

High Spen Primary School



Nursery Education Admission Policy

High Spen Primary School
Nursery Education Admission Policy

All children are entitled to 15 hours of free provision provided over 38 weeks (universal entitlement). This may be provided in a nursery class in school or in the private voluntary independent sector or in any maintained nursery class. Parents should establish the type and flexibility of provision available at their chosen nursery provider before they apply for a place as this will vary between providers. Since Sept. 2017 some children have been entitled to an additional 15hrs (extended entitlement) in addition the option to pay for additional sessions is available to all. For further information about any of these options, please call in to the school office.

All children, subject to the availability of places, have the choice to take one of the following routes in to Nursery:-

- start school nursery at the beginning of the term after they turn three i.e. a child born in February would start at the beginning of the Summer term.
- start school nursery at the beginning of the term after they turn two, taking advantage of our 2yr old afternoon provision.

It may be necessary to delay your child's start beyond the relevant term in circumstances where the school have induction procedures to follow to enable your child to be successfully integrated with others and get used to school life. This is decided in consultation with the Head Teacher.

We currently take children who will be 4yrs old this academic year in our morning nursery session and children who will be 2 or 3yrs old this academic year in our afternoon session.

We allocate new nursery places at our school on the final working day of October (for a January start), February (for an April start) and May (for a September start). To allocate we use the following priority criteria:

Priority 1: N2 Children – turning 4yr this academic year and due to start Reception in September.

Priority 2: N1 30hr Children – children due to start Reception the following September.

Priority 3: N1 15hr Children – children due to start Reception the following September and attending Nursery on an afternoon only.

Where one or more N1 children are seeking a morning Nursery place, priority will be given to children already on role.

Where one or more child is seeking a place in Nursery but have the same above priority status, the Local Authority Oversubscription Criteria will be used. See below.

Local Authority Oversubscription Criteria

The allocation of places within this group of children will then be based on priorities 1 to 6 listed below.

1. Looked After Children (children in public care and as deemed under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989).
2. Children who live in the school's catchment area.
3. Children who live in Gateshead and who will have a brother or sister at the school, or at the feeder junior school during the coming academic year.
4. Children who have exceptional medical or social grounds. (See point 1 below).

5. Other children who live in Gateshead.
6. Children who live outside Gateshead, but only if places are otherwise likely to remain available during the academic year.

Point 1

We can consider exceptional individual applications, particularly in cases involving medical or social needs. If you wish to apply on medical or social grounds you must provide written evidence from relevant registered health professionals i.e. a doctor or social worker. The evidence must demonstrate why the chosen school is more appropriate and what difficulties would be caused if they were to travel to and attend alternative schools. We will not consider such applications if the relevant professional evidence is not provided. This evidence will be assessed by the LA admission panel. No assumption should be made that submission of the relevant evidence will, in itself, be sufficient to allocate a place.

Tie Breaker

If within any of the above priorities there are more applicants than places available then priority will be given to those children based on the distance they live from the school measured as the crow flies i.e. in a straight line from the centre of the home residence to the main entrance of the school. Children living nearest the school will have priority.

Address

For the purposes of deciding whether a child lives in the catchment area of a school we will use the parent or legal guardian's address or the address of a relevant adult who has parental responsibility, as defined under the 1989 Children's Act, for the child.

Waiting list

If places then become available we will consider all the applications on a waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained by the Head Teacher from the start of the academic year and be kept for the rest of the academic year. All applicants on the waiting list will be placed according to the admission criteria and priorities set out above. The length of time a child has been on the waiting list cannot be taken into account if places become available. If you apply late, your child's name may be added to the list by using the priority order described above.

Complaints

If you feel that the admissions criteria stated above have not been fairly applied to your child then you may register a complaint with the Governing Body using their normal complaints procedure.

Admission into Reception

Obtaining a place in our school nursery class does not guarantee your child a place in our school for entry to Reception class. There is a different admission criteria that applies for admission to infant and primary school entry. You must apply for your child's Reception place following the Local Authority application process outlined here: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/2796/Primary-school-admissions>

Further Information

If you need more information about provision at a School Nursery or you need more information about the provision offered by private voluntary independent providers you can contact the Family Information Services at Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE81HH or telephone: 0191 433 5118.