



Uplands Nursery
Inspired To Achieve

Nursery Coordinated Admissions Arrangements



Maintained Nursery Classes Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements 2019 – 2020



Adapted for Uplands Nursery

Reviewed by Governing Body	Planned date of review
9 th July 2019	Summer 2020

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Our vision is for our children to feel happy, nurtured and inspired to achieve their best,
and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Ambition - Collaboration - Courage - Empathy - Optimism - Perseverance - Pride - Respect - Responsibility



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This policy sets out the arrangements to be followed for admissions to a nursery class within a Bracknell Forest school. Bracknell Forest Council recommends that Academies within the area also follow this policy to ensure a fair, consistent and transparent process for admissions to nursery in their local area.
- 1.2 All children are entitled to a government funded nursery place the term following their 3rd birthday.
- 1.3 From September 2017, all children will be eligible for up to 15 hours; these are classed as ‘universal entitlement’.
- 1.4 Some children will also be eligible for up to 15 additional hours; these will be known as the ‘extended entitlement’. Parents’ eligibility for the extended entitlement will have to be verified prior to child starting at the nursery. Nurseries should make clear to parents their position on the extended entitlement and their hours of operation.
- 1.5 Each school with a nursery class will publish in their policy the number of places that their nursery can admit for the morning and for the afternoon sessions.
- 1.6 For nursery places, each school and their Governing Body are responsible for admissions to non-statutory-aged schooling. However, each school is requested to adhere to this nursery admissions policy in order to carry out their duty to admit nursery children on a consistent and fair basis with other schools.
- 1.7 The school will publish the cost of provision for any hours over and above the government funded hours, whether that be Universal or Extended.
- 1.8 Schools with a Nursery Class – admit children from the term following their 3rd birthday until they reach full-time school age. A nursery class could include universal part-time children and children eligible to the extended entitlement. Some schools operate a Foundation Stage Unit where both part-time and full-time reception age children are based together.
- 1.9 Parents/Carer’s of all children receiving provision at Uplands Nursery will be expected to sign a copy of the Uplands Nursery Terms and Conditions as acceptance of their place at Uplands Nursery. This contract will be the guidance of which all nursery places are offered and accepted.

2. ADMISSION DATES

- 2.1 Children are admitted at the start of the term after their 3rd birthday. Uplands Nursery is not designated to admit 2 year olds. The only exception to this is early starters who, if allocated a place as per the criteria below, are admitted at a date following their third birthday.
The timetable for applications is as follows:

If child is 3 on or between	Applications to be made to setting by	Letters sent regarding provisional offer	Acceptance returned to nursery by	Child is eligible for 15 (30, if requirements met) hours of fee-funded provision in the term following their 3 rd birthday
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1 st April and 31 st August	28 th February	21 st March	11 th April	Autumn Term (September)
1 st September and 31 st December	31 st May	20 th June	11 th July	Spring Term (January)
1 st January and 31 st March	31 st October	21 st November	12 th December	Summer Term (April)

2.2 All places are allocated according to the above timetable and the admissions criteria. Once the closing date has been reached, the places are allocated on a first come, first serve basis or on our early starter application criteria (see below). No places will be reserved for children for any reason.

If, after the offers have been made, places are still available (or one becomes available, if the provision is full), they will be offered according to the published criteria, followed by children on the waiting list, then on a first come first serve basis.

2.3 Early starter applications

Uplands Nursery will accept applications from children who wish to start in the term they turn 3 on a case by case basis and they will only be accepted and processed in the preceding term. This is to ensure that the above process for allocating places is not affected. Children will be able to attend from the day after they turn 3.

3. ENTITLEMENT TO A NURSERY PLACE

- 3.1 The universal entitlement is for up to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year, up to 570 hours over the course of a year. Schools traditionally offer 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions (3 hours each). However, the 15 hours can be available in a more flexible format (i.e. a mixture of days or morning/afternoon sessions), with a minimum of 2 days per week.
- 3.2 Parents may request less than 15 hours per week. Any unfilled hours can be offered to children on the waiting list, but not from within that parent's government funded entitlement.
- 3.3 The extended entitlement allows parents to access up to a further 15 hours entitlement per week, should they meet the eligibility criteria.
- 3.4 A parent has the right to access the extended entitlement at more than one setting.
- 3.5 **Parents must be made aware that there is a separate admissions process and policy to apply for a school place (e.g. at an infant or primary school). The offer of a place at a nursery does not give priority to an application made for a school place.** Parents of children in nursery classes must complete an application form via the School Admissions Team in order to request a full-time place in school. The full-time admissions policy has to be applied to determine which school has places.
- 3.6 Where a child attends more than one setting, it is a parent's choice at which setting they take their universal funding.

Although parents are entitled to a government funded place, this does not guarantee a place at any one provider or a particular pattern of provision.



4. ALLOCATING NURSERY PLACES – UNIVERSAL

- 4.1 If there are more applicants than universal places, the school will allocate places in accordance with the published criteria.
- 4.2 Each school who admits children into the nursery is responsible for administering this Nursery Admissions Policy. Parents must contact schools directly when applying for a nursery place.
- 4.3 Each school should have their own application form for Nursery admissions, which all parents applying for a place at the school must complete and sign.
- 4.4 Parents should be notified in writing when a universal place will be available. Parents are required to confirm that they accept the offer of a part-time place within 2 weeks of the place being offered. If a parent does not respond to the offer letter, the school must make reasonable efforts to contact the parent before the place is offered to the next eligible child.
- 4.5 Following notification that a place is available, a child should be expected to take up the place from the offered start date. If the child has not taken up the place after 2 weeks and a satisfactory explanation has not been provided to the Head Teacher (or school-designated admissions lead), then the offer of a part-time place can be removed.
- 4.6 Where a school has more applications than places, the school will allocate places in accordance with the published criteria. The parents of children who have not been allocated a place should be contacted in writing informing them of the decision.
- 4.7 The school should record that they have taken a copy of the child's birth certificate and proof of address in the form of their current council tax notice/letter. They should also ensure that they have received a copy of a completed Parent Declaration Form. Parents will not be eligible for any government funded hours without completion of the Parent Declaration Form, which should be returned to the nursery as part of the application process.

5. ALLOCATING NURSERY PLACES - EXTENDED

- 5.1 The Parent Declaration for the Free Entitlements will enable parents to insert their extended entitlement eligibility code (11-digit DERN). It is a parent's responsibility to provide this number along with their national insurance number and child's date of birth to enable an eligibility check to be carried out. A school should collect this information as near to the start date as possible.
- 5.2 If there are more applicants for extended places than there are spaces available, the school will allocate them in accordance with the published criteria. All applications, regardless of status of government entitlement will be processed at the same time Places are only allocated in accordance with the published criteria.
- 5.3 Parents should be notified in writing when an extended place will be available. Parents should be made aware that there will be a start and end date to the extended entitlement and that a place can only be guaranteed until the end date.



6. ATTENDANCE – UNIVERSAL AND EXTENDED

- 6.1 It is a school's responsibility to ensure that children are attending regularly and for the number of hours per week that are being claimed and detailed on the Parent Declaration Form. Occasional holidays and sickness absences are acceptable.
- 6.2 However, as part of safeguarding arrangements, all nurseries must contact the parent/carer when a child does not attend. If no information relating to the reason for the absence has been received, the school must contact the parent on the first day of the child's absence; reasons for absence must then be recorded on the child's file along with the expected return date.
- 6.3 If the child does not return on the expected date from an absence, then the school must make a follow-up call to the parent/carer to establish reasons and whether the child is going to continue with their government-funded place.
- 6.4 The school should also contact the Early Help Team to see if there are any known reasons for non-attendance; this team may also be able to help.
- 6.5 If any child has what is deemed to be irregular attendance, then it is the school's responsibility to remind the parents that the free place is a funded place, and that continued irregular attendance could lead to a reduction of hours, or the place being withdrawn and offered to another child.
- 6.6 Where there is a persistent absence of more than two weeks in any term without a justifiable reason, then the school should notify parents/carers that the place will be offered to another child. The school must specify to the parent the date that the place will be removed. Then, the hours of non-attendance can be offered to another child.

7. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

- 7.1 No child should ever be admitted prior to the term following their 3rd birthday, unless there are exceptional circumstances, which must be discussed initially with the council's Early Help Team. Each case would be considered on its own merit, taking into account the views of the appropriate professionals.

Examples of exceptional circumstances are:

- A child with a complex disability;
- A child involved in an active Child Protection Plan where there is no suitable age appropriate provision within the local area that could be accessed.

Explanatory Notes



- Where any criterion category is over-subscribed, then children within that category should be admitted in an age order basis (eldest first). Where two children have the same date of birth, then priority would be given to the child that lives nearest the school.
- For admissions purposes, only one address can be used as a child's permanent address. Where a child resides with more than one parent/carer, at different addresses, the school will use the preference expressed by the parent/carer at the address where the child lives the majority of the time during the school week as the main place of residence.
- Children in Public Care – this refers to children who are:
 - Subject to a care order made by the courts under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 – for the courts to grant a care order they have to be satisfied that a child is suffering or would suffer 'significant harm' without one;
 - Children who are accommodated by the local authority on a voluntary basis under section 20 of the Children Act 1989; and
 - Children who have been adopted from Local Authority care, children with a residency order, and those with special guardianship immediately following being Looked After, will all be included within the higher priority for looked-after children.

8. INDIVIDUAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR UPLANDS NURSERY

8.1 Uplands Nursery has 32 places in each morning and afternoon session, and 32 in a lunchtime session. All places are allocated flexibly.

Morning sessions run: 08:45 – 11:45
Lunch sessions run: 11:45 – 12:30
Afternoon sessions run: 12:30 – 15:30

8.2 Uplands Nursery will offer spaces for Universal and Extended places, as per the stated criteria.

8.3 For any hours taken that are over and above the government funded entitlement, the cost per hour is £5.50.

9. UPLANDS NURSERY ADMISSIONS CRITERIA PLACES FOR UNIVERSAL ENTITLEMENT

9.1 Where a school receives more applications than places available, children will be admitted in the following order:

- a) Children undergoing an Education, Health and Care Plan needs assessment or with an Education, Health and Care Plan (which names the school);
- b) Children in public care (looked after children), or a child who was previously looked after or fostered under an arrangement made by the Local Authority (see definition under explanatory notes);



- c) Children who have an older brother or sister in Uplands Nursery or Uplands Primary School at the time of the applicant's admission. These siblings include children living as siblings in the same family unit, and at the same address as the child, and for whom the applicant has parental responsibility.
- d) If no distinction can be made between the applicants, or if they do not fulfil any of the above criteria, a decision will be made on the radial distance (straight line distance on a map) between the home and the school. Those living nearer to the school will be placed higher than those living further away. Radial distance will be based on the co-ordinates for the property and the school as defined in the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and based on the Ordnance Survey's national system.

Distances are measured using direct distance calculations within a computer system. The measurement of each distance has been calculated using Pythagoras' Theorem. The way in which this is done is to calculate the distance in metres between the Easting and Northing co-ordinates for each location. The measurement in metres is then multiplied by 0.000621317 to convert this measurement to miles. The same method of calculation is used for each direct distance measured. This can be to three, four or five decimal places where necessary.

In the event that two or more children live the same distance from Uplands Nursery and it cannot be separated by any other means, (e.g. where families live in flats and there are fewer places available), then random allocation will be used to decide which child will be allocated the remaining place(s). The process will be drawn and scrutinised by people who are independent of the school.

- e) Other children by age order (admitting eldest first).

10. UPLANDS NURSERY ADMISSIONS CRITERIA PLACES FOR EXTENDED ENTITLEMENT

- 10.1 Where a school receives more applications than places available, children will be admitted in the following order:
- a) Children undergoing an Education, Health and Care Plan needs assessment or with an Education, Health and Care Plan (which names the school);
 - b) Children in public care (looked after children), or a child who was previously looked after or fostered under an arrangement made by the Local Authority (see definition under explanatory notes);
 - c) Children who have an older brother or sister in the nursery or Uplands Primary School at the time of the applicant's admission. These siblings include children living as siblings in the same family unit, and at the same address as the child, and for whom the applicant has parental responsibility
 - d) If no distinction can be made between the applicants or if they do not fulfil any of the above criteria, a decision will be made on the radial distance (straight line distance on a map) between the home and the school. Those living nearer to the school will be placed higher than those living further away. Radial distance will be based on the co-ordinates for the property and the school as defined in the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and based on the Ordnance Survey's national system.



Distances are measured using direct distance calculations within a computer system. The measurement of each distance has been calculated using Pythagoras' Theorem. The way in which this is done is to calculate the distance in metres between the Easting and Northing co-ordinates for each location. The measurement in metres is then multiplied by 0.000621317 to convert this measurement to miles. The same method of calculation is used for each direct distance measured. This can be to three, four or five decimal places where necessary.

In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from school and it cannot be separated, for example where families live in flats and there are fewer places available, then random allocation will be used to decide which child will be allocated the remaining place(s). The process will be drawn and scrutinised by people who are independent of the school.

- e) Other children by age order (admitting eldest first).