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A private school for four- to seven- year-olds offering British-style instruction scheduled to open in Manhattan in September said it will expand to accept older children to meet applicant demand.

The British International School of New York, which is under construction on Waterside Plaza near East 23rd Street, will also admit children who are 8 and 9 years old, Elizabeth Perelstein, co-founder of the school, said today in an interview.

“There were siblings of four- and five- and six-year-olds applying, and we don't like to split families,” she said. “The school, which is accepting applications, will enroll about 100 students in September and charge \$26,000 for tuition,” she said.

The school would become the first offering British-style curriculum in Manhattan amid a demand for private schools in the city, said Cynthia Bing, head of advisory services for the Parents League of New York. Last year, parents submitted 2,600 applications for 2,300 kindergarten slots in New York.

“It certainly doesn't hurt to have 100 more places for students,” Bing said, whose organization counsels about 4,500 families on school admissions and financing. “It's not going to appeal to everyone, but it will appeal to people who want that kind of program.”

Andrea Greystoke, founder and headmistress of Abercorn School in London, founded the British International School with Perelstein, president of School Choice International, an educational consulting firm in Mamaroneck, New York.

The British School is owned by International British Schools Plc in London, Perelstein said. Greystoke said she and Perelstein will be the school's co-chief executive officers. “I work with a lot of families, and a great many of them are British, and the question I would always get was, ‘Why isn't there a British school?’” Perelstein said. “The only way to serve this population was to start one.”