

# Tudhoe Moor Nursery School Admissions Policy



## Policy statement

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.

## Procedures

- We ensure that the existence of our setting is widely advertised in places accessible to all sections of the community.
- We ensure that information about our setting is accessible and provided in written and spoken form.
- We will provide translated written materials where language needs of families suggest this is required, as well as access to an interpreter. Where necessary, we will try to provide information in Braille, or through British Sign Language.
- We arrange our waiting list in birth order. In addition, our policy may take into account the following:
  - the vicinity of the home to the setting; and
  - siblings already attending the setting.
- We describe our setting and its practices in terms that make it clear that it welcomes both fathers and mothers, other relations and other carers, including childminders.
- We describe how our practices treat each child and their family, having regard to their needs arising from their gender, special educational needs, disabilities, social background, religion and ethnicity or from English being a newly acquired additional language.
- We describe how our practices enable children and/or parents with disabilities to take part in the life of the setting.
- We monitor the gender and ethnic background of children joining the group to ensure that our intake is representative of social diversity.
- We make our Valuing Diversity and Promoting Equality Policy widely known.
- We consult with families about the opening times of the setting to ensure we accommodate a broad range of families' needs.
- We are flexible about attendance patterns to accommodate the needs of individual children and families, providing these do not disrupt the pattern of continuity in the setting that provides stability for all the children.

## **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.

### **Places are allocated according to the criteria listed below:**

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Oversubscription criteria**

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the governing body will use the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the (Published Nursery Admissions Number) in the nursery the governing body will use the following oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications for both funded and bought hours:

1. A child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school will be admitted.
2. Looked after Children or those who were Looked After but ceased to be because they were adopted, made the subject of a child arrangements order or made the subject of a special guardianship order.
3. Children with an exceptional medical or social need to attend this nursery.
4. Children who live in the school's designated area who have a sibling at the school.
5. All other children who live in the designated area.
6. Children who live outside of the designated area with a sibling at the school.
7. Other children.

Date of review:	July 2022
Date of next review:	July 2023