

Tudhoe Moor Nursery School



Policy statement for admissions

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It is our intention to make our setting accessible to children and families from all sections of the local community. We aim to ensure that all sections of our community have access to the setting through open, fair and clearly communicated procedures.

Priority will be given to children entitled to 15 hours per week and these places must be allocated first. Places are allocated for the 15 hours per week entitlement according to the oversubscription criteria listed below:

Admission to Community and Voluntary Controlled Nursery Schools and Nursery Units

The LA has adopted principles in relation to the admission of children into Community, Voluntary Aided and Controlled nursery schools and units. For Roman Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Aided Schools the admission of children is a matter for the school governors. However, almost all Aided Schools follow the LA's criteria for admission.

- 1. Children who are 'looked after' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence/child arrangement, or special guardianship order*.**

A looked after child is a child who is, at the time of making an application to a school, (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

An adoption order is an order under section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976 or section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

2. Children In Need

The Children Act 1989 defines a child 'in need' as:

- a) He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by the Local Authority under Part 3 of the Act.

b) His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services.

c) He/she is disabled.

In addition, Durham County Council has determined that children of families where English is not the main language of the family will be considered under this criterion.

A maximum of two part-time nursery places are retained until the end of the Autumn half term in order to accommodate emergency referrals of children "in need" as defined in the requirements of the Children Act, 1989.

3. The Two Year Old Free Entitlement

Where a child has been accessing the free entitlement for 2 year olds in daycare that is directly associated with a maintained nursery school or unit, for a minimum of 15 hours per week for two terms immediately prior to the child becoming eligible for free entitlement, they shall receive priority for admission to that maintained nursery school or unit in order to preserve continuity, providing that they also live within County Durham's administrative area.

4. Age

The offer of a place will be prioritised according to date of birth. Normally, the earliest date your child can be accepted for Early Years Provision is at the age of 3, although some 2 year olds can access the free entitlement. Where applicants have the same date of birth, priority will be given to the earliest date of application.

5. Those children who are only entitled to the universal entitlement of 15 hours free early education per week

Those children who are not eligible for the extended 30 hours offer should be offered the 15 hours universal entitlement for a minimum of three terms before they are due to enter a full time school place in the Reception year. Maintained nurseries should plan for this provision to ensure those who are only entitled to 15 hours are offered a place.

6. Children living in other Authorities

Although there are no catchment areas for places, preference will be given to children whose parents live within County Durham's administrative area. Only when all children living within the boundary of County Durham have been allocated a place, may a child living in a neighbouring area be offered a place.

30 hours free early education per week, term time, from September 2017:

This is for 3 & 4 year olds from working families that meet the eligibility criteria. The 30 hours free place will consist of the current 15 hours universal entitlement for all 3 & 4 year olds, which will be **extended** by an additional 15 free hours. The additional 15 free hours will be known as the '**extended entitlement**'.

The maintained nursery school or unit will undertake a validation check on the eligibility code and details provided by the parent on the application form. On confirmation the code is valid the following criteria will be applied to all applicants:

If there are more places available than applications, all children will be offered a place. Subsequent applicants will be offered places until the provision is full. Once all places have been allocated, further applications will be included on a waiting list and places will be allocated in accordance with the 30 hours oversubscription criteria.

If there are more applications than places the 30 hours oversubscription criteria will be applied as follows.

30 Hours oversubscription criteria:

Places will be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis on receipt of a verified code.

7. Children transferring from one nursery setting to another

Once a child has begun attending a particular nursery school/unit, it is usually in the child's best interest to remain at that nursery school/unit until transfer to the next phase of their education. However, where parents move house, for example, it may be impractical to remain at the same setting.

There may also be other exceptional reasons as to why a transfer from one Maintained Nursery School or Unit to another would be appropriate, but this would be rare and subject to the agreement of the school following guidance from the Local Authority. Where possible nursery schools/units will aim to provide for children who have already started Early Years Provision.

Adopted by	Tudhoe Moor Nursery School
To be reviewed by	Curriculum Committee
Date adopted	September 2014 Amended to include 30 hours October 2017
Date reviewed	10.10.17
Next review	Autumn term 2018