



OUR LADY OF PITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
POLICY FOR PART TIME PROVISION FOR RECEPTION (FS2)
CHILDREN

(WRITTEN MAY 2012)

Reviewed by the Personnel Committee 16 May 2012
Ratified by the full governors on 4th July 2012

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

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Our Lady of Pity Policy on Part-time Provision for Reception Children

The Governors have made some changes to their policy regarding part-time education for reception children and these are detailed below:

Rationale

Research and experience tells us that children who are not yet ready for the rigours of full-time schooling benefit from part-time provision in the first term of their school life. Until now, Governors have applied this policy with very successful outcomes for the children as evidenced by outstanding learning attitudes and achievement throughout the school.

In recent years the policy has been increasingly difficult to apply despite its positive outcomes. A myriad of factors have come to bear: for some parents the part-time issue is difficult because it doesn't fit in with their working arrangements. For others, trusting that the school is secure in its provision when they are unfamiliar with the manner in which we work is tricky and they take the view that their child must be missing something critical. Some parents feel very strongly that their child is ready for full-time and do not welcome any view to the contrary. These are just some examples.

During this academic year, the Reception teachers spent a considerable length of time reassuring and persuading parents that their children were benefitting from part-time provision and it became clear that any benefits for the children were being eroded by the additional and unsustainable burden being placed on the staff. The governors, therefore, have made some changes.

The Policy up to now

All children whose birthday falls on 1st March onwards would be part-time (mornings) until the beginning of the Spring term.

Any child whose birthday falls between 1st January and 1st March would be full-time but given the option of part-time if needed.

Any child who is part-time and shows readiness for full-time would be taken in full-time at the earliest opportunity.

Where there are any important social or domestic factors which make part-time arrangements difficult, the teachers would speak to parents and find a solution.

The New Policy

All children whose birthday falls before the end of December will be full-time.

All children whose birthday falls between 1st January and the end of August will be offered the option of part-time provision.

During an initial induction period of 3 weeks for all children in September, the teachers will advise all parents (whose children have the option of part-time) as to whether their child is more suited to part-time or full-time provision for the first term.

Parents will then let us know if they wish to take up the option of part-time provision.

Children who access part-time provision will be offered full-time provision during the first term if they show a readiness. Parent of such children will decide if they wish to take up this option.

Clearly, the decision to take up the option of part-time provision now rests with the parents of each child with the school operating in an advisory capacity