

Mossbourne Community Academy Admissions Arrangements - Frequently Asked Questions



The arrangements for **Mossbourne Community Academy** are set out in our Admissions Arrangements for the year 2022-2023. These are available on our website. We hope the notes below will help to answer any questions you may have, should you decide to select **Mossbourne Community Academy** as one of your preferred secondary schools.

How many places are there in Year 7?

The pupil admission number (PAN) for Year 7 and all other year groups - Years 7-11 at **Mossbourne Community Academy** - is 216. The academy is fully comprehensive and admits an equal number of pupils from across the ability range.

How are places allocated?

Admission to Mossbourne Community Academy is based on three distance zones, each of which has four ability bands.

The three distance zones relate to the distance from your home address to the academy:

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

The Middle Zone - 1km - 2.3 km distance from the school- 30% of available places

The Outer Zone - 2.3 - 4 km distance from the school - 20% of available places

The three ability bands are:

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

The number of places in each zone and band are as follows:

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

How is the distance measured?

The measurement to determine the zone into which your home address falls is supplied to Mossbourne Community Academy by Hackney Education. The distance is calculated using computer software which measures this distance using a straight line from Mossbourne Community Academy's front gate to your home address.

What is a CAT score and how is my child tested?

All Year 6 pupils attending a primary school in Hackney will take the cognitive ability test (CAT) at their own primary school between 26th September and 14th October 2022.

The CAT test has been designed to assess children's abilities in four areas: **verbal, quantitative, spatial and non-verbal.**

For children attending a primary school in Hackney, the test is taken on a computer in their primary school; the test 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 our four 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 have an equal chance of being offered a place via the lottery.

My child doesn't attend a primary school in Hackney-how will s/he be tested?

In November, all out-borough applicants will be sent a letter by Hackney Education. The letter will invite your child to take a test at one of the test venues. All secondary schools using banding support the process of testing children who live outside the borough, so please don't worry if your child's test is not arranged at one of your preferred schools.

CAT tests for children who attend primary schools outside the borough of Hackney are held on two Saturdays: 19th and 26th November 2022. No alternative dates will be offered, so please make sure your child is available to take the test on the date allocated to you should you wish your child to be considered for a place at a school that operates banding (this includes many Hackney secondary schools).

Which children have priority for places at Mossbourne Community Academy?

First priority for places in Year 7 is for children with the highest level of special educational need – those who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). **For all children with EHCPs a separate application process is undertaken via the child's local education 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 in each of the 12 banded zones:

1. Children in care, or who have previously been in the care of the Local Authority (LAC)
2. Children on a Child Protection Care Plan, where Mossbourne is the nearest school
3. Siblings of pupils in Years 7-13, at the time of application
4. Children of staff of Mossbourne Community Academy
5. Children on roll at Mossbourne Parkside Academy at the time of application

What is the lottery and how does it work?

After places in each band and zone have been allocated to children with priorities, all places remaining in each band and zone are allocated through the use of a randomised lottery. The lottery system allocates every applicant a number. The lottery numbers are then ranked from lowest to highest; places are offered first to those with the lowest numbers. Children not offered places will be placed on the waiting list within their zone and band.

Important points to remember when completing your online application

1. If your child is a sibling of a pupil in Years 7-13 at MCA the time of application you **MUST** tick the sibling box on the online application form.
2. 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 to select this as one of your preferred schools.
3. 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 preference order as you **WILL** be given a place at the highest placed school on your list for which your child fits the criteria.

Further information on secondary transition, is available on Hackney Education's website:
education.hackney.gov.uk/secondaryguide