

Mossbourne Community Academy

Admissions-September 2026



MCA Admissions Arrangements

Our Admissions Arrangements set out the way admissions are managed at Mossbourne Community Academy.

The purpose of this talk is to help answer any questions you may have should you decide to select **Mossbourne Community Academy** as one of your preferred secondary schools.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for Years 7-11 at **Mossbourne Community Academy** is 216. The academy is a comprehensive school; an equal number of places are available in each of the four ability bands A,B,C and D.

The Mossbourne Sixth Form has separate admission arrangements for places in Years 12 and 13.



How are the 216 Year 7 places allocated?

As stated, as a comprehensive school, an equal number of places are made available from each of the four ability bands A,B,C and D.

Admission to the academy is also based on three distance zones each of which has four ability bands A, B, C and D

Please note that for applicants with an Education Health and Care Plan there is a separate process.

How are the 216 Year 7 places allocated?

The cognitive ability test (CAT) is taken by all applicants. Applicants are placed in one of **four ability bands: A B C or D**

A Band – above 110 CAT score

B Band– 101-110 CAT score

C Band – 91-100 CAT score

D Band – 90 and below CAT score

Applicants are also placed in one of the **three distance zones:**

The Inner Zone: up to 1 km distance from the academy -50% of all available places

The Middle Zone: 1km- 2.3 km distance from the academy-30% of all available places

The Outer Zone: 2.3 -4 km distance from the academy -20% of all available places

Distances, using a computerised measuring system, supplied by Hackney Education, are measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the main entrance of the school using eastings and northings. These are geographical references as provided by The National Land and Property Gazetteer. The eastings and northings are not necessarily located to the front door of the home address. Home to school distances, generated by this system, are used solely to determine in which of the three zones an application is considered and are not used as an admission criteria to determine whether an offer is made.

Number of places in each zone and band

Admission is based on 12 Banded Zones:

Band A Inner Zone – 27 places
Band A Middle Zone – 16 places
Band A Outer Zone – 11 places

Band B Inner Zone – 27 places
Band B Middle Zone – 16 places
Band B Outer Zone – 11 places

Band C Inner Zone – 27 places
Band C Middle Zone – 16 places
Band C Outer Zone – 11 places

Band D Inner Zone – 27 places
Band D Middle Zone – 16 places
Band D Outer Zone – 11 places

Cognitive Ability Testing

All Year 6 pupils attending a Hackney primary school will take the cognitive ability test (CAT) in their own primary school during September and October. For children attending primary schools outside the borough, there are separate arrangements explained later.

The CAT test has been designed to assess children's abilities in four areas: verbal, quantitative, spatial and non-verbal. The test is taken on a computer and lasts about two hours. Please note that revision is not required for this test.

Each child will achieve an average (mean) score. All Mossbourne Community Academy applicants will then be placed into one of MCA's four ability bands, A B C or D, according to their CAT score.

A – Above 110

B – 101-110

C – 91-100

D – 90 and below

Can my child fail the CAT test?

A child cannot fail the CAT test. All children who sit the test will receive a score which is used to place all children applying to Mossbourne Community Academy into one of our four ability bands A-D. Within each band, the test scores are not ranked, therefore, all scores within a band will have an equal chance of being offered a place via the lottery.

Cognitive Ability Testing -out borough applicants

In November, all out-borough applicants will receive an invitation from Hackney Education to take a test at one of the test venues.

All secondary schools support the process of testing children who live outside the borough, so don't worry if your child's test is not at one of your preferred schools.

CAT tests for children who attend primary schools outside the borough of Hackney are held on two Saturdays: 22nd and 29th November 2025.

No alternative dates will be offered, so please make sure your child is available to take the test on the date you are allocated should you wish your child to be considered for a place at a school that operates banding and please note that banding is used by many Hackney schools.



How are Priority Places Allocated?

First priority for places is for children with the highest level of special educational need who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Please note that for all children with an EHCP a separate application process is undertaken via the child's own Local Authority.

When more applications are received than there are places available within each band and zone, places are allocated using an over-subscription criteria which allocates places using the following priorities:

- 1. Children in care, or who have previously been in the care of the Local Authority (LAC)**
- 2. Siblings of pupils in Years 7-13 at MCA at the time of application**
- 3. Children of staff of Mossbourne Community Academy**
- 4. Children on roll at Mossbourne Parkside Academy at the time of application**

How does the lottery system work?

After places in each band and zone have been allocated to children with priorities, all remaining places in each band and zone are allocated through the use of a randomised lottery.

The lottery system allocates every child a number which are ranked from lowest to highest. Available places are offered first to those with the lowest numbers.

Children not offered places will be placed on the waiting list within their band and zone.

Completing the online application- important points

If your child is a sibling of a pupil in Years 7-13 at MCA at the time of application you **MUST** tick the sibling box on the online application form.

Although Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy (MVPA) is part of the Mossbourne Federation, **it is a separate academy school**. If you wish your child to be considered at Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy you must make a separate application for this to be one of your preferred schools.

The schools you apply to **DO NOT** know their position on your preference list. It is, therefore, very important that you **DO** write your list of schools in absolute preference order as you **WILL** be given a place at the highest placed school on your list for which your child meets the criteria.

Further information on secondary transition, is available on Hackney Education's website: [Hackney Education Secondary Transition](#)



Key Dates

1st September – online applications open

October- CAT testing period in Hackney primary schools

31st October- Statutory closing date for on-time applications

Saturdays 22nd & 29th November - CAT testing for out-borough applicants

Monday, 2nd March 2026- National Offer Day

Monday, 16th March 2026 – Last date to respond to your offer

September 2026- Children start secondary school