

# Starting Nursery in Tower Hamlets 2021

For children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018



Closing date for applications: 16 February 2021 • Apply online at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

# Applying for a nursery place – summary



From September 2020, parents wishing to make an in-year transfer application, or parents who wish to make an application who have not yet done so, must make an application direct to the Local Authority using the 'In-Year Nursery Admission 2020/21' application form which will be available to download from the Tower Hamlets website or available from Pupil Services. If your child turns three during the 2020/21 school year, you may apply for a nursery place for the term following their third birthday. Please contact Pupil Services on **020 7364 5006** or email [school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk) for more information.

# Foreword by the Corporate Director



**Dear parents and carers,**

Starting nursery is a big moment for both parents and children. We know that you want your child to have the best start in life and choosing the right place for your child can often be a difficult decision. This booklet is designed to help you make the right choice so that your child is happy and successful at school.

Inside you will find information about schools in Tower Hamlets, including addresses, phone numbers and maps showing exactly where they are. We have also tried to answer the most frequently asked questions.

It is a good idea to visit some schools and take the time to see the range of opportunities that are available before making up your mind. School staff are always pleased to meet new parents and carers. As long as you make an appointment first, they will be happy to show you around. All of our local schools produce brochures about themselves, so you may want to contact those you are most interested in to ask for a copy. For more information and advice, please call Pupil Services on 020 7364 5006. We have a number of multilingual as well as Bengali speaking admissions officers.

You should make your application online and, if you don't have your own computer, you can access the internet at any of the borough's Idea Stores.

The website address is [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions). Please see page 36 for more information.

More than 97% of Tower Hamlets maintained nursery and primary schools have now been judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and the borough has some of the fastest improving schools in the country. The latest nursery and primary school results show that very high standards are common in schools across the borough. This has meant a rise in the number of parents wanting to send their children to our schools and in turn there is a greater demand for school places in the borough.

Most schools in Tower Hamlets receive more applications than there are places available, so some children may not be offered a place at the preferred school(s). Please be aware of this when deciding which schools to apply to in order of preference.

We're proud that Tower Hamlets schools are inclusive and that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are educated well and thriving in our mainstream settings.

I am sure you have very high aspirations for your child and expect high levels of achievement as well as good behaviour and regular attendance.

The council and our schools look to work in partnership with parents and carers. Together we can ensure your child and all children in Tower Hamlets progress well and make the best of their time at school. You can be sure our teachers and other staff strive for nothing short of excellence and, working with you, we can achieve this for your child.

We look forward to your child attending one of our schools.

Yours sincerely,

**James Thomas**

Corporate Director, Children and Culture  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

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# 1

## Introduction

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**This booklet is for parents with a child born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 who wish to apply for a place in a nursery school or a nursery class attached to a primary school in Tower Hamlets for September 2021.**

Children will usually start nursery in the September following their third birthday. It is possible for eligible children to access a funded nursery place from the beginning of the term after their third birthday. Both part-time (15 hours per week) and full-time (30 hours per week) places are available at Tower Hamlets nurseries.

### Who is nursery education for?

Nursery Education is free for all three to four-year-olds. Your child is entitled to 15 hours free early years education per week and this is available from the term after their 3rd birthday. Eligible parents may also be entitled to an additional 15 hours per week. Some parents of two-year olds are also eligible for 15 hours free nursery but must meet certain government (income-based) criteria.

### The benefits of choosing nursery education

Attending a nursery school or a nursery class gives children a valuable introduction to school. They will have the opportunity to develop their skills and

to be part of a large group of children of their own age. We work in partnership with parents to give your child the best possible start to their education and prepare them for reception class.

Our nurseries are run by experienced, early years trained teachers and supported by nursery nurses and early years trained teaching assistants. All nursery education in Tower Hamlets nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools are rated good by Ofsted and many are rated outstanding.

The nursery day is arranged to allow each child to develop at their own pace. Nursery classes are usually organised in the same way as a school, with three terms. A typical day in nursery consists of two sessions: a morning session from approximately 9am to 12pm and an afternoon session from approximately

12:30pm to 3:30pm. Some settings offer wrap-around-care which means children can attend breakfast club (e.g. from 8am) and after school care (e.g. until 5:30pm).

For more information on how a typical day in nursery is arranged you can contact your local nursery. You can also learn more about the early years foundation stage from [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/earlyyears](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/earlyyears) or the Department for Education (DfE) website ([www.gov.uk/dfe](http://www.gov.uk/dfe)).

Nurseries welcome visits from parents as we want you to feel confident that you pick the right setting for your child. It is well worth visiting a few nursery settings before making your application.

# Introduction

## Nursery provision in Tower Hamlets

### Nursery schools and schools with nursery classes

There are six nursery schools in Tower Hamlets:

- Alice Model Nursery School
- Children's House Nursery School
- Columbia Market Nursery School
- Harry Roberts Nursery School
- Old Church Nursery School
- Rachel Keeling Nursery School

More information about these nursery schools can be found on page 22.

### Primary Schools with nursery classes

There are 61 maintained primary schools which have an attached nursery class in Tower Hamlets.

A full list of these nursery schools and classes, along with more information about them, can be found on page 22.

## Other pre-school provisions

Private, voluntary and independent nurseries, preschools and play groups also offer pre-school provision. A list of these providers is available from the Family Information Service on [020 7364 6495](tel:02073646495).

## Nursery class sessions

Nursery classes are part-time for 15 hours or full-time for 30 hours each week during school term.

Usually children attend either a morning or afternoon session of three hours, or a full day. Where a school offers both morning and afternoon sessions, the school will allocate the sessions. Sessions may be allocated in consultation with parents. No guarantee is made of the session time when a place is offered. Children from multiple births will be offered the same session



## Part-time and full-time funding

All parents are entitled to 15 hours per week of free early years education for 38 weeks each year from the start of the school term after their child's third birthday until the child reaches compulsory school age i.e. the term after their fifth birthday.

An additional free 15 hours will only be available for families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working).

Typically, each parent must earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum or living wage and less than £100,000 a year to be eligible.

For more information on eligibility go to: [www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds](http://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds).

**Only part-time places will be offered as part of this coordinated scheme. Once your child has been offered a part-time place, you may request a full-time place from your nursery. Full-time places will be subject to availability and will depend on the eligibility criteria outlined in the previous paragraph.**

Parents not eligible for the additional free 15 hours may still access a full time place by paying a top-up fee. This fee will be set by each nursery. Please contact your local nursery for further information.

## Early learning for two-year olds

Some children may be eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare from the term after their second birthday. Unlike the nursery education for three and four year olds which is open to all, the early learning for two- year-olds is only available to children and families that meet certain criteria.

Children love to play and learn, and Tower Hamlets has some excellent nurseries, pre-school playgroups and childminders where they can do just that.

Your child could take up their place in the term after they turn two, with 15 hours a week of free care, if you are on a low income, if your child has additional needs or if your child is looked after by the council. If you have an older child at school and they receive free school meals, your younger children will probably be eligible for a free two-year-old place too.

**Your child will be eligible if any of the following apply:**

- they have a current Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they have left care through special guardianship or an adoption or child arrangement order
- they are looked after by the local authority

Families who have no recourse to public funds are not eligible for a funded Early Learning for Two Year Olds.

You can check whether your child is eligible by going to:

[www.myearlylearning.co.uk](http://www.myearlylearning.co.uk)

Alternatively, you can go to your nearest children's centre, and they will be able to do the check. For more information on children's centres please see page 26.

You can also call the Family Information Service on **020 7364 6495** to check your eligibility. The Family Information Service will also be able to discuss with you what childcare is available and what best suits you and your child.

# 2

## Applying for a nursery place

### Start dates

Children will usually start nursery school or a nursery class in the September following their third birthday. However, it is possible for eligible children to access a funded place from the beginning of the term after their third birthday.

### How to apply

If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 and you would like a nursery place for September 2021, you must submit an online application by 16 February 2021. You should apply online at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk).

Please see page 36 for instructions on how to make an online application.

When you have completed and submitted your application you will receive an instant email confirmation. You can then make changes to your application up until the 16 February 2021 closing date.

If you are not able to make an online application, you should contact Pupil Services on 020 7364 5006.

**If you wish to apply to a private nursery or a nursery in another local borough, you must contact the nursery directly.**

To find out how to apply for a nursery place for other than a September start i.e. January or April, please refer to page 12. Alternatively, you can contact Pupil Services on 020 7364 5006 or email [school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk).

### Completing an application

Parents must complete and submit an online application via the E-admissions website: [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk). You can apply for up to three Tower Hamlets nurseries.

If you would like a nursery place at a voluntary aided school, free school or academy, you must, – as well as completing an online application, – complete the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) if they have one.

Applications must be made by the child's parent or the person with parental responsibility. If you are not the parent of the child on the application form, you must include evidence of parental responsibility i.e. a Court Order, a solicitor's letter, or a letter from the parent named on the child's birth certificate giving you permission to care for their child. If you are not a blood relative you must register with the local authority as a private foster carer. The pupil services team will refer applications to the local authority's social care team if it has concerns about whom a child is living with.

When submitting your online application, you are confirming the information you have given is accurate and complete, and that you understand if it is not, the local authority has the right to withhold or withdraw the offer of a place.

**For guidance on completing an online application, please see Appendix B.**

If you are unable to make an online application, please contact pupil services.

**You can contact Pupil Services on 020 7364 5006 or email [school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk)**



### Closing date

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 16 February 2021.**

All applications made during the application period are treated in the same way in accordance with the procedure described in the following sections. Applications are not processed on a first come first served basis.

It is very important not to apply late, because applications made after the closing date will be considered only after places have been allocated to children whose parents applied on time.

Nursery class places are in considerable demand and most schools will not have vacancies once all applications that have been received on time have been processed.

**You must  
submit an online  
application by  
16 February 2021**



# Applying for a nursery place

## How decisions are made

The pupil services team will process applications and coordinate the decisions for all those who apply.

Your application for each school is processed individually and, in each case, a decision is taken to determine whether or not your child can be offered a place.

If we find that we can place your child at more than one of your school preferences only one school will be allocated. This will be for the highest preference school at which an offer can be made.

The decisions on applications for Tower Hamlets community nurseries are made by the local authority. If a Tower Hamlets community nursery receives more applications than places available, the decision on whether or not a place can be offered will be made in accordance with the local authority's admission criteria set out in priority order as follows:

1. Children looked after by the local authority including adopted children who were previously looked after and children who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order;
2. Children for whom it is deemed there is strong educational, medical or social reason to attend the school applied to (**see note 1**);
3. Children living within the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school (including the school of separate infant and junior schools) and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (**see note 2**);
4. Children whose parent is a member of staff who has been employed at the school concerned for two or more years at the time of application and/or children of a member of staff who has been recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
5. Children who live within the catchment area of the school and for whom the school applied for is their nearest community school within the catchment area;
6. Other children from within the catchment area of the school;
7. Children living outside of the catchment area with a sibling at the school;
8. Children living outside of the catchment area of the school applied to.

### Tie-break

In the event of oversubscription within categories 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 above, priority will be given to children who live closest to the school by the shortest walking distance. A digitised Ordnance Survey map is used to measure the distance from the home address to the school's designated official entrance. In the event of two distances being the same, a decision will be made by random allocation.

### Notes

**Note 1:** This can include the parents', carers' or other family members' medical conditions and the family's social needs. Parents must complete the relevant section on the application form and attach medical and/or social reports from a suitable professional (e.g. a doctor or social worker) to support the application.

**Note 2:** Sibling means a whole, half or step-brother or step-sister resident at the same address.

## Admission arrangements for voluntary aided schools, academies and free schools

For voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies, it is the school's governors who will make decisions, based on the information you provided in your application and the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF). Admission policies and oversubscription criteria for these schools can be found on their websites or at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

The Paradigm Academies (Culloden, Old Ford and Solebay), St Paul's Way Foundation Trust School, The LETTA Trust Primary Schools (Bygrove Primary School and Stebon Primary School) and The Clara Grant Primary School (part of The Tower Trust) have delegated decisions on admissions to the local authority and, therefore, use the same oversubscription criteria as Tower Hamlets community schools.

## Notification of decisions

If your application was received on or before the closing date (16 February 2021), Pupil services will notify you of the outcome of your application by letter and email. The letter will be sent on **7 May 2021** and will name the nursery at which a place has been offered for your child. The email will be sent after 5pm on the same day. **This offer will be for a part-time place only.**

If you have not been offered a place at your chosen nurseries, you will be sent a list of nurseries that still have places remaining and given the opportunity to visit and apply to one of these nurseries. Your child will also be placed on the waiting list for your preferred nursery.

You must accept or decline the offer of a place by 21 May 2021 so that nursery places can then be re-allocated. If you do not reply by 21 May 2021, the offer will be withdrawn.

## Appeals

As nursery is non-statutory, parents do not have the right of appeal if they do not get their preferred nursery choice. However, parents may contact the Local authority for more information on the reason as to why their child was not offered a place.

## Waiting lists

All children will automatically be added to the waiting lists of higher preference nurseries than the one offered, unless parents ask to remove their child from a waiting list.

Waiting lists for Tower Hamlets community nurseries will be kept and maintained by pupil services in the order of priorities set out on page 10.

Waiting lists for Own Admission Authority nurseries i.e. voluntary aided schools, academies and free schools will be kept and maintained by the nursery itself.

# You must accept or decline the offer of a place by 21 May 2021

# Applying for a nursery place

## Post offer process

After 7 May 2021, unsuccessful applicants will automatically be added to the waiting list for their preferred nursery. At this stage consideration will be given to late applicants (i.e. those that applied after 16 February 2021) alongside those that were unsuccessful in the initial round of offers.

From 11 June 2021, pupil services will identify nursery places for any children that are unplaced and those that applied late.

From September 2021, parents wishing to make an in-year transfer application, or parents who wish to make an application who have not yet done so, must make an application direct to the local authority using the 'In-Year Nursery Admission 2021/22' application form which will be available to download from the Tower Hamlets website and available from pupil services.

Once children are in nursery, transfers to other nurseries (in-year transfers) will only take place at the start of each term (January and April), unless there are exceptional circumstances for a transfer to be considered earlier.

If your child turns three during the 2021/22 school year, you may apply for a nursery place for the term following their third birthday.

## Children with additional needs

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) then you must contact the local authority's Special Educational Needs (SEN) team to access a nursery place. You can contact the SEN team on 020 7364 4880.

If your child has additional/special educational needs or a disability but does not have an EHCP, you should apply for a nursery place through the usual route. You may also contact your local Children's Centre for advice on getting additional support.

Information on Children's Centres in Tower Hamlets can be found on page 26.

## Nursery readiness

It is expected that you will have trained your child to be toilet trained before they start in a nursery class. They should also be able to initiate requests and have to and fro conversations with others.

## Applying for a nursery place in 2020/21

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 and does not attend nursery, you can apply for a nursery place for the 2020/21 school year by making an application direct to the local authority using the 'In-Year Nursery Admission 2020/21' application form which is available to download from the Tower Hamlets website and available from Pupil Services.

Pupil Services will normally let parents know whether or not a place can be offered within ten school days of receiving an application for a child who does not have a nursery place.

If your child turns three during the 2020/21 school year, you may apply for a nursery place for the term following their third birthday i.e. January 2021 or April 2021.

Please contact pupil services for more information.

**You can contact Pupil Services on 020 7364 5006 or email [school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk) for more information**

## Transferring from one nursery to another (in-year nursery transfer)

You may want your child to transfer from one Tower Hamlets nursery to another. This can be arranged by pupil services, but you will first need to speak with the head teacher of your child's current nursery and complete the 'In-Year Nursery Admission 2020/21' application form which is available to download from the Tower Hamlets website and available from pupil services.

Once children are in nursery, transfers to other nurseries (in-year transfers) will only take place at the start of each term (i.e. January and April), unless there are exceptional circumstances for a transfer to be considered earlier.

It is not always possible for a child to transfer to another school if that school is already full or if there are more applicants than places available at the time you make your application. Your child will, therefore, be placed on the school's waiting list in line with the school's admission criteria.

The local authority will consider transfer requests in line with the timetable below:

Transfer point	Closing date	Parents sent outcome
Spring Term (January 2021 Start)	23 October 2020	27 November 2020
Summer Term (April 2021 Start)	12 February 2021	19 March 2021

For more information on submitting an in-year nursery application, please contact the Pupil Services team on 020 7364 5006.



## Admission to primary school

Whether or not your child is accepted for a nursery class place, you will need to apply separately for a place in the reception class of a primary school.

**There is no automatic right of transfer from the nursery class to the reception class in the same school, and attending a nursery class does not give any priority for admission to reception class at the same school.**

You can apply for a reception place at a different primary school to one where your child attends the nursery.

Children eligible for nursery in 2021/22 would normally start primary school in September 2022.

The application period for admission to reception class in 2022 will be from 1 September 2021 to 15 January 2022. A booklet with information about applying for a reception place will be available online at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions) from 1 September 2021.

## Applying for a nursery place

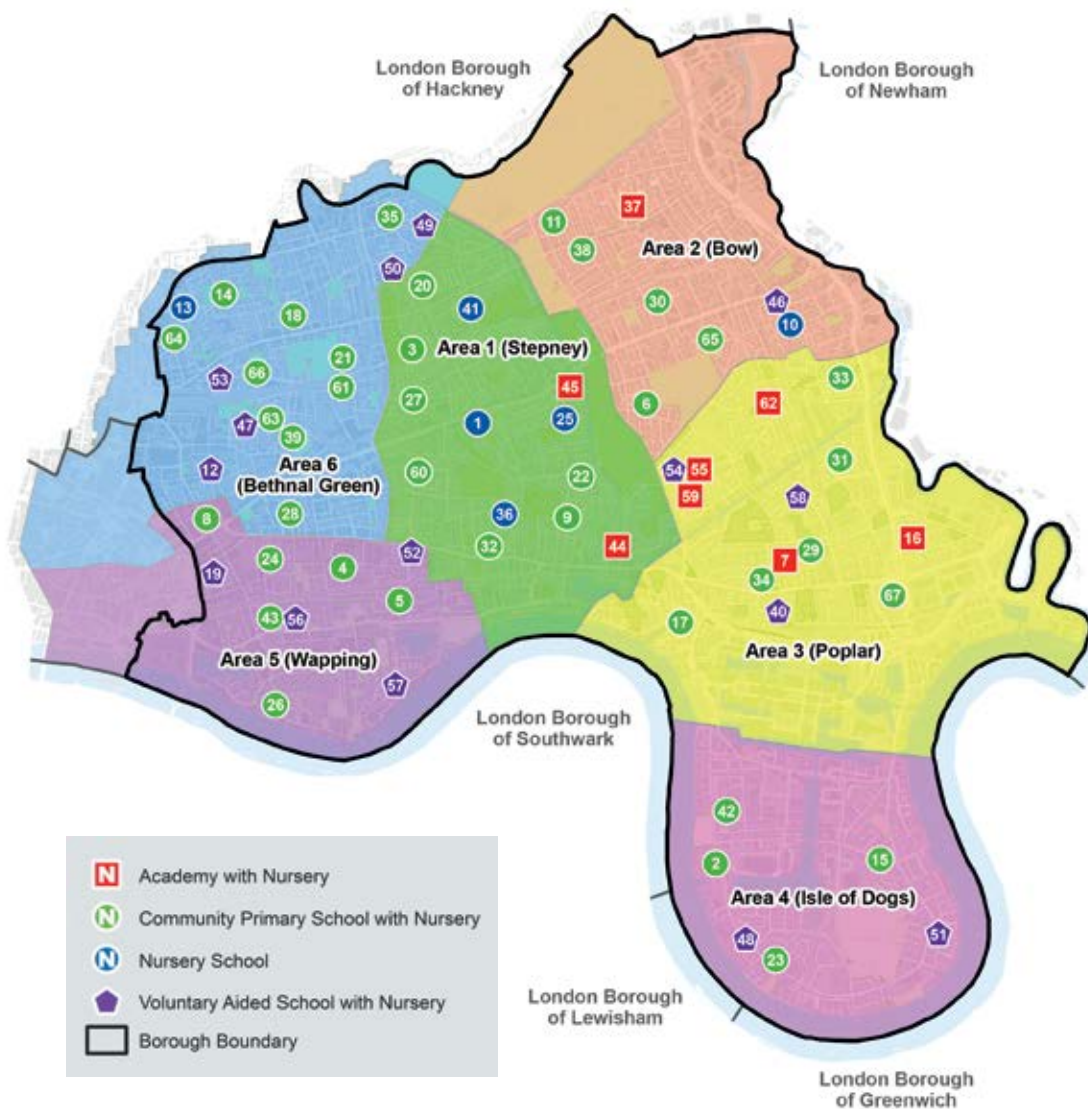
### Data protection

The information you provide on your application will be held by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Your information may be shared with relevant council departments, schools or other local education authorities for the purposes of admissions or fulfilling a statutory duty. We will pass the information to the school your child is offered a place at, where it will form part of the pupil database that the school keeps. Your information will be kept by the local authority for eight years after an offer of a place is made. You may withdraw your consent for the processing of your information, which will also mean the withdrawal of the nursery place that is offered, at any time by contacting the pupil services team within the local authority. You also have a right to complain, object to or access the information that is held and processed about you. Please see the council's website ([www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)) for further details on contacting the Complaints and Information team.



# 3

## Schools list and catchment area maps



- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Alice Model Nursery               | 35 Mowlem                         |
| 2 Arnhem Wharf                      | 36 Old Church                     |
| 3 Bangabandhu                       | 37 Old Ford                       |
| 4 Bigland Green                     | 38 Olga                           |
| 5 Blue Gate Fields Infants          | 39 Osmani                         |
| 6 Bonner (Mile End)                 | 40 Our Lady & St Joseph           |
| 7 Bygrove                           | 41 Rachel Keeling                 |
| 8 Canon Barnett                     | 42 Seven Mills                    |
| 9 Cayley                            | 43 Shapla                         |
| 10 Children's House                 | 44 Sir William Burrough           |
| 11 Chisenhale                       | 45 Solebay                        |
| 12 Christ Church CE                 | 46 St Agnes RC                    |
| 13 Columbia Market Nursery          | 47 St Anne's & Guardian Angels RC |
| 14 Columbia                         | 48 St Edmund's RC                 |
| 15 Cubitt Town Infants              | 49 St Elizabeth's RC              |
| 16 Culloden                         | 50 St John's CE                   |
| 17 Cyril Jackson                    | 51 St Luke's CE                   |
| 18 Elizabeth Selby & Lawdale Junior | 52 St Mary & St Michael RC        |
| 19 English Martyrs RC               | 53 St Matthias CE                 |
| 20 Globe                            | 54 St Paul's With St Luke's CE    |
| 21 Hague                            | 55 St Paul's Way Trust            |
| 22 Halley                           | 56 St Paul's Whitechapel CE       |
| 23 Harbinger                        | 57 St Peter's (London Docks) CE   |
| 24 Harry Gosling                    | 58 St Saviours CE                 |
| 25 Harry Roberts                    | 59 Stebon                         |
| 26 Hermitage                        | 60 Stepney Park                   |
| 27 John Scurr                       | 61 Stewart Headlam                |
| 28 Kobi Nazrul                      | 62 The Clara Grant                |
| 29 Lansbury Lawrence                | 63 Thomas Buxton                  |
| 30 Malmesbury                       | 64 Virginia                       |
| 31 Manorfield                       | 65 Wellington                     |
| 32 Marion Richardson                | 66 William Davis                  |
| 33 Marnar                           | 67 Woolmore                       |
| 34 Mayflower                        |                                   |

# School catchment area 1 (Stepney)

## Community nursery schools

- 1 Alice Model Nursery
- 25 Harry Roberts Nursery
- 36 Old Church Nursery
- 41 Rachel Keeling Nursery

## Community schools with nursery class

- 3 Bangabandhu
- 9 Cayley
- 20 Globe
- 22 Halley
- 27 John Scurr
- 32 Marion Richardson
- 60 Stepney Park

## Academy/Free schools with nursery class

- 44 Sir William Burrough
- 45 Solebay – a Paradigm Academy  
(uses same admissions policy as community schools)

## Area Covered

- South of Approach Road and Old Ford Road
- West of Regents Canal  
(up to the Railway Bridge on Grove Road)
- West of Grove Road and Burdett Road
- North of Limehouse Cut from Burdett Road to River Thames
- North of River Thames
- East of Brodlove Lane and Devonport Street
- East of Lukin Street
- North of Commercial Road  
(from Lukin Street to Sidney Street)
- East of Sidney Street and Cambridge Heath Road





### Community nursery schools

- 10 Children's House Nursery

### Community schools with nursery class

- 6 Bonner (Mile End)
- 11 Chisenhale
- 30 Malmesbury
- 38 Olga
- 65 Wellington

### Voluntary aided schools with nursery class

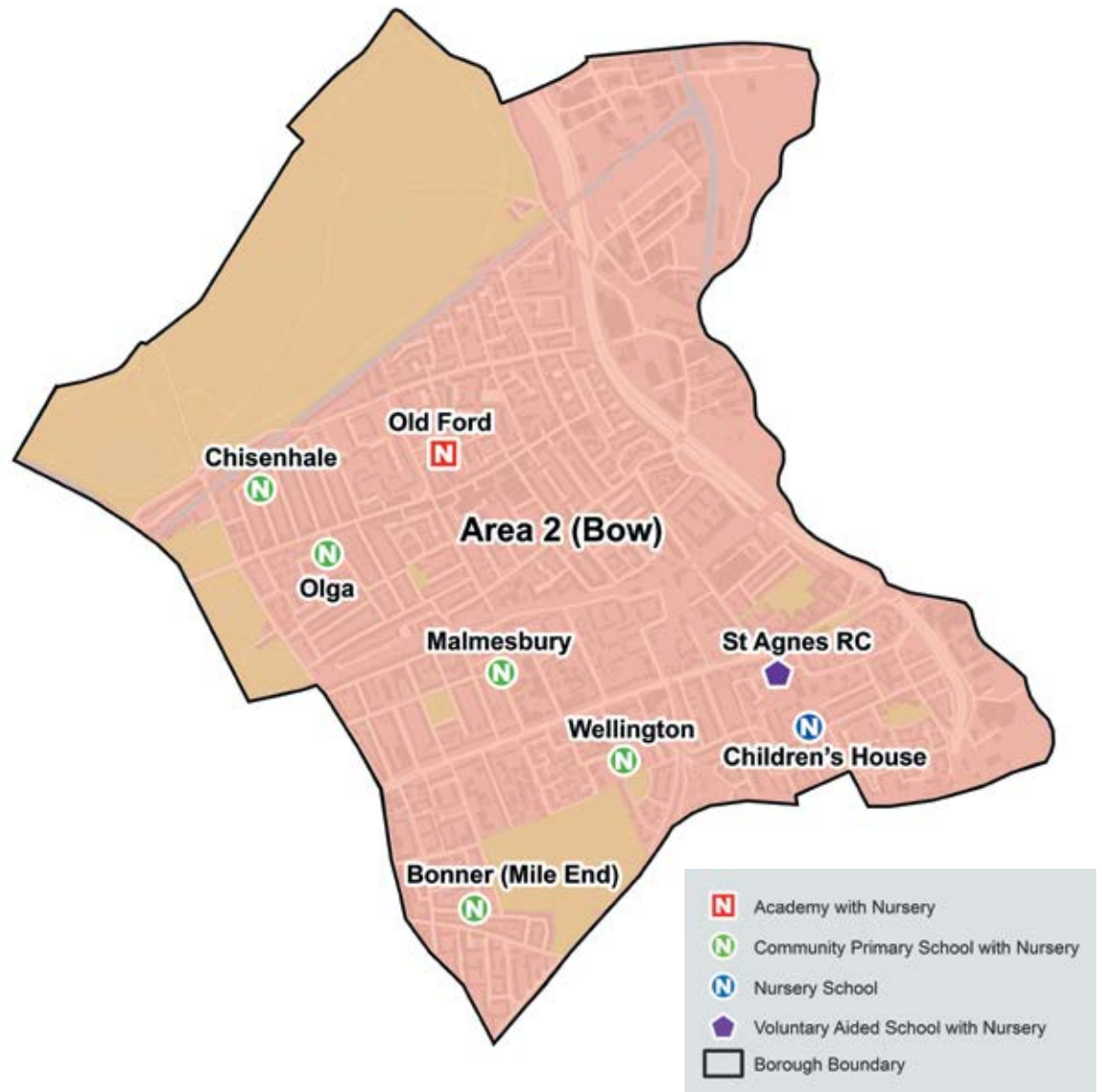
- 46 St Agnes RC

### Academy/Free schools with nursery class

- 37 Old Ford - a Paradigm Academy (uses same admissions policy as community schools)

### Area covered

- South of Approach Road and A106 Victoria Park Road
- South of Cadogan Terrace
- West of River Lea
- East of Regents Canal (from Railway Bridge on Grover Road) and Burdett Road
- North of the railway line connecting Limehouse and Bromley by Bow



## School catchment area 3 (Poplar)

### Community schools with nursery class

- 17 Cyril Jackson
- 29 Lansbury Lawrence
- 31 Manorfield
- 33 Marner
- 34 Mayflower
- 67 Woolmore

### Voluntary aided schools with nursery class

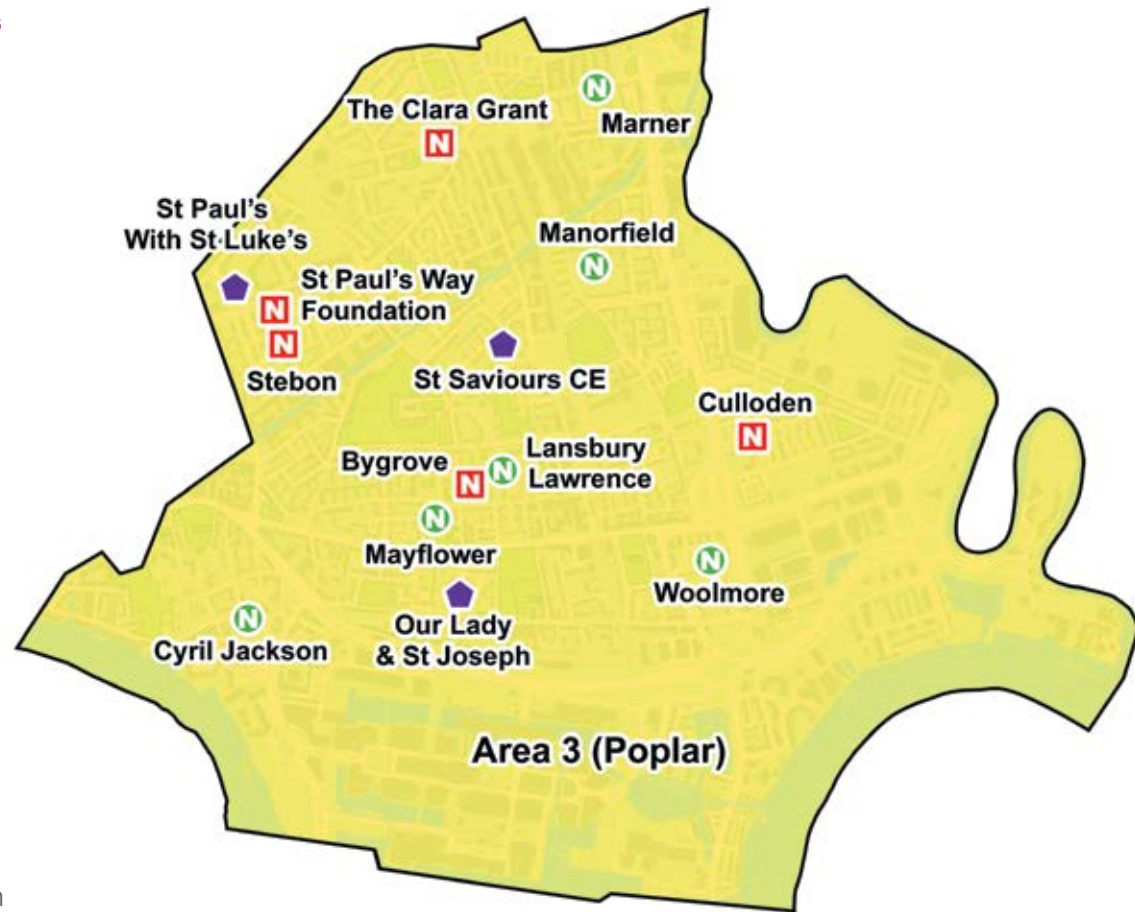
- 40 Our Lady & St Joseph
- 54 St Paul's with St Luke's CE
- 58 St Saviours CE

### Academy/Free schools with nursery class

- 7 Bygrove (uses same admission policy as community schools)
- 16 Culloden – a Paradigm Academy (uses same admissions policy as community schools)
- 55 St Paul's Way Trust (uses same admissions policy as community schools)
- 59 Stebon (uses same admission policy as community schools)
- 62 The Clara Grant (uses same admission policy as community schools)

### Area covered

- South of the railway line connecting Limehouse and Bromley by Bow
- West of River Lea
- East of Burdett Road and the River Thames
- North of South Dock Entrance



# School catchment area 4 (Isle of Dogs)

## Community schools with nursery class

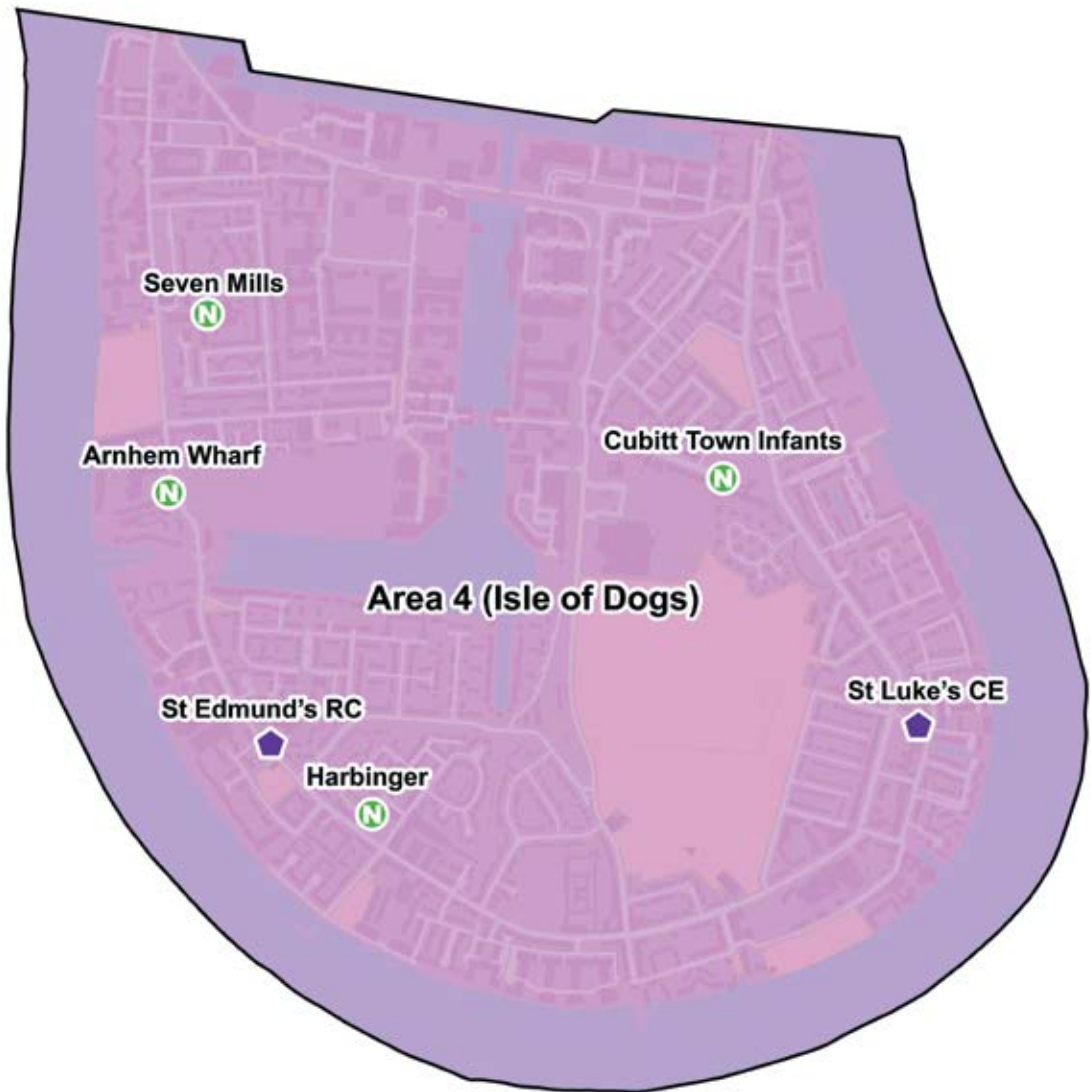
- 2 Arnhem Wharf
- 15 Cubitt Town Infants
- 23 Harbinger
- 42 Seven Mills

## Voluntary aided schools with nursery class

- 48 St Edmund's RC
- 51 St Luke's CE

## Area covered

- South of South Dock Entrance
- North of River Thames



## School catchment area 5 (Wapping)



### Community schools with nursery class:

- 4 Bigland Green
- 5 Blue Gate Fields Infants
- 8 Canon Barnett
- 24 Harry Gosling
- 26 Hermitage
- 43 Shapla

### Voluntary aided schools with nursery class:

- 19 English Martyrs RC
- 52 St Mary & St Michael RC
- 56 St Paul's Whitechapel CE
- 57 St Peter's (London Docks) CE

### Area covered

#### Tower Hamlets

- South of Wentworth Street (up to Osborn Street)
- South of Commercial Road (from Whitechurch Lane to Lukin Street)
- South of Poonah Street
- West of Lukin Street, Devonport Street and Brodlove Lane
- North of River Thames
- East of Trinity Square, Mansell Street and Middlesex Street

#### City of London

- South of Cornhill, Leadenhall Street, Aldgate High Street
- South of Harrow Place (from White Kennet Street)
- West of Middlesex Street, Mansell Street and Trinity Square
- North of River Thames
- East of King Williams Street

# School catchment area 6 (Bethnal Green)

## Community nursery schools

- 13** Columbia Market Nursery

## Community schools with nursery class

- 14** Columbia  
**18** Elizabeth Selby & Lawdale Junior  
**21** Hague  
**28** Kobi Nazrul  
**35** Mowlem  
**39** Osmani  
**61** Stewart Headlam  
**63** Thomas Buxton  
**64** Virginia  
**66** William Davis

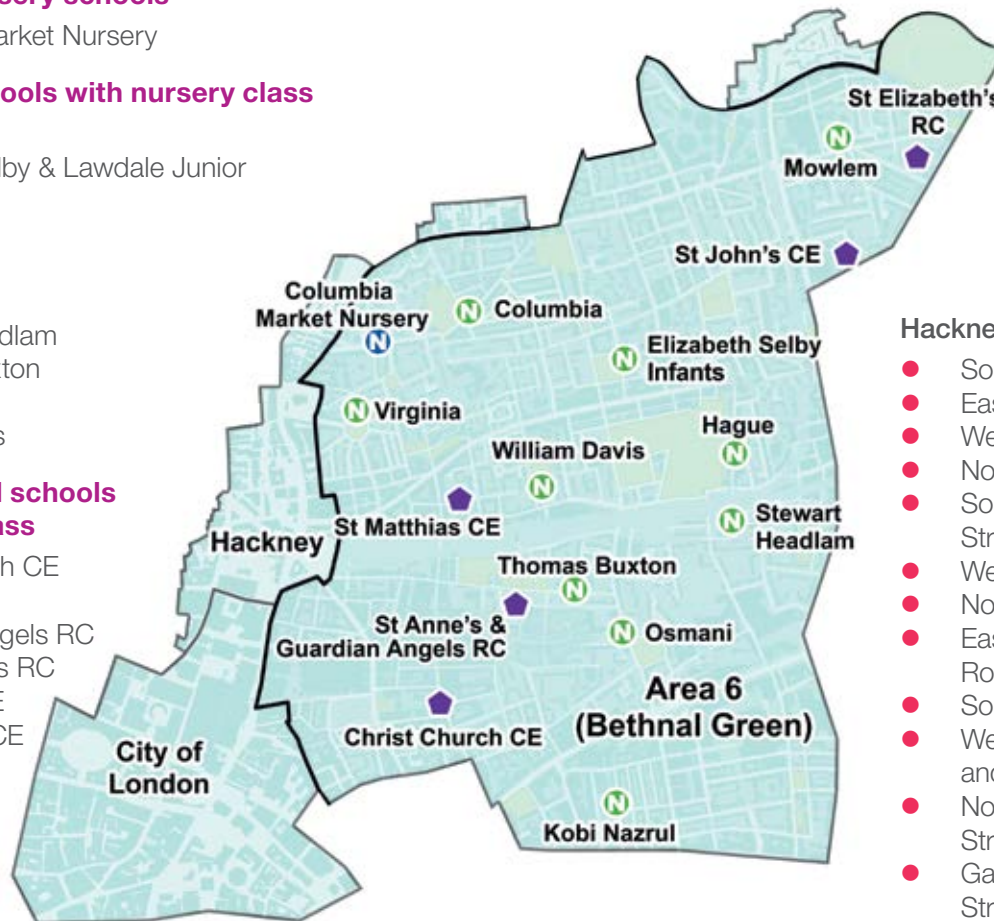
## Voluntary Aided schools with nursery class

- 12** Christ Church CE  
**47** St Anne's & Guardian Angels RC  
**49** St Elizabeth's RC  
**50** St John's CE  
**53** St Matthias CE

## Area covered

### Tower Hamlets

- South of Hackney Road (from Shoreditch High Street to Goldsmiths Row), South of Teale Street Pritchard's Road and Regent's Canal
- West of Approach Road and Old Ford Road
- West of Cambridge Heath Road and Sidney Street
- North of Commercial Road (from Sidney Street to Whitechurch Lane)
- North of Wentworth Street (from Osborn Street to Middlesex Street)
- East of Middlesex Street, Norton Folgate and Boundary Street



## Hackney

- South of Ash Grove and Earlstown Grove
- East of Fremont Street
- West and South of Christchurch Square
- North of Regent's Canal (up to Ash Grove)
- South of Dunloe Street (from Dawson Street to Columbia Road)
- West of Columbia Road
- North of Hackney Road
- East of Weymouth Terrace (from Hackney Road to 14 Dunloe Court)
- South of Cremer Street
- West of Hackney Road, Boundary Street and Shoreditch High Street
- North of Worship Street East of Scrutton Street, Christina Street,
- Gatesborough Street, Great Eastern Street and Curtain Road
- East of Shoreditch High Street (from Rivington Street to Waterson Street) and Nazrul Street City of London
- South of South Place, Sun Street, Appold Street and Worship Street
- West of Norton Folgate and Bishopsgate
- North of Cornhill
- East of Prince's Street and Moorgate

# List of Nursery schools and schools with nursery classes

Nursery name and address	Catchment area	Nursery type	Number of places available <sup>†</sup>	Full time places	Breakfast club	After school club	Headteacher	Telephone and website
Alice Model Nursery School * 14 Beaumont Grove, London, E1 4NQ	Stepney	Community	21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lynn Cottle	020 7790 5425 www.alicemodel.weebly.com
Arnhem Wharf Primary School * 1 Arnhem Place, London, E14 3RP	Isle of Dogs	Community	40	Yes	Yes	No	Sara Haynes	020 7515 4310 www.arnhemwharfprimarieschool.com
Bangabandhu Primary School * Wessex Street, London, E2 0LB	Stepney	Community	39	No	No	No	Marie Maxwell	020 8980 0580 www.bangabandhu.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Bigland Green Primary School * Bigland Street, London, E1 2ND	Wapping	Community	120	Yes	No	No	Abdul-Hayee Murshad	020 7702 7088 www.biglandgreen.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Blue Gate Fields Infant School * King David Lane, London, E1 0EH	Wapping	Community	90	Yes	Yes	Yes	Catherine Jones	020 7790 3611 www.bluegatefieldsinfant.co.uk
Bonner Mile End Primary School * 2C Ropery Street, London E3 4QE	Bow	Community	60	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nicola Denton	020 8980 1004 www.bonner.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Bygrove Primary School * Bygrove Street, London, E14 6DN	Poplar	Academy	60	Yes	Yes	Yes	Joanna Franklin	020 7538 4925 www.bygrove.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Canon Barnett Primary School * Gunthorpe Street, London, E1 7RQ	Wapping	Community	52	Yes	Yes	No	Sarah Jane Bellerby	020 7247 9023 www.canonbarnett.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Cayley Primary School * Aston Street, London, E14 7NG	Stepney	Community	50	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lissa Samuel	020 7790 1490 www.cayley.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Children's House Nursery School * 92 Bruce Road, London, E3 3HL	Bow	Community	33	Yes	Yes	Yes	Chris Lewis	020 8980 4662 www.childrenshouse.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Chisenhale Primary School * Chisenhale Road, London, E3 5QY	Bow	Community	36	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sharon Taylor-Sezgin	020 8980 2584 www.chisenhale.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Christchurch CofE Primary School * 47A Bricklane, London, E1 6PU	Bethnal Green	Voluntary Aided	28	Yes	Yes	Yes	Julian Morant	020 7247 0792 www.christchurchprimarybricklane.org
Columbia Market Nursery School * Columbia Road, London E2 7PG	Bethnal Green	Community	21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lynn Cottle	020 7739 4518 www.columbiamarket.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Columbia Primary School * Columbia Road, London, E2 7RG	Bethnal Green	Community	72	Yes	Yes	Yes	Oliver Woodward	020 7739 3835 www.columbia.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Cubitt Town Infants' School * Manchester Road, London, E14 3NE	Isle of Dogs	Community	90	No	No	No	Nikki Daly	020 7987 3373 www.cubitttowninf.co.uk
Culloden Primary - A Paradigm Academy * Dee Street, London, E14 0PT	Poplar	Academy	90	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ben Carter	020 7364 1010 https://cullodenacademy.paradigmtrust.org
Cyril Jackson Primary School * South Building Limehouse Causeway, E14 8AQ	Poplar	Community	64	Yes	Yes	Yes	Gillian Kemp/ Hodo Drir	020 7987 3737 www.cyriljackson.towerhamlets.sch.uk

<sup>†</sup> The number of places available may change and are subject to availability. \* There are no consultations planned to change admission numbers to this school before September 2021.

• This school is involved in the current Primary Place Review and its planned admission number for September 2021 may change (see page 31).

# List of Nursery schools and schools with nursery classes

Nursery name and address	Catchment area	Nursery type	Number of places available <sup>†</sup>	Full time places	Breakfast club	After school club	Headteacher	Telephone and website
<b>Elizabeth Selby Infant School *</b> Old Bethnal Green Road, London, E2 6PP	Bethnal Green	Community	52	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ann Wood	020 7739 6187 www.elizabethselby.school
<b>English Martyrs RC Primary School *</b> St Marks Street, London, E1 8DJ	Wapping	Voluntary Aided	26	Yes	Yes	yes	Bronagh Nugent	0207 709 0182 www.englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Globe Primary School *</b> Gawber Street, London, E2 0JH	Stepney	Community	39	Yes	Yes	Yes	Marie Maxwell	0208 980 1738 www.globeschool.org.uk
<b>Hague Primary School *</b> Wilmot Street, London, E2 0BP	Bethnal Green	Community	25	Yes	Yes	Yes	Judy Coles	020 7739 9574 www.hague.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Halley Primary School *</b> Halley Street, London, E14 7SS	Stepney	Community	30	Yes	No	No	Shoshannah Thompson	020 7265 8061 www.halley.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Harbinger Primary School *</b> Cahir Street, London, E14 3QP	Isle of dogs	Community	45	No	Yes	No	Andy Smith	020 7987 1924 www.harbingerschool.co.uk
<b>Harry Gosling Primary School *</b> Fairclough Street, London, E1 1NT	Wapping	Community	51	Yes	No	No	Jennie Bird	020 7481 1650 www.harrygoslingprimary.co.uk
<b>Harry Roberts Nursery School *</b> Commodore Street, London, E1 4PF	Stepney	Community	160	Yes	Yes	No	Alexandra Law	020 7790 6711 www.harryroberts.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Hermitage Primary School *</b> Vaughan Way, London, E1W 2PT	Wapping	Community	70	Yes	Yes	Yes	Zoe Howe	020 7702 1037 www.hermitage.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>John Scurr Primary School *</b> Cephas Street, London, E1 4AX	Stepney	Community	102	Yes	No	No	Maria Lewington	020 7790 3647 www.johnscurrprimary.weebly.com
<b>Kobi Nazrul Primary School *</b> Settle Street, London, E1 1JP	Bethnal Green	Community	30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Belinda King	020 7375 3626 www.kobinazrul.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Lansbury Lawrence Primary School *</b> Cordelia Street, London, E14 6DZ	Poplar	Community	90	Yes	Yes	Yes	Owen O'Regan	020 7987 4589 www.lansburylawrence.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Malmesbury Primary School *</b> Coborn Street, London, E3 2AB	Bow	Community	60	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frank Harrowell	020 8980 4299 www.malmesburyschool.uk
<b>Manorfield Primary School *</b> Wyvis Street, London, E14 6QD	Poplar	Community	90	Yes	No	No	Paul Jackson	020 7987 1623 www.manorfield.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Marion Richardson Primary School *</b> Senrab Street, London, E1 0QF	Stepney	Community	20	Yes	Yes	No	Angie Kruger	020 7790 1441 www.marionrichardson.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Marner Primary School *</b> Devas Street, London, E3 3LL	Poplar	Community	104	Yes	Yes	No	Nicholas Hague	020 7987 2938 www.marnerprimary.com
<b>Mayflower Primary School *</b> Upper North Street, London, E14 6DU	Poplar	Community	50	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dee Bleach	020 7987 2782 www.mayflower.towerhamlets.sch.uk

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# List of Nursery schools and schools with nursery classes

Nursery name and address	Catchment area	Nursery type	Number of places available†	Full time places	Breakfast club	After school club	Headteacher	Telephone and website
Mowlem Primary School * Mowlem St Bishops Way, London, E2 9HE	Bethnal Green	Community	30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Julia Burns	020 8249 6880 www.mowlem.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Old Church Nursery School * Walter Terrace, London, E1 0RJ	Stepney	Community	160	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sarah Helm	020 7790 2824 www.oldchurch.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Old Ford Primary - A Paradigm Academy * Wrights Road, London, E3 5LD	Bow	Academy	150	Yes	Yes	Yes	Kevin Jones	020 8980 1503 https://oldfordacademy.paradigmtrust.org
Olga Primary School * Lanfranc Road, London, E3 5DN	Bow	Community	80	Yes	Yes	Yes	Linda Ewers	020 8981 7127 www.olga.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Osmani Primary School * Vallance Road, London, E1 5AD	Bethnal Green	Community	60	Yes	Yes	No	Remi Atoyebi	020 7247 8909 www.osmani.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School * Wades Place, London, E14 0DE	Poplar	Voluntary Aided	60	Yes	No	No	Patrick Devereux	020 3764 8860 www.olsj.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Rachel Keeling Nursery School * Bullards Place, Morpeth Street, London, E2 0PS	Stepney	Community	128	No	Yes	No	Becky Dolamore	020 8980 5856 www.rachelkeeling.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Seven Mills Primary School * Malabar Street, London, E14 8LY	Isle Of Dogs	Community	30	Yes	No	No	Tom Foster	020 7987 2350 www.sevenmills.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Shapla Primary School * Wellclose Square, London, E1 8HY	Wapping	Community	30	Yes	Yes	Yes	John Musgrave Bolanos	020 7480 5829 www.shapla.school
Sir William Burrough Primary School * Salmon Lane, London, E14 7PQ	Stepney	Academy	62	Yes	No	No	Avril Newman	020 7987 2147 www.sirwilliamburrough.net
Solebay * Solebay Street, E1 4PW	Stepney	Academy	50	Yes	Yes	Yes	Janet Baker	020 8980 2414 https://solebayacademy.paradigmtrust.org
St Agnes RC Primary School * Rainhill Way, London, E3 3ER	Bow	Voluntary Aided	26	Yes	No	No	Brid McDaid	020 8980 3076 www.st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk
St Anne's & Guardian Angels RC Primary School * Underwood Road, London, E1 5AW	Bethnal Green	Voluntary Aided	39	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sheila Mouna	020 7247 6327 www.stannesschool.org.uk
St Edmund's RC Primary School * 299 Westferry Road, London, E14 3RS	Isle of Dogs	Voluntary Aided	25	Yes	no	Yes	Gail O'Flaherty	020 7987 2546 www.st-edmunds-school.org
St Elizabeth's RC Primary School * Bonner Road, London, E2 9JY	Bethnal Green	Voluntary Aided	50	Yes	Yes	Yes	Angelina John	020 8980 3964 www.st-elizabeth.uk
St John's CofE Primary School * Peel Grove, London, E2 9LR	Bethnal Green	Voluntary Aided	26	Yes	Yes	No	Terry Bennett	020 8980 1142 www.st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk
St Luke's CofE Primary School * Saunders Ness Road, London, E14 3EB	Isle of Dogs	Voluntary Aided	60	No	Yes	Yes	Rebecca Abrahams	020 7987 1753 www.st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk

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# List of Nursery schools and schools with nursery classes

Nursery name and address	Catchment area	Nursery type	Number of places available <sup>†</sup>	Full time places	Breakfast club	After school club	Headteacher	Telephone and website
<b>St Mary &amp; St Michael RC Primary School *</b> Sutton Street, London, E1 0BD	Wapping	Voluntary Aided	52	Yes	Yes	Yes	Rachel Mahon	020 7790 4986 www.st-marymichael.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>St Matthias CofE Primary School •</b> Bacon Street, London, E2 6DY	Bethnal Green	Voluntary Aided	30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keeley Warren	020 7739 8058 www.stmatthiasschool.org.uk
<b>St Paul's with St Luke's CofE Primary School *</b> Leopold Street, London, E3 4LA	Poplar	Voluntary Aided	35	No	Yes	Yes	Nicola Horton	020 7987 4624 www.spsl.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>St Paul's Way Trust Primary School *</b> 32 St Paul's Way, London, E3 4AL	Poplar	Academy	32	Yes	Yes	Yes	Clare Lynam	020 7987 1883 www.spwt.net
<b>St Paul's Whitechapel CofE Primary School *</b> Wellclose Square, London, E1 8HY	Wapping	Voluntary Aided	28	Yes	Yes	No	Terry Bennett	020 7480 6581 www.st-pauls.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>St Peter's London Docks CofE Primary School *</b> Garnet Sreet, London, E1W 3QT	Wapping	Voluntary Aided	36	Yes	Yes	Yes	Elizabeth Dickson	020 7488 3050 www.stpetersprimary.org.uk
<b>St Saviours CofE Primary School *</b> Chrisp Street, London, E14 6BB	Poplar	Voluntary Aided	60	Yes	No	No	Fanoula Smith	020 7987 4889 www.stsavioursschool.org.uk
<b>Stebon Primary School *</b> Burdett Estate, Wallwood Street, London, E14 7AD	Poplar	Academy	96	Yes	Yes	Yes	Jeremy Iver	020 7987 4237 www.stebon.org.uk
<b>Stepney Park Primary School *</b> Smithy Street, London, E1 3BW	Stepney	Community	90	Yes	Yes	Yes	Edith Philipsen	020 7884 5225 www.stepneypark.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Stewart Headlam Primary School *</b> Tapp Street, London, E1 5RE	Bethnal Green	Community	60	Yes	Yes	No	Cathy Gillespie	020 7247 1201 www.stewartheadlam.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>The Clara Grant Primary School *</b> Knapp Road, London, E3 4BU	Poplar	Academy	48	Yes	Yes	No	Susan Ward	020 7987 4564 www.claragrants.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Thomas Buxton Primary School *</b> Buxton Street, London E1 5AR	Bethnal Green	Community	60	Yes	No	No	Lorraine Flanagan	020 7247 3816 www.thomasbuxton.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Virginia Primary School *</b> Virginia Road, London, E2 7NQ	Bethnal Green	Community	26	Yes	No	No	Kate Gooding	020 7739 6195 www.virginia.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>Wellington Primary School *</b> Wellington Way, London, E3 4NE	Bow	Community	45	Yes	Yes	No	Martin Grant	020 8980 2413 www.wellington.towerhamlets.sch.uk
<b>William Davis Primary School *</b> Wood Close, Cheshire Street, London, E2 6ET	Bethnal Green	Community	26	Yes	Yes	Yes	Annika Eadie	020 7739 1511 www.williamdavis.org.uk
<b>Woolmore Primary School *</b> 37 Woolmore Street, London, E14 0EW	Poplar	Community	104	Yes	Yes	No	Tracy Argent	020 7987 2778 www.woolmore.towerhamlets.sch.uk

<sup>†</sup>The number of places available may change and are subject to availability. \*There are no consultations planned to change admission numbers to this school before September 2021.

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# 4

## Children's centres

**A Children's centre, often called a Sure Start Children's Centre, is a place where parents, carers or families with children under the age of five can go and use play facilities, join in groups and receive support.**

The purpose of children's centres is to improve outcomes for young children and their families by shaping:

- child development and school readiness
- parenting aspirations and parenting skills
- child and family health and life chances.

Children's centres work with parents, families, settings and the community from as early as possible to make sure children are ready for school. The centres offer a range of support to parents including dedicated school readiness workshops which include potty training and managing behaviour.

### Children's centres in Tower Hamlets



The vision of the Integrated Early Years' Service is for every child in Tower Hamlets to have the best possible start in life - through reducing inequalities and improving quality of life. Children's centre services aims to support children and their families to be safe and happy - improving lifelong health and wellbeing.

There are 12 children's centres across the borough each offering both universal and targeted services for families:

#### **Around Poplar**

115 Three Colt Street  
London, E14 8AP  
020 7364 0540

#### **Chrisp Street**

23 – 27 Market Way  
London, E14 6AH  
020 7364 2856

#### **Collingwood**

St Bartholomew Gardens  
Buckhurst Street  
London, E1 5QT  
020 7364 0539

#### **Isle of Dogs**

Millwall Park,  
Stebondale Street  
London, E14 3BX  
020 7364 1179

#### **John Smith**

90 Stepney Way,  
London, E1 2EN  
020 7364 0537

#### **Marner**

Marner Centre  
Devas Street  
London, E3 3LL  
020 7364 3534

#### **Meath Gardens**

1 Smart Street  
London, E2 0SN  
020 7364 0349

#### **Mile End**

9 Bede Square  
Joseph Street  
London, E3 4GY  
020 7364 7557

#### **Mowlem**

Wadeson Street  
London, E2 9DL  
020 7364 7935

#### **Ocean**

Whitehorse Road  
London, E1 0ND  
020 7364 0544

#### **Overland**

60 Parnell Road  
Bow, London, E3 2RU  
020 7364 1925

#### **Wapping**

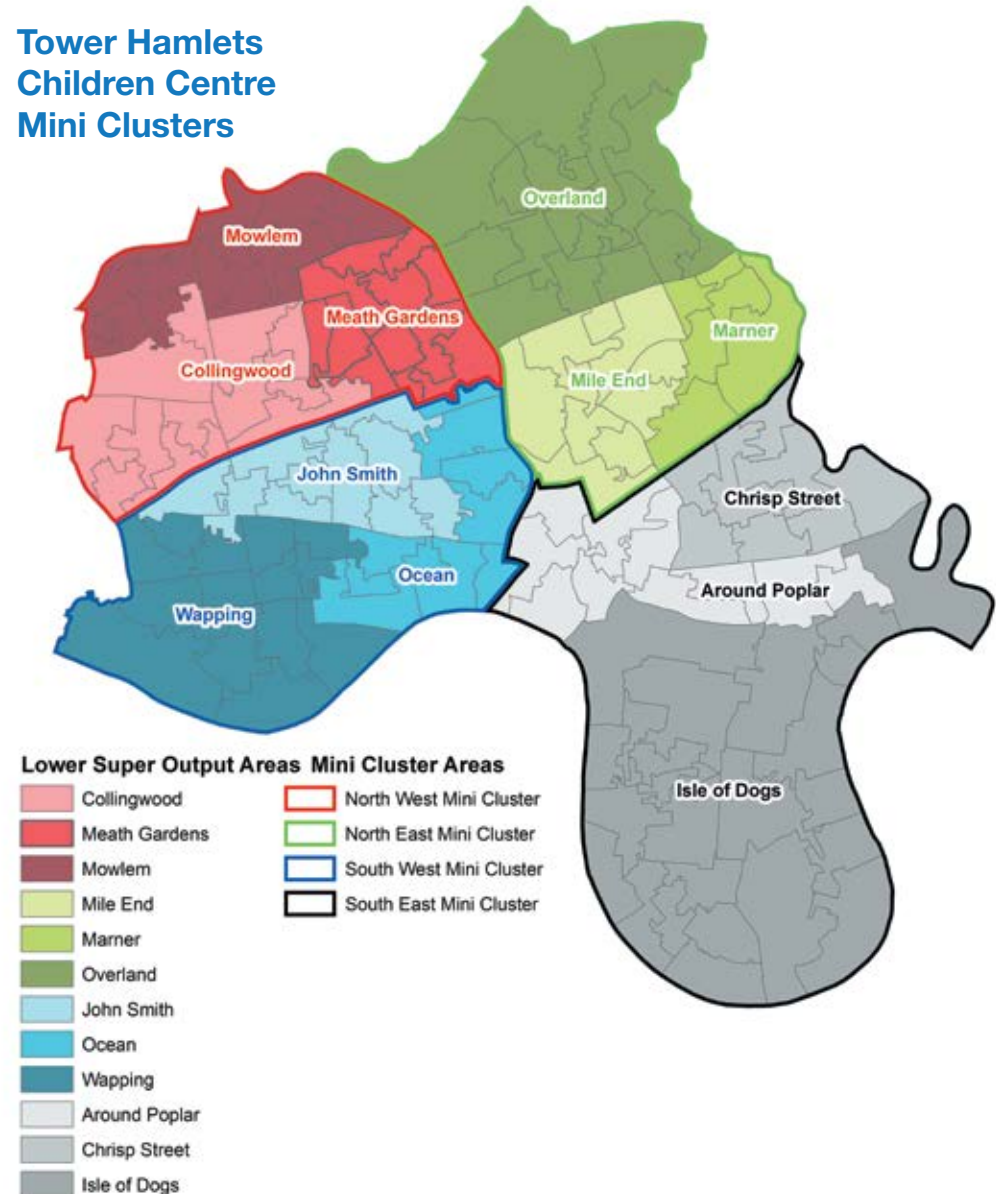
Bigland Street  
London, E1 2ND  
020 7364 0423

All Children's Centre services are free, and they include:

- ✓ universal play sessions
- ✓ drop-in fun play activities, such as ball pools, rockers, sandpits, building blocks, story book and baby play areas
- ✓ targeted sessions (Little Talkers, Invitation to Play, Thames music, baby massage, healthy eating, weaning advice, breastfeeding support, etc)
- ✓ parenting programmes
- ✓ support into volunteering and employment: Tower Hamlets WorkPath; adult learning courses
- ✓ specialist programmes (e.g. Positive Change)
- ✓ support with EL2 applications
- ✓ Healthy Start vitamins and vouchers
- ✓ signposting and referral on to appropriate services

For more information on children's centres please visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/childrenscentres](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/childrenscentres). Alternatively, you can contact the Family Information Service on 020 7364 6495 or email [fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk).

## Tower Hamlets Children Centre Mini Clusters



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# 5

## Frequently asked questions about nursery admission

### Q When can my child start nursery?

Children can start nursery from the term following their third birthday.

If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 and you would like a nursery place for September 2021, you must submit an online application by 16 February 2021.

For guidance on how to make an application, please see page 36.

### Q What if I want a nursery place before September 2021?

If you would like a nursery place for your child for the term following their third birthday but before September 2021 i.e. in January or April 2021, please refer to page 12 for advice on how to make an in-year nursery application, or contact Pupil Services.

Contact Pupil Services on **020 7364 5006** or email **school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk**

### Q What if my child turns three during the 2020/21 school year?

If your child turns three during the 2020/21 school year, you may apply for a nursery place for the term following their third birthday by making an in-year application. For information on how to do that, please refer to page 12. Alternatively, you can contact Pupil Services.

### Q How can I make sure my child settles into nursery quickly?

Important independence skills such as using the toilet independently, putting on their coat, eating using cutlery, washing their hands, sharing with others, initiating conversation with peers and adults will help a child to settle into nursery quickly. It would also be helpful if children were used to spending time away from their parents.

### Q What if I am not a Tower Hamlets resident but would like a place at a Tower Hamlets nursery?

If you are not a resident of Tower Hamlets but wish to apply for a Tower Hamlets nursery, you can also submit an online application via the E-admissions website: [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk).



## You must submit an online application by 16 February 2021

## Frequently asked questions about nursery admission

### **Is there financial help available for nursery provision?**

All children aged three and four are entitled to 15 hours a week of free nursery education during school term times (38 weeks a year) from the term following their third birthday. This entitlement can also be taken in a private or voluntary provision.

Only where both parents are working a minimum of 16 hours (or a single parent working a minimum of 16 hours in a single parent family) will a child be eligible for a free full-time place (30 hours a week).

If you are not eligible for a full-time place and you would like for your child to attend for longer hours you will be asked to pay for the additional services.

Some two-year-olds may also be eligible for 15 hours funding for 38 weeks, but must meet certain government (income-based) criteria. You can check your eligibility by visiting [www.myearlylearning.co.uk/EarlyYears/About](http://www.myearlylearning.co.uk/EarlyYears/About) or by calling the Family Information Service on **020 7364 6495**.

Further information can be found at [www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds](http://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds).

For information on private or voluntary nurseries or playgroups, you can contact them directly or you can contact the Family Information Service on **020 7364 6495**.

### **Will my child be offered a full-time place?**

**The local authority will only offer part-time places i.e. for 15 hours per week.** Once your child has been offered a part-time place, you may request a full-time place from your nursery.

An additional free 15 hours i.e. a full time place will only be available for families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working).

Typically, each parent must earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum or living wage and less than £100,000 a year to be eligible.

For more information on eligibility go to: [www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds](http://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds).

Parents not eligible for the additional free 15 hours may still access a full time place by paying a top-up fee. This fee will be in the region of £7.50 per additional hour. Please contact your local nursery for further information.

### **Can my child attend more than one provision?**

It is not recommended for a child to be attending more than one type of under-fives activity (e.g. playgroup in the morning and nursery class in the afternoon). The adjustment is too demanding and confusing for most children of this age and much of the benefit from either activity could be lost.

### **Can I transfer my child between nurseries?**

Once children are admitted to nursery education, it is in their interests to remain at that school until they have to move on and start reception class. Children take at least a term to settle and can find it very upsetting to move at this stage.

Transfers will only take place at the start of each term and should only be considered if a family has moved from the area or on exceptional grounds. Please refer to page 13 for more information.

Contact Pupil Services on **020 7364 5006** or email [school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

## Frequently asked questions about nursery admission

### **Q** When can my child move from a nursery to primary school?

Children usually start the reception year of primary school in the September following their fourth birthday. If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 they will start Reception in September 2022. Children who attend a school's nursery class **do not** automatically transfer to reception, as decisions on primary school admissions are taken separately. You must apply for a reception place by 15 January 2022.

### **Q** If my child is already in the school's nursery class, is there an automatic right to a place in the reception class?

No. When parents apply for their children to start reception, no priority is given to children that attend the nursery of the school. The decision on whether or not a place can be offered will be made in accordance with the school's admission policy. The policy used for community schools in Tower Hamlets is explained on page 10.

### **Q** If my child is not offered a nursery place can I appeal the decision?

Parents do not have the right of appeal against the decision to refuse their child a nursery place. However, parents may contact the local authority for more information on the reason why their child was not offered a place.

Contact Pupil Services on  
**020 7364 5006** or email **school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk**

### **Q** Can I get help with free early education or childcare for my two-year-old?

Your two-year-old child may be entitled to 15 hours education or childcare a week if you are in receipt of low income welfare benefit or your child meets other criteria. For a list of eligibility criteria visit [www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds](http://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds).

Your child would be eligible from the beginning of the term after their second birthday if you qualify for a funded place. For more information, please call the Family Information Service on **020 7364 6495**.



# 6

## Primary place review for parents

### Our changing borough: the effect on primary school places

#### **Tower Hamlets is currently undertaking a Primary Place Review.**

The numbers of children in the borough have changed significantly and there are now fewer children in the west of the borough, whilst there is still some growth in child numbers in other parts. This admissions booklet identifies which schools will be involved in consultations to address these demographic changes and which may be subject to alterations in the number of places available for September 2021. It is therefore really important that parents apply for more than one school to ensure a place at one of their schools of preference.

**The council is working with schools to reduce the number of unused school places in parts of the borough. This will ensure that our schools continue to provide the highest standards of teaching, learning and achievement.**

### Why is the council reviewing primary school places?

There have been lots of changes to the borough's population in recent years. The number of children being born in the borough is reducing and more families are moving out of the borough before their children reach primary school age. This has led to a number of unused places at primary schools across the borough, with schools in some areas finding that they have more unused places than they would normally expect.

The funding that schools receive from central government is based on the number of children they have registered. Therefore, when a school's number of children is lower than expected it receives less funding and this can mean that the school finds it difficult to retain and or recruit enough teachers and support staff to maintain high standards of teaching and learning.

The council has the responsibility to make sure that its school places are organised in a way that helps all schools to continue to maintain high standards.

### What does this actually mean for schools?

We are considering ways in which schools can build on existing relationships. One approach is by a group of nearby schools establishing a formal partnership. This will enable them to reduce the number of unused places in their area by organising themselves in a way that will help them to make the best use of their funding and other expertise. This type of partnership is called a school federation with a single governing body responsible for the governance of all schools in the federation.

Another approach is for two or more schools to join together to create a new school on one site. This would also reduce the number of unused places and allow the new school to have enough registered children to receive the levels of funding that would ensure there were no teaching or other staff shortages. This is called a school amalgamation.

## Primary place review for parents

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### The approach will depend on the local area and the schools involved

For a school where the numbers of children are very low and it is not possible for it to join a federation or be part of an amalgamation with a neighbouring school then the council will need to consider whether the school should close. However, the council will only consider this if it is in the best educational interests of the pupils concerned as keeping the school open would inevitably lead to a fall in teaching standards.

The council would ensure that these children could transfer to other nearby schools and that, where possible, staff would have the option to be redeployed within the borough.

### What schools will be affected?

The review is focused on schools with high levels of unused places in the west of the borough - in the Bethnal Green, Stepney and Wapping areas.

When proposals are decided they will be for changes to take place from September 2021 at the earliest.

Please refer to pages 22-25 for a list of schools that are involved in the primary place review.

### Who will be involved in the decision making process?

There will be no decisions on changes to how schools are organised without first consulting with school communities and the wider public on the proposals. There will be an initial round of consultation for the schools concerned later this term and a further borough-wide consultation in the autumn (timing may vary for individual schools).

These consultations will include events where pupils, parents, staff and the community are able to share their views, ask questions and raise any concerns they may have.

**For more information, please visit:**  
**[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/primaryreviewparent](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/primaryreviewparent)**



# 7

## Appendix A – Understanding school catchment areas and the oversubscription criteria

### Understanding school catchment areas and the oversubscription criteria

Tower Hamlets Council seeks to operate an admissions system that provides equal and fair opportunities to all applicants. This includes having due regard to children living in areas where there are limited options in applying for a local school place.

### School catchment area

A school catchment area is a geographically defined boundary used to help provide children with fairer access to a local school and ensure all schools in an area have an equal share of children.

A child living in the school's catchment area will, therefore, be given priority over a child living outside of the school's catchment area. This does not affect admission categories where children with a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are considered before any other admission. Catchment areas also do not affect looked-after children who

are given first priority in the admission policy. Other exceptional cases, such as medical and social reasons, will also be given priority before children living in the catchment area.

There are six school catchment areas for admission to Tower Hamlets community schools. The Paradigm Academies (Culloden, Old Ford and Solebay), St Paul's Way Trust Primary School, Bygrove Primary School, Stebon Primary School and The Clara Grant Primary School also use these catchment areas in their admissions criteria. Each catchment area has a number of schools that you can choose from. Maps of each catchment area and the schools within them can be found on pages 15-21.

To find out which catchment area you live in, view the maps on pages 15-21 or visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/equalchance](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/equalchance)

### Nearest school within the catchment area

Higher priority is given to children who apply to the nearest school within their catchment area.

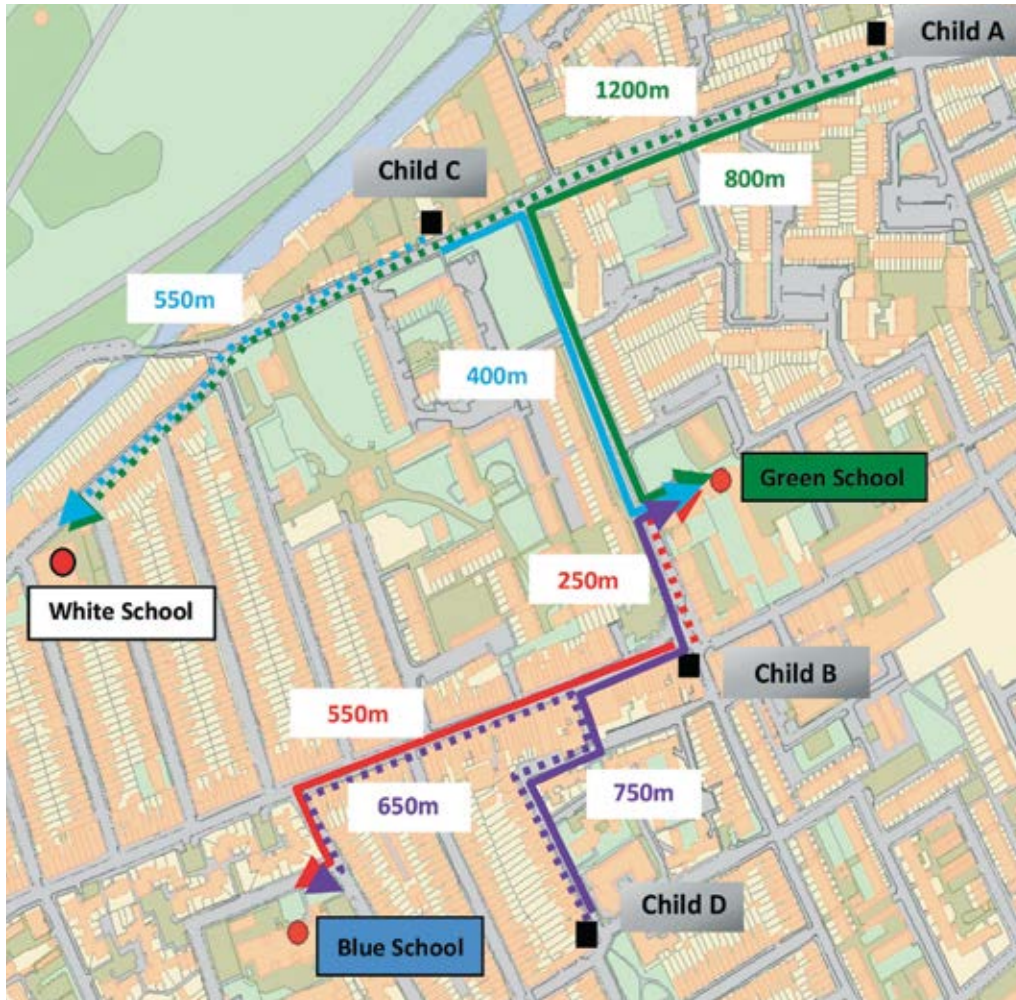
This reduces the possibility of a family having to undertake an unreasonable journey to school and provides equal opportunity for families living in parts of the borough where there are a limited number of schools. Please see the examples on the next page which show how this works in practice.

### Tie-break criteria

When there are more children within one of the admission priorities than there are places remaining at the school, the council must decide who to offer places to. The tie-break gives priority to children that live the shortest walking distance from the school. For example, a school may have 25 places remaining once all children for whom the school is the nearest school in the catchment area, but there are 30 other children who have applied and live within the same catchment area. The 25 children that live closest to the school will be offered a place and the five children that live furthest from the school will not be offered a place.

# Appendix A – Understanding school catchment areas and the oversubscription criteria

## Example 1



In this tie-break example, Child A, Child B, Child C and Child D have all applied to Green School.

Green School is the nearest school for Child A, Child B and Child C. The nearest school for Child D is Blue School.

Given that Green School is Child A, Child B and Child C's nearest school, their applications will have higher priority than Child D's.

The highest priority would be given to Child B who lives 250m away from Green School, followed by Child C, who lives 400m away and then Child A, who lives 800m away. These children would, therefore, be ranked in order of priority as follows:

Admissions criteria	Ranking order
Priority 4 – nearest school in catchment area	1. Child B 2. Child C 3. Child A
Priority 5 – catchment area	4. Child D

**Note:** Although Child D lives closer to Green School than Child A, Child A will have higher priority because Green School is Child A's nearest school.

# Appendix A – Understanding school catchment areas and the oversubscription criteria

## Example 2



This example is similar to the first one, but here Child B has decided not to apply to Green School, which is Child B’s nearest school.

Even though Child B lives closer to Green School than the other children, Child B would not be considered for a place at Green School, because no application was made. The ranking in order of priority would therefore be as follows:

Admissions criteria	Ranking order
Priority 4 – nearest school in catchment area	1. Child C 2. Child A
Priority 5 – catchment area	3. Child D

**Note:** Child B’s applications to Blue and White School would not be considered under the nearest school criterion because neither of these schools are Child B’s nearest school.

# Appendix B – A step by step guide to applying online



To start your online application please visit:  
**www.eadmissions.org.uk**

You can also use the link from the council's website:  
**www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions**

## Registration

Go to **www.eadmissions.org.uk**

This will take you to the welcome page – click on 'Create a new account' – see figure 1.

If you have previously applied using the online system you will be able to log in without the need for registration.

Then enter your details and click "Continue" – see figure 2.

You will then need to create a password (please note the password for future reference).

You will receive confirmation that your USO account has been set up and will be sent a reminder of your username – see figure 3.

You will need to validate your email address by clicking on the link in the email that is sent to you.

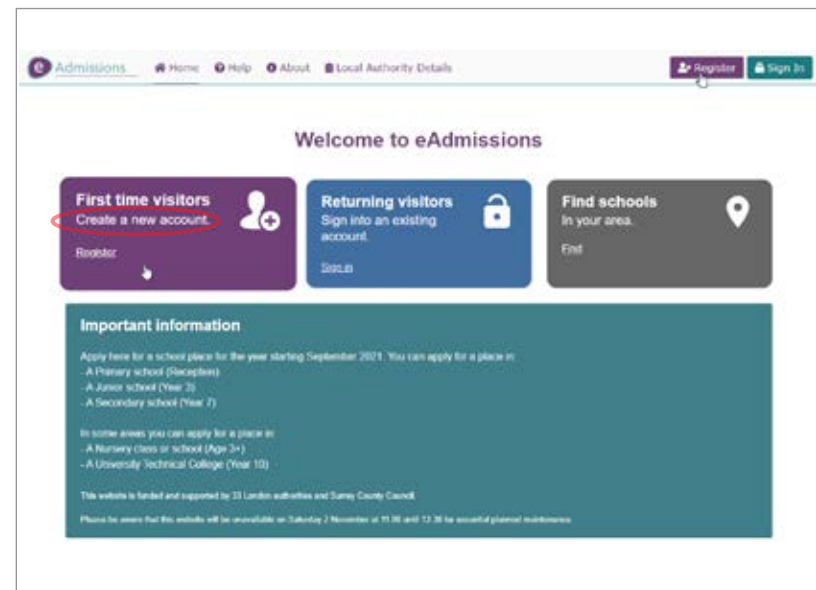


Figure 1

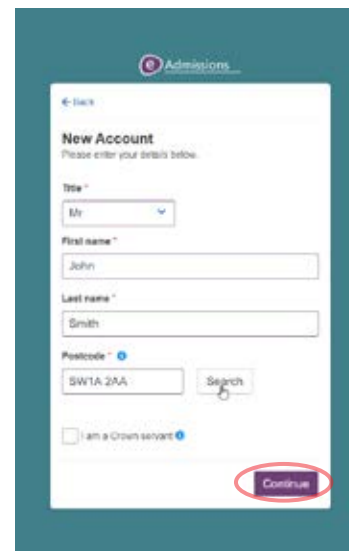


Figure 2

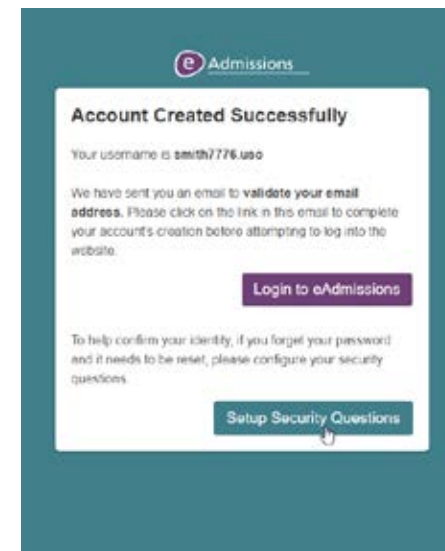


Figure 3

# Appendix B – A step by step guide to applying online

## Start an application

You can now log in with your email or username and will be directed to the home page – see figure 4.

From here you can make a new application, edit an existing application, view the details of any application already submitted and view the outcome of your application once it is available.

Click on ‘Start Application’ to begin.

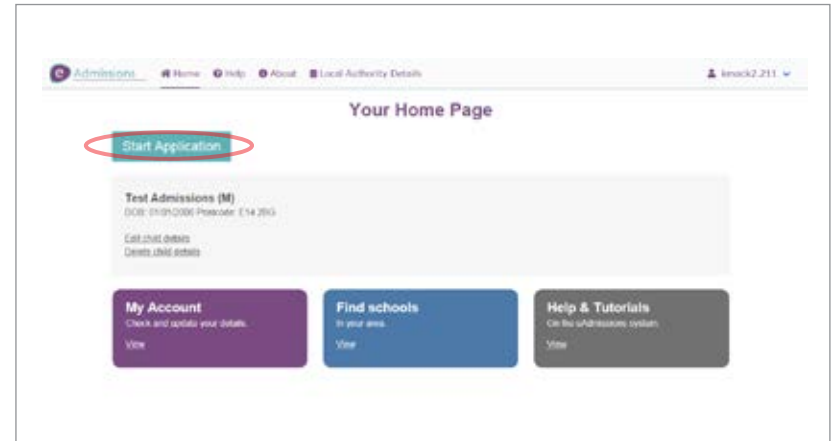


Figure 4

## Stage 1 – Child details

Fill in your child’s details and then click ‘Save and continue’ – see figure 5.

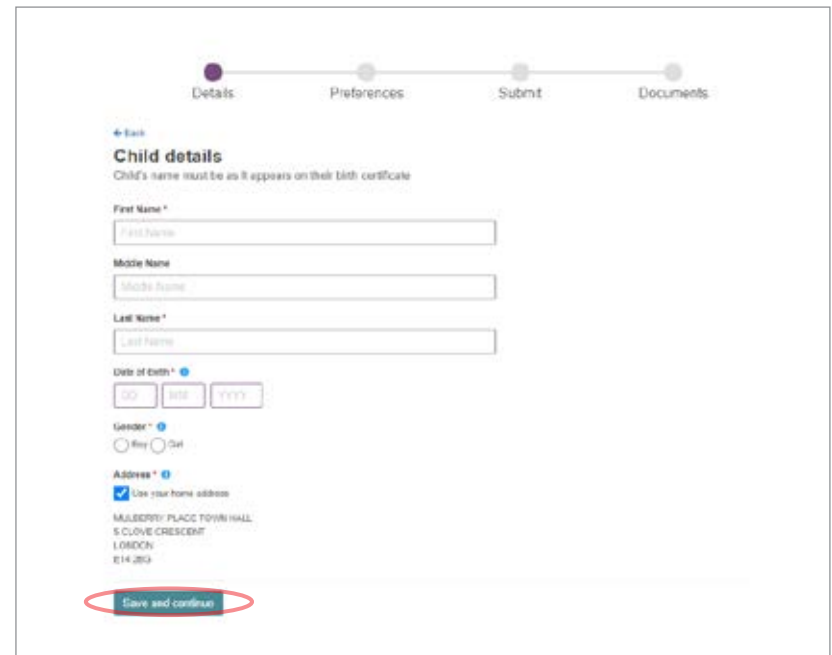


Figure 5

## Appendix B – A step by step guide to applying online

### Stage 2 – School preferences

Here you can apply for up to six schools, in Tower Hamlets and/or other boroughs. You should select the schools in order of preference, with the first selected school being your first preference and so on.

You can add a school in one of three ways:

1. By selecting the borough of the school using the dropdown list and then selecting the school.
2. By selecting your school from its location on a map.
3. By searching for the school by using keywords.

Click on 'Continue' – see figure 7.

For each school selected you will be asked to provide the following information:

1. Sibling information – you should click on the relevant box and fill in the details if your child has a brother or sister already at the school.
2. Exceptional medical or social reasons – you should tick the relevant box if there are medical or social reasons for your child to attend a particular school. You will be required to provide documentary evidence to support this.
3. Additional reasons – this is for you to give additional reasons for wanting a particular school.



Figure 6

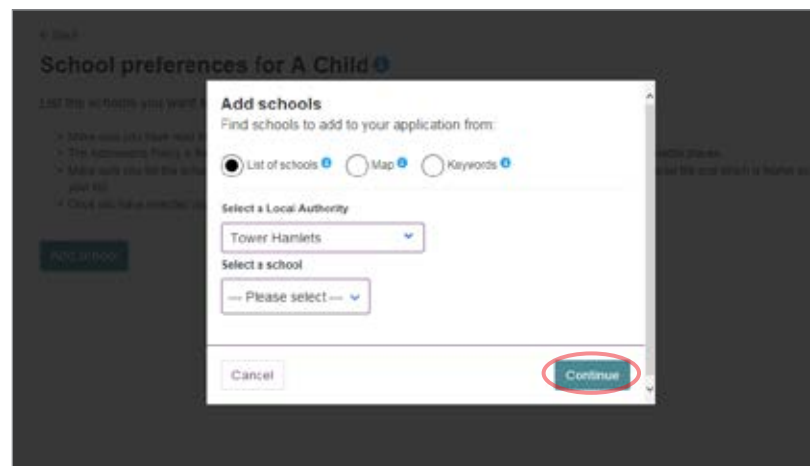


Figure 7

# Appendix B – A step by step guide to applying online

## Stage 3 – Check and submit

When you have entered all the required information, you will be prompted to check that the information is accurate and then asked to submit application – see figure 8.

Even if you submit it straight away, you can still make changes later, right up until the closing date.

## Confirmation

Once you have submitted an application, you will see the confirmation page, with a reference number. Please keep your reference number for any enquiries. You will also be sent an email to confirm that your application has been submitted.

It is advisable to print a copy of your application for your information.

Note: The last submitted application will be processed as your final application. If you have applied online, please do not fill out a paper application.

Thank you for applying online.

The screenshot shows the 'Check & submit application' page. At the top, there is a progress bar with four steps: 'Details', 'Preferences', 'Submit', and 'Documents'. The 'Submit' step is highlighted. Below the progress bar, there is a 'Check & submit application' section with a 'Submit application' button circled in red. The page also displays the Tower Hamlets logo and contact information, and a declaration section with a 'Submit application' button.

Figure 8

The screenshot shows the confirmation page. A central box contains the message: 'Your application has now been submitted!'. Below this message, there is a 'Home' button and an 'Upload documents' button. The page also displays a 'Checklist' section and a 'Declaration' section.

Figure 9

## Glossary – Definition of words used in this booklet

---

### **Academy**

An academy is a publicly funded school which operates outside of local authority control. It is funded directly by central government and does not have to follow the national curriculum. It can choose its own curriculum, as long as it is 'broad and balanced'.

### **Admission**

Entry to school.

### **Admission authority**

The organisation that draws up the admission arrangements and sets out the admission criteria for the schools it maintains. The local authority is the admission authority for community schools. Each voluntary, academy or free school is its own admission authority. All admission authorities within an area liaise closely to co-ordinate their admission arrangements.

### **Admission number**

The number of places available at a school for each year group.

### **Admission criteria**

Conditions set by the admission authority, which are used to decide whether or not a place can be offered to a child when a school receives more applications than place available.

### **Appeal**

The independent process for questioning a decision not to offer your child a place at the school you have applied for.

### **(CAF) Common Application Form**

The name of the local authority form used by anyone applying for a school place.

### **Community schools**

Schools maintained only by the local authority. The local authority is responsible for admitting children to these schools.

### **(DfE) Department for Education**

The central government department responsible for setting appropriate laws and guidance to help educate children and young people in England and Wales.

### **eAdmissions**

The online portal where parents submit their application for a reception place – [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk)

### **Equal preference system**

A model where all applications are treated equally in accordance with the admissions policy. Therefore, if a school receives more applications than it has places available, the admission criteria will be applied to each application with no consideration given to whether or not the school is the first, second or third preference.

### **Free school**

Free schools are schools which are set up by groups of parents, teachers, charities, trusts, religious and voluntary groups. They are funded in the same way as academies – directly from central government.

### **Governing bodies**

Responsible for making sure that the school is managed in line with laws and follows policies in line with the conditions set by the DfE.

### **Infant, junior or primary schools**

Infant schools provide education for children aged four to seven, junior schools for children aged seven to 11, and primary schools for children aged four to 11.

### **In-year admissions**

In-year admission is where a child starts school at a time other than the normal point of entry.

### **Local authority**

The council is responsible for many services and this includes providing education across schools within the local authority's boundaries.

### **Voluntary aided schools**

Voluntary aided schools are either Church of England or Roman Catholic schools. Each school's governing body is responsible for admitting children to their school.



### Useful contacts

#### Pupil Services

Town Hall, Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
London E14 2BG

Tel: 020 7364 5006

Fax: 020 7364 4311

Email: [school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

Website:

- [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions)
- [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/equalchance](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/equalchance)

#### Early Years Service

Tel: 020 7364 1553

Email: [early.years@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:early.years@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

#### Special Educational Needs

Tel: 020 7364 4880

Email: [sen@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:sen@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

#### Tower Hamlets Family Information, Advice and Support Service

Tel: 020 7364 6489

#### Children Centres

[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/childrenscentres](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/childrenscentres)

### Useful websites

- [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk)
- [www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk](http://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk)
- [www.gov.uk/dfes](http://www.gov.uk/dfes)
- [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)
- [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

### Information and support for families

#### The Family Information Service (FIS)

The FIS provides free, impartial information and advice on a comprehensive range of services for children, young people and their families. As well as a Brokerage Service to support parents/carers in finding suitable childcare.

Tel: 020 7364 6495

Email: [fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

You can also access information online at Tower Hamlets Local offer: [www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk](http://www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk)

Working together – giving families a voice

#### Tower Hamlets Parent and Carer Council

The Parent and Carer Council (the PCC) is Tower Hamlets' main family forum. The PCC provides a platform where parents can share information about education, health and community safety in the borough and collectively help shape the services that are available to families in the borough.

For further information and to find out how to join the PCC:

Visit: [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parentcouncil](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parentcouncil)

Email: [parentcouncil@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

or call the Family Information Service on: Tel: 020 7364 6495

### Free access to computers at our Idea Stores

Please be aware that at the time of publication, the re-opening of Idea Stores following the lockdown means that only the Idea Stores at Chrisp Street and Whitechapel are open. You may also need to book a time to visit or to use the computers that have internet access. Bringing your own device to use the wifi is not currently available, so please check the website [www.ideastore.co.uk](http://www.ideastore.co.uk) to keep up to date on which services are available, or other Idea Stores that may be open.

#### Idea Store Chrisp Street

1 Vesey Path, East India Dock Road, London E14 6BT

#### Idea Store Whitechapel

321 Whitechapel Road  
London E1 1BU

### Contact details for surrounding London authorities

#### Barking and Dagenham

Tel: 020 8215 3004

[www.lbbd.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/admissions)

#### Camden

Tel: 020 7974 1625

[www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk)

#### City of London

Tel: 020 7332 3998

[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

#### Greenwich

Tel: 020 8921 8043

[www.greenwich.gov.uk](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk)

#### Hackney

Tel: 020 8820 7000

[www.hackney.gov.uk](http://www.hackney.gov.uk)

#### Islington

Tel: 020 7527 5661

[www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)

#### Lewisham

Tel: 020 8314 8282

[www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk)

#### Newham

Tel: 020 8430 2000

[www.newham.gov.uk](http://www.newham.gov.uk)

#### Redbridge

Tel: 020 8708 3139

[www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk)

#### Southwark

Tel: 020 7525 2910

[www.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.southwark.gov.uk)

#### Westminster

Tel: 020 7745 6433

[www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)





Starting Nursery in Tower Hamlets 2021  
Apply online at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions)