

Admissions Policy and Procedures

For entry to the School in September 2010

Moriah is a United Synagogue School which teaches Orthodox Jewish belief and practice, embodied in the principles of Torah and Halachah. These include: creating a sense of belonging, encouraging and preparing for lifelong Jewish learning, spiritual growth and practice, mutual responsibility within the Jewish community and the wider world, and the importance of Israel in Jewish life. Jewish belief and practice permeate every aspect of Moriah's activity. All applicants are therefore expected to fully respect the ethos of the school.

The school will give priority to those who meet a religious practice test based on guidelines from the Chief Rabbi. Those applicants wishing to be considered as priority applicants for available spaces will need to obtain a certificate establishing religious practice (CRP) based on criteria such as the family's synagogue attendance, prior commitment to Jewish education, religious practice and communal activity.

All pupils are expected to commence the Reception year in September. Any difficulties with this should be discussed with the Headteacher.

There are 30 places in Reception and all higher year groups.

Eligibility Criteria

The law provides a separate process for the admission of children with a Statement of Special Education Needs. Such children who have the school named in their Statement will be admitted to the school.

If there are more applications than places available, then places will be offered in the following order:-

- 1 Children who meet the Jewish practice criteria (see CRP) who are looked-after by a Local Authority.
- 2 Children attending the School Nursery (for entry to Reception class) (see note iv) provided that they meet the Jewish practice criteria (see CRP).
- 3 Siblings of pupils attending Moriah Jewish Day School at the date of entry (see note i), provided that they meet the Jewish practice criteria (see CRP).
- 4 All other children who meet the Jewish Practice Criteria (see CRP).
- 5 Looked-after children of other faiths or none.
- 6 All other applicants.

In the event that there are more applicants in any category than places available, priority will be given to children living nearest the School as the crow flies by reference to distance of travel from the home address to the main entrance, those nearer having priority. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the home address will be where the child resides for the majority of the week.

Application Procedure

- 1 Application for a place in the Reception class of the School is by completion of a Harrow Local Authority Common Application Form (CAF). A Moriah Supplementary Information Form (SIF), and a Certificate of Religious Practice (CRP) which can both be obtained from the School Office or the School website (<http://www.moriahschool.co.uk>), should also be completed and returned to the school office.
- 2 Application for a place in Yr1-Yr6 is by completion of a Common Application Form, a SIF and a CRP.
- 3 The closing date for applications for places in the School for September 2010 is by 26th February 2010.
- 4 Applications received after the closing date will be considered after those received on time.
- 5 The Harrow Common Application Form is obtainable from the School Office or from the Admissions Service at the Civic Centre. The Harrow Common Application Form and Guide to Primary Schools in Harrow are available from September 2009.
- 6 The Harrow Common Application Form needs to be returned to the school named first on the form by 26th February 2010.
7. The Supplementary Information Form and CRP should to be returned to the School by 26th February 2010.
- 8 Proof of address must be taken to the School together with the Supplementary Information Form. (See Supplementary Information Form for suggestions of suitable documents).
- 9 Offers of Reception places will be sent to parents from Harrow LA. The LA will post offer letters on 23rd April 2010.

- 10 Parents must indicate in writing within two weeks of the offer date their intention (or decline) to take up the place. Failure to respond within a reasonable time will result in the place being withdrawn.
- 11 The School reserves the right, in making an offer of a place, to confer with other voluntary aided and neighbourhood schools to establish if parents are holding places at more than one school. In such a case, parents may be asked to nominate the school of their choice within 10 working days.
- 12 Parents must indicate whether they wish to be included on the waiting list if the child is not offered a place.

Waiting List Procedure

If places subsequently become available the following will apply:-

- 1 All remaining applications, at the time a place becomes available, will be wait listed according to the eligibility criteria.
- 2 Places will be offered according to the order within the waiting list at the time.
- 3 For these offers the School reserves the right to give parents 10 days only in which to decide to accept (or otherwise) the place.
4. Waiting lists will be maintained for a least one term in the academic year of admission.

Appeals Procedure

In the event of parents not being offered a place for their child in the Reception or higher classes, they are entitled to appeal by writing to the Clerk to the Governors c/o the School, within 14 days of receiving a letter from the School or LA informing them that a place is not available.

Notes:

- i Siblings are defined as brothers or sisters, half brothers or half sisters, foster brothers or sisters, and step brothers or step sisters living at the same address, including those adopted or others living permanently in the household. In every case, the sibling/s must be children who meet the Jewish Practice Criteria (see Certificate of Religious Practice).
- ii In the case of multiple births, if there is only one place available to such a family, it will be offered to the oldest child and the School cannot guarantee places to the other sibling/s.
- iii Distance is measured by the proximity of the pupil's home to school gate measured by a straight line on the Ordnance Survey map, using a computerised mapping system.
- iv If a child is already in Moriah's Nursery class, please note the following statutory proviso: Attendance in the Nursery does not guarantee admission to the School for education. A separate Application Form must be completed for transfer from Nursery to Primary school. (School Admissions Code 2009 – para 2.66)
- v For September 2009, 49 applications were received for 30 available places in Reception.
- vi For further information contact the School Office on 020 8868 2001.