the main entrance of the Academy as measured in a straight line using a GIS computerised measuring mapping system

Note 1

A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided by accommodation by the local authority in the exercise of their social services functions at the time of making an application to a school.

A previously looked after child is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement or special guardianship order).

Note 2

Siblings must live permanently at the same address as the child for whom the application is being made. This includes half brothers and sisters, step brothers and sisters and foster brother and sisters who live permanently as a family unit at the same address. This criterion does not apply to brothers and sisters in Year 13 of the Sixth Form at the time of the application.

Note 3

In applying 6 (vi) above, the address is identified by using the property geographical references as determined by the borough Council in which the child lives. In the case of a number of addresses in a block with the same geographical references or one of more applicants living the same distance, lots will be drawn to decide which applicant is offered a place

Note 4

In the event of parental responsibility for a student being equally shared, the home address will be considered to be that of the parent/guardian/carer who receives the relevant Child Benefit Allowance.

6. Operation of Waiting Lists

- a. Hackney Education is responsible for the reallocation of places that become available between the offer day of 1 March and 31 August of the admission year. This will be based on the Academy Company's ranking of students on the basis of the published oversubscription criteria. Thereafter, the Academy Company will maintain a waiting

list during the following admission year as part of the co-ordinated in-year admissions process and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on this list.

- b. A student's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in the paragraph above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to students on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

7. Arrangements for Admitting Students to Other Year Groups, including to Replace any Students who have Left The Bridge Academy

- a. From 2024/25 the Academy Company will pay due regard to Hackney Education's agreed coordinated in-year admission arrangements. This will not affect the Academy's right to determine which applicants have priority for admission.
- b. Subject to any provisions in Hackney Education's coordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the Academy Company must consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the student. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria will apply without reference to banding. Parents whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.

8. Admission out of Normal Age Range

Parents may request 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. Parents should note that in this situation, they have the responsibility for providing appropriate evidence to support their request.

If parents would like their child to be considered for admission to a year group which is outside their normal age group they must:

- a. Complete the Local Authority Common Application Form or the in-year admission form as appropriate.
- b. Attach a letter outlining the reasons for the request and all supporting letters/documented evidence in support of your application.

The Bridge Academy will make decisions based on each individual case and in the best interests of the child. Decision-making will consider:

- The parents' views
- Any information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- If relevant, any medical history and the views of medical professionals
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age range
- Any other evidence that the parents feel is relevant
- The views of the Principal

THE BRIDGE ACADEMY SIXTH FORM ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2024/2025

The Academy has capacity in its Sixth Form for 250 students across two year groups. It is anticipated that the majority of places in the Sixth Form will be taken up by students already on roll at The Bridge Academy.

All students must meet the minimum entry requirements for their chosen route unless they can demonstrate exceptional evidence for further consideration (see Exceptions below).

After the admission of students with an Education Health and Care Plan where The Bridge Academy Sixth Form is named on the Statement, and where the Academy can best meet the needs of the student, criteria will be applied as follows:

In all cases eligible The Bridge Academy students will be allocated places in the Sixth Form before external applicants are considered. When there are more external applications than places available, applicants will be admitted in the following priority order:

1. Looked after children or previously looked after children
2. Students subject to a Child Protection Plan
3. Students offered one of five specially awarded music places
4. Students living nearest to the main entrance of the Academy as measured in a straight line on a map or using a GIS computerised mapping system.

Where a student lives with parents who live apart but who have shared responsibility the address where the student spends most of their time will be used. In the case of a student who spends an equal part of the week with each parent, the parents must elect one address for all preferences. For the purpose of calculating distances, the address is identified by using the property geographical references as determined by the borough Council in which the child lives. In the case of a number of addresses in a block with the same geographical references or one or more applicants living the same distance according to the geographical references, further steps will be taken to identify those that are nearest to the school.

The deadline for applications is the 31st January of the year of admission. Late applicants will only be admitted if a space remains in the Sixth Form. They should be aware that spaces may only be available on a limited number of courses.

Students, both internal and external, will be offered a meeting before deciding their options.

The governors will allocate places on oversubscribed courses, in priority order, to those students (both internal and external) with the highest point score through the appropriate entry route set out below. Students meeting the minimum academic entry requirements who we are not able to offer places on their chosen courses, will be offered alternatives where possible.

Entry in to Year 13 A Level courses is not automatic. This is assessed on the basis of the successful completion of Year 12 programmes of study. Students not offered entry to Year 13 A Level courses will be offered alternative courses.

Academic Entry Requirements:

There are two routes of entry to the Sixth Form at The Bridge Academy. Both internal and external students will be expected to meet these academic entry requirements as stated below:

- **Route one: A Level Route**

Applicants will have gained at least five Grade 5 qualifications. In addition, a minimum of Grade 6 must be achieved in their chosen A Level subjects or equivalent. Students will have gained a Grade 5 in English and/or Mathematics. Any student with less than a Grade 4 in English or Mathematics will be required to take the GCSE re-sit. It is up to the discretion of the Sixth Form to accept students with a Grade 3 or below in English or Mathematics.

Students wishing to study Mathematics at Level 3 must have a Grade 7 at GCSE and students wishing to study Physics are also required to study Mathematics at A Level.

- **Route 2: Vocational Route**

Applicants will have gained five or more GCSEs at Grade 4 or a minimum Pass in a relevant Level 2 vocational course. In addition, a minimum of Grade 6 must be achieved in their chosen A Level subjects or equivalent. Students will have gained a Grade 4 in English and/or Mathematics. Any student with less than a Grade 4 in English or Mathematics will be required to take the GCSE re-sit. It is up to the discretion of the Sixth Form to accept students with a Grade 3 or below in English or Mathematics.

Appeals:

In the event of a place not being offered at The Bridge Academy, the applicant has the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel.

Exceptions:

The Governing Body reserves the right to consider applications from students who have not met the precise conditions for entry but can demonstrate specific expertise in relevant subject areas. This consideration does not affect the right of any student to make an appeal as indicated above.